



HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

To keep the summer holiday season safe for everyone, remember these holiday fire safety guidelines.

Travelling on the road

New South Wales is divided into 17 Total Fire Ban Weather Forecast Districts. As you travel around NSW, be sure you know which Total Fire Ban District you are in and whether or not a Total Fire Ban has been declared in that District.

Bush and grass fires often cross roads and highways, creating dangerous situations for road users. If you see smoke ahead, play it safe by turning around and finding an alternate route. Don't risk getting caught in a bushfire.

It is wise to keep several woollen blankets in your car and a supply of water, just in case you are caught in a bushfire and have to use your car as a refuge.

If you do need to shelter in your car:

- drive your car into a bare, clear area well away from surrounding trees
- leave your headlights on
- roll up the windows and shelter below window level
- cover over with blankets to protect you from radiant heat
- drink water frequently.

It will be a hot and frightening experience, but remember it is safest to remain in the car where there is protection from radiant heat.

Bushwalking

On days of Total Fire Ban, it is best to postpone a trip into the bush since the risk of fire starting and growing rapidly is extremely high.

If you are caught in the bush during a fire, find as clear an area as possible and prepare to shelter there. Do not try to outrun a bushfire.

When looking for a place to shelter, seek streams or rivers, bare clearings, or large rock outcrops that will break the path of the fire. Avoid places uphill from the direction of the fire or at the crest of a hill. Do not shelter in water tanks above the ground surface.

For more information on bushfire safety and home fire safety, visit the Rural Fire Service website at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au or call the RFS Education Line on 1 800 654 443 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm).



Do your best to cover your skin to protect against radiant heat. It is wise to have long pants and a long sleeved shirt on a bushwalk. Sturdy leather footwear, a broad brimmed hat, and a supply of water are essential items.

Camping

Be aware of the declaration of Total Fire Bans in the district where you are camping. It is prohibited to light a campfire on a day of Total Fire Ban, or use portable barbecues or gas fired stoves.

You may use the gas or electric barbecues fixed in permanent structures in parks and council nature reserves if council has given approval, and as long as the area is cleared for 2 metres around and above the barbecue, an adult is in attendance at all times, and there is a continuous water supply.

On a day of Total Fire Ban no fires or barbecues which burn solid fuel (e.g. wood, charcoal or heat beads) may be lit.

You may light a cooking fire during the Bush Fire Danger Period provided:

- it is in a permanently constructed fireplace surrounded by ground that is clear of all combustible matter for a distance of at least 2 metres, **or**
- it is at a site surrounded by ground clear of all combustible matter for a distance of at least 3 metres, **and**
- you ensure that the fire is completely extinguished before leaving the area.

These regulations also apply to the use of portable gas stoves or barbecues during the Bushfire Danger Season, (1st October to 31st March).

Remember, it is dangerous to use naked flame inside a tent.

Never light a portable stove or barbecue inside a tent. Use an electric torch for lighting.

Caravans

Follow the regulations for campfires and barbecues during the Bushfire Danger Season and on days of Total Fire Ban. You may not use a portable barbecue outside a caravan during a Total Fire Ban, however you may use the stove inside the caravan provided due care is taken.

Take care with gas cylinders. Be sure they are vented away from the caravan.

For more information on bushfire safety and home fire safety, visit the Rural Fire Service website at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au or call the RFS Education Line on 1 800 654 443 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm).



When staying in a caravan park, find out if a safe refuge has been designated in case of bushfire and use it when fire threatens. If no refuge area has been designated, decide ahead of time where you will shelter from fire. Brick toilet blocks, stone picnic shelters, or behind concrete walls are safer than inside your caravan.

Smoking

During the Bushfire Danger Season do not drop or throw down any lighted cigarette, match or any burning object.

Don't light or carry a lighted cigarette or match within 15m of stacked or standing crops or stubble fields.

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