

# TOTAL FIRE BANS WHAT YOU CAN AND CAN'T DO

Understand the restrictions for a safer bushfire season

## December 2023: Total Fire Bans

A Total Fire Ban (TFB) is declared on days when fires are most likely to threaten lives and property. This is because of predicted extreme fire weather or when there are already widespread fires and firefighting resources are stretched.

On a Total Fire Ban day, it is illegal to light an open-air fire or conduct any activity that could start a fire.

Total Fire Ban:

- TFBs affect residents (urban and rural), farmers, campers, and construction workers.
- TFBs usually start at midnight and last for 24 hours.
- TFBs are announced by DFES either in the afternoon, the day before, or on the actual day.
- They are publicised on [emergency.wa.gov.au](https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au) and on local ABC radio.
- The need for the ban is assessed throughout the day and may be cancelled depending on conditions.
- Exemptions can be granted for some industries and activities.
- Any burning permits held by residents or landowners are fully suspended until the ban is over.
- TFBs are declared using the whole local government boundary.

### What you can and cannot do on a Total Fire Ban day.

In the open-air (including undercover areas such as patios and pergolas that are open or partially open), activities which involve fire, or which may cause a fire, are not allowed.

You cannot:

- Light a campfire
- Burn leaves, garden waste or grass cuttings
- Use an incinerator
- Use a fire pit
- Use a grinder, welder or undertake any other 'hot work' (there are exceptions for businesses)
- Use fireworks
- Operate a hot-air balloon



## BARBECUES

### You cannot:

- Use a BBQ (including Webers) that uses solid fuel:
  - Wood
  - Charcoal
  - Heat beads - Briquettes
- Use an outdoor wood-fired pizza oven or stove.

### You can:

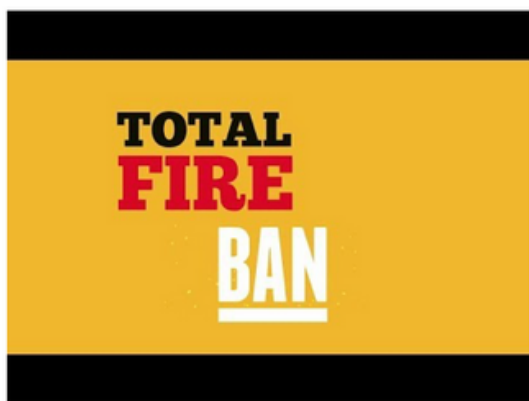
#### use a gas or electric BBQ or cooker

- It's at your home
- It has an enclosed flame
- You clear all material that could burn within a 5m radius around it
- It's a permanent BBQ in a public picnic area
- You use it in a public space within the sign posted BBQ area

## OFF ROAD

In any area on which there is vegetation (**off-road**), **you cannot** use equipment powered by an internal combustion engine including:

- A chainsaw or lawn mower
- A plant trimmer or grass trimmer
- Bobcats, excavators, bulldozers (or any other similar machines)
- A generator
- A car (ie four wheel driving)
- A tractor
- A motorbike
- A quad bike
- A dune buggy



Check if a Total Fire Ban is in place at

[www.emergency.wa.gov.au](http://www.emergency.wa.gov.au)

## SMS Notification for Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans

The City of Busselton uses a SMS notification system to advise community members when a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban is being issued.



Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans within the City of Busselton are issued by the City and are put in place when your local Chief Bush Fire Control Officer identifies the use of engines, vehicles, plant or machinery as high bushfire risk activities, during particular times of the day. These relate to residents as much as farmers and restrict the use of mowers and motorised gardening machinery.

Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban are different to Total Fire Bans, which are issued by DFES.

[To register for SMS notifications about Harvest Vehicle Bans click here.](#)

## An important message from the Fire Control Officer, Mark Fisher Yallingup Rural Volunteer Bushfire Brigade

At the recent Street Coordinator Meeting we heard from Mark Fisher, the Fire Control Officer at Yallingup Rural Volunteer Bushfire Brigade who provided us with an insight into the fire conditions we may expect this season.

This year we are seeing very dry conditions in our region. The ground is dry, the fuel is dry, and the grass is dry. Already we have seen a number of bushfire incidents escalated to emergency levels due to the differing weather conditions El Niño is bringing this year and still so many of our neighbours remain unprepared for a bushfire.

Please talk to your neighbours about the importance of a bushfire plan and bushfire preparations. There are plenty of resources available online and in brochures available from Bushfire Ready. A 15 minute conversation will stop the hesitation, solidify for the family when you plan to leave if there is a bushfire, and help identify the best exit routes in case of an emergency.

It is important to remain vigilant as we enter this busy festive season. **If you see or smell smoke, please call 000.**

Do not call your local Volunteer Bushfire Brigade to let them know about a potential fire or to ask details about a fire, they will be busy fighting the fire - **call 000.**

Stay safe this season, stay informed and be prepared.

Mark



Make a bushfire plan for you and your family today. It only takes 15 minutes and it will help you understand what you need to prepare ahead of the bushfire season.

If there is a bushfire in your area you may not have much time to make decisions. Having a written plan can help guide your actions and stop hesitation when action is needed.

[My Bushfire Plan is available online](#), as an app on [apple](#) or [android](#), or as a brochure from Bushfire Ready.

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