



## FIRE RISK FROM ENGINES AND EQUIPMENT

1. Do not start or drive a motor vehicle (within the meaning of the Motor Vehicles Act) or start an engine unless a spark arrester has been fitted.
2. Do not use electric or gas welding or cutting equipment in the open in a Fire Protection Zone or during a Fire Danger Period or Fire Ban Day:
  - a) within 4 metres of any flammable material; and
  - b) unless there is a fire extinguisher readily available.

## BURNING MATTER NOT TO BE THROWN DOWN

Cigarettes and other burning or smouldering matter must be thoroughly extinguished before being disposed of.

**Penalty: \$5000 fine or imprisonment for 5 years.**

## OBSTRUCTION

Hindering a Fire Control Officer or Fire Warden in the exercise of their duty, or failing to comply with any requirement so made is an offence.

**Penalty: \$5000 fine or imprisonment for 2 years.**

Giving false information or producing false documentation to an Fire Control Officer or Fire Warden exercising their duty is an offence.

**Penalty: \$5000 fine or imprisonment for 2 years.**

This is not a legal document but rather a summary of the **Bushfires Act**. It does not cover all the provisions of the Act but refers to those matters which the majority of people will be concerned.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

### DARWIN HEADQUARTERS

1718 Albatross Street Winnellie  
PO Box 37346 Winnellie NT 0821  
Telephone: 8922 0844  
Facsimile: 8922 0833  
[www.nt.gov.au/bushfires](http://www.nt.gov.au/bushfires)

### BATCHELOR OFFICE

142 Cameron Road Batchelor  
c/o Post Office Batchelor NT 0845  
Telephone: 8976 0098 or 8976 0321  
Facsimile: 8976 0222

### KATHERINE OFFICE

32 Giles Street Katherine  
PO Box 532 Katherine NT 0851  
Telephone: 8973 8888  
Facsimile: 8973 8899

### TENNANT CREEK OFFICE

2 Leichardt Street Tennant Creek  
PO Box 846 Tennant Creek NT 0861  
Telephone: 8962 4522 or 8962 4577  
Facsimile: 8962 2651

### ALICE SPRINGS OFFICE

3 Elder Street Alice Springs  
PO Box 2533 Alice Springs NT 0871  
Telephone: 8952 3066  
Facsimile: 8952 7576



## NORTHERN TERRITORY

# Basic Fire Laws

*The Bushfires Act has been established to help protect life, property and the environment from the threat of wildfire. Within the Act there are a number of important sections with which landholders must comply.*



Northern  
Territory  
Government

Department of  
Natural Resources,  
Environment and the Arts





## BUSHFIRES ACT

The Act says you must not set fire or cause fire to be set to land or property belonging to any other person under such circumstances as to cause or be likely to cause damage to that other person or that land or property.

**Penalty for Failure to Comply with the Bushfires Act:**  
**\$25000 fine or imprisonment for 5 years.**

## FIRE PROTECTION ZONES

In the Northern Territory, certain areas have been declared as Fire Protection Zones, these are:

- 50 kms radius from Katherine PO
- 50 kms radius from Tennant Creek PO
- 50 kms radius from Alice Springs Airport
- Northern Fire Protection Zone as per map

You must not set fire to any bush or other inflammable material on land within a Fire Protection Zone at any time of the year, except with and in accordance with the terms of a Permit to Burn, issued by a Fire Warden or a Fire Control Officer.

If it is necessary for you to use a fire for the purpose of camping, cooking or the urgent disposal of animal carcass, this must not be done unless:

- a) the nearest flammable matter to the fire is more than 4 metres away
- b) the fire is fully extinguished before being left.



## BURNING OUTSIDE A FIRE PROTECTION ZONE - FIRE DANGER AREAS

Fires may be lit without a Permit, on land outside a Fire Protection Zone except where the land lies within a declared Fire Danger Area.

The Minister may during the Fire Season declare a Fire Danger Period over certain areas defined by lines of latitude. When such a period has been declared the following restrictions apply to the lighting of all fires in the open air.

If a fire is required for the purpose of clearing land, mustering cattle, burning firebreaks or for any other purpose, a Permit to Burn must first be obtained from either a Fire Warden or a Fire Control Officer and the following conditions will apply:

- a) at least 48 hours notice must be given to all neighbours adjoining the land on which it is intended to light a fire
- b) the fire should be lit only when weather conditions are favourable
- c) adequate manpower and equipment must be on hand at all times to control the fire.

## FIRE BANS

A ban on the lighting of fires in the open may be imposed during periods of Very High or Extreme Fire Danger. During this time **NO FIRES** of any kind may be lit in the open air with the exception of those fires used for cooking or boiling water, provided that the nearest flammable matter to the fire is more than 4 metres away.

Fire bans are announced on radio and in the press; when the Ban is lifted normal burning restrictions continue to apply.

If you have a fire on your property that was lit prior to the commencement of a Fire Ban, you must put it out or if you are unable to do so you must notify a Fire Warden or Fire Control Officer without delay.

**Penalty: \$25000 fine or imprisonment for 5 years.**

## POWER OF FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS AND FIRE WARDENS

Under the Bushfires Act, a Fire Control Officer or Fire Warden, for the purpose of controlling a bushfire or protecting property or life from danger arising out of a bushfire, has the power to:

- a) enter any building or upon any land
- b) pull down, cut or remove any fence
- c) establish a firebreak by using fire otherwise
- d) take water from any source other than drinking or domestic water
- e) cause any road or public place to be closed to traffic
- f) require a person reasonably suspected of having committed an offence against the Act to give their full name and place of residence and to produce any Permit held by them
- g) require a person who has lit or is using a fire in contravention of the Act to immediately put it out.

## FIRE PREVENTION

The Chief Fire Control Officer may require you to construct firebreaks on or remove flammable material from land apparently under your control.

**Penalty: \$5000 fine or imprisonment for 2 years and \$500 each day during which the offence continues.**

## LANDOWNERS OR OCCUPIERS

If you are the owner or occupier of any land and you are made aware that a fire on your property is likely to spread to other land, you must take all reasonable steps to control the fire. If you are unable to do so you must immediately notify:

- a) a Fire Warden or Fire Control Officer; and
- b) all neighbouring property holders of the fact.

**Penalty: \$5000 fine or imprisonment for 2 years.**