

OPEN AIR FIRE SAFETY

Keep yourself and others safe when lighting an open air fire on your property by following these guidelines.

Before you light a fire

- » Check for current fire bans. Visit the [Queensland Fire and Emergency Services website](#) or call the Free Call Fire Ban line on 1800 020 440 to check if there are fire bans in your local government area.
- » Check with your local government area to see if there are any local laws which prohibit the lighting of fire on your property, the positioning of the fire, and if it must be contained within a brazier, fire pit or similar device.
- » Make yourself aware of any smoke nuisance laws and restrictions in your local government area.

Positioning

- » Fires should be positioned in cleared areas, where there are no overhanging branches and minimal grass and scrub.
- » Keep the fire a safe distance from structures such as fences or sheds, and flammable items such as gas cylinders, fuel cans and camping equipment.

Preparing the fire

- » Where possible, the fire should be lit in a properly constructed barbecue or fire pit, preferably surrounded by large rocks, constructed to prevent the escape of fire or burning materials.
- » The fire must be smaller than two metres in all directions. Any larger fires require a permit to light fire.
- » Do not burn garden vegetation or other rubbish.
- » You should only burn seasoned dry firewood, untreated timbers or commercial hot coals.
- » Make sure that you have enough water nearby to put out the fire before you light up. If possible, keep a connected hose nearby.

Starting the fire

- » Start your fire using a cigarette lighter, matches or other appropriate ignition source.
- » Do not use flammable liquids such as petrol to get the fire started.
- » Keep smoke to a minimum.

Monitoring the fire

- » Never leave the fire unattended. Someone must be with the fire to monitor it at all times, and to make sure it has been completely extinguished.
- » Never leave children unattended around the fire.

Extinguishing the fire

- » Use water to put out your fire once you have finished with it.
- » Never use sand or dirt to put out your fire. The fire will stay hot for a long time and could cause serious injuries.
- » Do not put hot coals into garden beds or other areas where they may catch alight.

91% of burns caused by outdoor fires are a result of contact with coals rather than flame.

Safety first

It takes less than one second of contact with a fire with a temperature over 70 degrees to suffer a serious burn. People who are severely burnt on their hands and feet can undergo months or even years of intensive therapy to overcome burn injuries.

First aid for burns

- » Stop the burning process. If clothing is on fire, stop, drop and roll to put out the flame.
- » Put out the flames with water or smother with a coat or blanket made of natural fibres, such as cotton or wool.
- » Call Triple Zero (000). Stay on the phone with the emergency operator until they hang up.
- » Cool the burn area as soon as possible. Apply cool running water to the affected area for at least 20 minutes or until emergency services personnel arrive.



If you lose control of your fire, call Triple Zero (000), and report it immediately.