



Media release



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Tuesday, 30 October 2018

Check before you burn

In the lead up to the bushfire season, South Australians are being reminded that in some cases, council approval is needed to burn in the open.

Environment Protection Authority Program Manager Legislation and Policy Steven Mudge said anyone living in metropolitan Adelaide or in townships should contact their council before burning.

“This will not affect anyone’s ability to prepare their property for bushfire season,” Mr Mudge said.

“If burning is necessary for fire prevention or to dispose of piles agricultural or forestry waste, council will issue a permit, and the approval process is easy.

“If you don’t have a large amount of material, then green bins or your council’s free green waste drop-off days are the best option.

“If you are planning to burn, ask your local council if you are in an area that requires a permit. If you are, they will be able to talk you through the process.

“A fine of \$300 can apply for burning in the open without approval, so it’s always best to check.”

Mr Mudge said regulations for burning in the open were updated in 2016 to apply to all built-up areas across the state.

“The risk of exposure to smoke is higher in these areas and smoke can have serious effects on human health and pollute the environment,” he said.

“Smoke can affect anyone, but the risks are greater for the elderly, young children and people who have existing cardiovascular or respiratory diseases such as asthma or COPD (emphysema).

“As well as being hazardous to health, smoke is more likely to create a nuisance in built-up areas, so it is a matter of being considerate to your neighbours.”

The regulations for burning in the open also cover backyard bonfires and fire pits.

Outdoor cooking fires and wood-burning barbecues do not require a permit and are allowed on any day when there is not a fire ban.

Outdoor heating options that use charcoal, such as chimineas and braziers, are also allowed other than on fire ban days.

For more information on burning in the open, visit

https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/environmental_info/air_quality/assistance_and_advice/burning-in-the-open or contact your local council.

If you are doing a broadacre burn or disposing of vegetation piles outside a township, no permit is required, but you must comply with the relevant CFS Code of Practice:

https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/prepare_for_a_fire/cfs_codes_of_practice.jsp

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