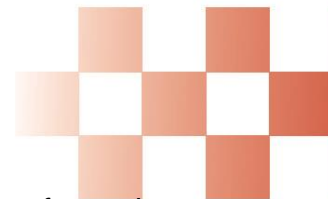


MURRAY MALLEE
BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT AREA
PERMIT ISSUING GUIDELINES
FOR THE 2020/21 FIRE DANGER SEASON



The Fire and Emergency Services Act, 2005 (the Act) affords the issuing of permits for fire and equipment use during the Fire Danger Season. The permit process is defined in Section 81 of the Act.

The Chief Officer of SA CFS gives the authority to the Murray Mallee Bushfire Management Committees (MMBMC) to set guidelines for the issue of permits in the Murray Mallee Bushfire Management Area (MMBMA).

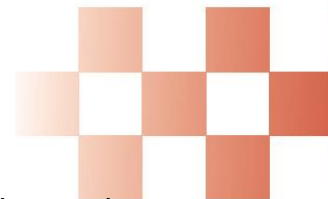
An Authorised Officer may permit the lighting of fires and the use of specified types of equipment, providing a set of conditions are adhered to by the person who lights the fire, or uses the prescribed equipment.

Schedule 9 permits are issued, for fires or activities on days during the Fire Danger Season that are not Total Fire Ban days. Schedule 9 permits for general use should be issued for a specific period of 1 or 2 days only. However, the Authorised Officer may issue a 'Blanket' Schedule 9 permit to a landholder to undertake pre-determined burning or other activities provided that the Authorised Officer is satisfied that the activities for which the permit is issued can be undertaken safely during the period covered by the permit. This may be for the use of a traditional pottery kiln, forge or wood fired pizza oven for example.

Some councils issue blanket permits for the purpose of burning off of land and require the applicant to contact the council prior to burning (to activate the permit). In these circumstances this will become a condition of the permit and must be written into the conditions of the permit. It is the responsibility of the Permit Holder to undertake all of the relevant notifications as set out on the back of the permit form.

Schedule 10 permits are required before undertaking burning or other prescribed activities on a Total Fire Ban day at any time during the year. They should be considered for emergency repair work only or the provision of essential services. If the job can be done on a day with more appropriate weather conditions then it should be rescheduled.

Schedule 10 permits should be issued for a period of only single days. A 'Blanket' Schedule 10 permit could be considered for certain industrial applications, such as gas-flaring or transporting of heated bitumen, provided that the Authorised Officer is satisfied that the activities for which the permit is issued can be undertaken safely. On Total Fire Ban days the Authorised Officer is required to undertake all of the relevant notifications as set out on the back of the permit form. In addition, it is the responsibility of the permit holder to undertake all of the relevant notifications specified on the back of the permit form.



1. The Authorised Officer is obliged to assess each application on its merit to determine whether a permit will be issued and what permit conditions will be applied. Authorised Officers are expected to follow the guidelines established by the MMBMC when issuing permits.

This Guideline applies **to all Permits** issued within the Murray Mallee Bushfire Management Area.

The MMBMA consists of the following councils.

- Berri Barmera Council
- Coorong District Council
- The Rural City of Murray Bridge
- District Council of Karoonda East Murray
- District Council of Loxton Waikerie
- Mid Murray Council
- Renmark Paringa Council
- Southern Mallee District Council

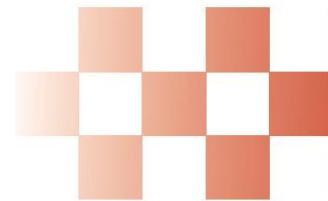
An Authorised Officer will only issue permits for the council area and/or jurisdiction for which they have been nominated. All Permits associated with Prescribed Burning for Department for Water (DEW -*National Parks and Wildlife Service*) must be issued by CFS HQ in the first instance or a CFS Regional Office if it can't be done at CFS HQ. Any permit issued by CFS HQ for Prescribed Burns must be assessed through consultation with the CFS Region and the local Council Fire Prevention Officer if there is one appointed. In out of Council areas then this consultation will occur with the CFS Regional Office.

The MMBMC members will review all Authorised Officers within their jurisdiction prior to the commencement of Fire Danger Season to confirm their appointment, either paid or voluntary. Only Authorised Officers confirmed by member councils will be deemed as appointed for this period. It is the responsibility of MMBMC members to confirm to the committee of this notification process.

The Authorised Officer should adhere to this Guideline when issuing permits within the MMBMA. An Authorised Officer is the only person that can apply or vary permit conditions.

SA CFS Authorised Officers must ensure that permits issued are consistent with these guidelines.

This guideline should be read in-conjunction with SA Country Fire Service, Permit to Light and Maintain Fire Policy.



2. This guideline applies to the following Fire Ban Districts

Murray lands

- Coorong Council,
The Rural City of Murray Bridge,
Mid Murray Council, Southern Mallee Council, Karoonda East Murray
Council, Loxton Waikerie Council

Riverland

- Mid Murray Council, Southern Mallee Council, Loxton Waikerie Council,
Renmark Paringa Council, Berri Barmera Council

Upper South East

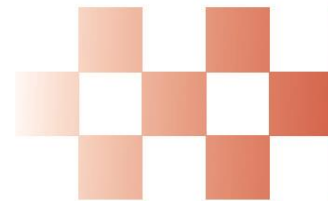
- Coorong Council

3. RESTRICTION ON ISSUING OF SCHEDULE 9 PERMITS

Within the MMBMA Schedule 9 Permits **will not be** issued between **15 Nov 2020 for Riverland Fire Ban District and Murray Lands Fire Ban District to 1st of March 2021, or during Sunday's and Public Holidays** and Easter Saturday/Sunday within the gazetted Fire Danger Season.

Except for the following specific activities:

The Burning of diseased plants or animals and in accordance with the lawful appropriate management of Apiaries (Bee hives), proof of disease treatment requirements should to be supplied by Primary Industries SA (PISA) to the Authorised Officer when considering the application,
The lawful destruction of cannabis on behalf of SAPOL,
Seasonal horticultural burning around centre pivots,
Firing of Model Rockets, Jets and other types of model aircraft,
Public fire work displays,
Community Events,
Charcoal Production,
Burning of Sulphur Boxes for commercial operations,
Properties within the Mid Murray Council that are located within One Hundred of Jutland, One Hundred of Tungkillo **will not** be issued with a Schedule 9 permit, for any activity, during the Fire Danger Season, unless approval is given by the Local CFS Captain and under the direct supervision of a CFS Brigade Fire Fighting Unit and Crew.



4. TYPES OF FIRES

NATIVE VEGETATION

Permits cannot be issued for the burning of Native Vegetation unless approval has been sought by the applicant. The Authorised Officer should request a copy of the approval before issuing a Permit. Should there be a concern that Native Vegetation is involved the Authorised Officer should contact the Regional Prevention Officer at the CFS Regional Office.

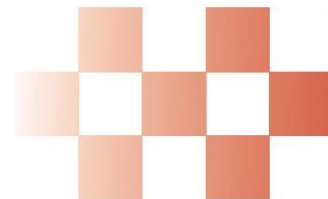
HOTWORKS PERMITS

Permits for welding, grinding, cutting that are required outside of the exemptions under the Fire and Emergency Services Act should ensure that the applicant provides any Hot-works policy or processes to be included in the permit conditions.

Stubble Burns

The onus is on the permit holder to comply with the conditions that the Authorised Officer sets. Furthermore, the Authorised Officer is obliged to assess each application for a permit on its merit to determine whether a permit will be issued and what permit conditions will be applied.

- Burn days Monday-Saturday excluding public holidays and Easter Saturday/Sunday.
- Burn times: Lit after 10.00am extinguished by 4.00pm or as specified by the Authorised Officer.
- Clearance/Firebreaks: 4 m clearance around perimeter of paddocks & standing trees/fallen timber.
- Stubble burning permits once issued must be validated on the day of the burn.
- After the burn, the site must be monitored for at least 2 days afterwards to minimise rekindling.
- It is recommended permit holders consult the BoM Fire Weather forecast and/or other weather sites such as the Elders weather site to assist in making the decision to ignite or not.
- Stubble burns must not be undertaken when the average wind speed for a GFDI of 20 is exceeded.
- Wind speed: refer to corresponding wind speeds in attached table (*Appendix A Code of Practice Broad Acre Burning*) for a GFDI of 20. The onus is on the permit holder to monitor wind conditions prior to ignition, while the burn is being undertaken and after the burn is complete.
- No burns shall be undertaken on Total Fire Ban days.
- The permit holder should consider the CFS '*Permits Factsheet*' and '*Burning Off Factsheet*' prior to undertaking a burn.



Standing or Heaped Vegetation Fires

Authorised Officers can issue permits for the purpose of cleaning up, burning off or use of fire to clear land during the Fire Danger Season under special circumstances. That is if in the opinion of the Authorised Officer it is warranted and that these permits are based on risk to an asset.

Permits for this purpose will not be issued between 15th December and 15th April in any Fire Danger Season unless exceptional circumstances

(that is a direct risk to an asset) apply. Consultation should occur between Council and the Authorised Officer.

Where a total fire ban day has been declared outside of the Fire Danger Season and heaped vegetation has been lit prior to the declaration of the Fire Ban, and where the fire cannot be reasonably extinguished, a permit can be issued provided it poses no risk of escaping and consideration is given to strengthening the permit conditions.

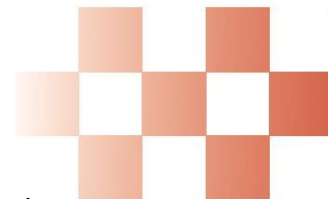
Community Events and Catering Fires

- All permit requests for a community event / catering fire will be assessed on a case by case basis.
- The organiser may be required to provide a Risk Assessment if the event is to take place on land under the care and control of Council.
- Schedule 10 permits for wood burning devices such as mobile BBQs and pizza ovens will generally not be approved on days of Extreme or Catastrophic fire danger.

Comfort Fires

Permits are not required for comfort fires provided they meet the criteria listed below. Should an Authorised Officer receive an application for a proposed comfort fire in excess of these criteria, a permit shall not be issued: -

- The fire is contained in a properly constructed fire place, a portable cooking appliance or a trench at least 30cm deep; and
- The space immediately around and above the fire is cleared of all flammable material to a distance of at least 4 m; and
- The fire does not occupy an area in excess of 1 m²; and
- A person who is able to control the fire is present at the site of



the fire from the time it is lighted to the time it is completely extinguished; and

- An appropriate agent adequate to extinguish the fire is at hand

Please note: Burning in some Council township areas is prohibited – check with your local Council prior to lighting for more details.

Fireworks

All Permits associated with the use of explosives, fireworks, pyrotechnics and film props must be issued by CFS HQ in the first instance or a CFS Regional Office if it can't be done at CFS HQ. Any permit issued by CFS HQ for fireworks, pyrotechnics or film props must be assessed by consultation with the CFS Region and the local Council Fire Prevention Officer if there is one appointed. In out of Council areas then this consultation will occur with the CFS Regional Office.

5. RESTRICTION ON ISSUING OF SCHEDULE 10 PERMITS

Within the MMBMA Area **Schedule 10 Permits** will only be issued for the following activities:

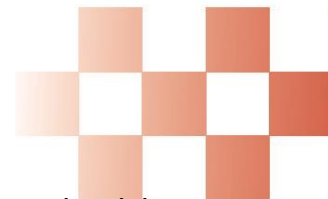
For hot works on critical infrastructure, such as roads, rail lines, water supply, power supply, and communication,
Large events where fires for cooking will be utilised,
Charcoal Production,
Burning of Sulphur Boxes for commercial operations,

6. PERMIT CONDITIONS

The intent of the permit system is to provide a flexible, locally based and controlled system that allows for seasonal and prevailing weather conditions to be taken into account by the Authorised Officer and the Bushfire Management Committee.

It is important that each Authorised Officer considers the local permit guidelines when issuing permits. In the absence of any MMBMC endorsed guidelines, Council endorsed local guidelines **must** be considered. Standard permit conditions are specified on the back of each permit and there is additional space on the front of the permit form for a number of specific conditions as determined by the Authorised Officer.

Specific permit conditions may override the general conditions on the back of the permit. If the Authorised Officer deletes one or more standard permit conditions,



they should consider applying additional alternative conditions to mitigate the risk, and adding these to the permit front. On all permits issued, any standard condition that is removed from the permit should be crossed out on the back of each copy of the permit, and initialled by the Authorised Officer.

All permits are numbered forms and if a permit is issued over the telephone or radio the number must be given to the applicant, unless other arrangements have been undertaken to convey the permit conditions to the person making application. The full conditions on the permit must be read to the applicant. It is then lawful for the applicant to proceed with the permitted fire or activity at the time specified in accordance with the conditions set. The white copy of the permit form must be sent to the applicant as confirmation.

When the conditions are read to the applicant, a note should be placed on all copies of the permit indicating that all the conditions were read and acknowledged by the applicant. The Authorised Officer is to initial this comment and include the date and time.

An Authorised Officer must not issue a permit under Section 81 unless he/she is satisfied that the lighting and maintaining of the fire is, in all circumstances of the case, justified and that adequate precautions will be taken to prevent the spread or ignition of fire. The Authorised Officer shall undertake an assessment of every application.

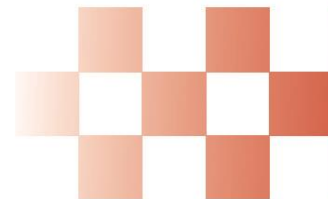
The assessment may involve the following, to ensure that the lighting and maintaining of the fire is, in all circumstances of the case, justified and that adequate precautions will be taken to prevent the spread of fire:

- Interview applicant (by telephone, fax, email or in person),
- Interview the relevant Fire Prevention Officer, other Authorised Officers or other council officers in the area in which the permit is to be written,
- Interview SACFS Brigade Officer,
- Review maps, photographs or relevant endorsed plans, or Bushfire Management Area Plans,
- Review previous permits issued to applicant,
- Field inspection.

A field inspection will not be necessary in instances where the Authorised Officer is satisfied that the assessment information can be verified using interviews and review of documentation as mentioned above.

Councils within the Murray Mallee have established some specific guidelines for the following activities:

- Charcoal Production,
- Burning of Sulphur Boxes for commercial operations,
- Seasonal horticultural burning around centre pivots,
- Firing of Model Rockets, Jets and other types of model aircraft,
- Broad acre burning including wind rows,
- Pile burning,



Fireworks displays.

It is important that each Authorised Officer consider applying any additional conditions stipulated in any council guidelines when issuing permits.

It is the responsibility of Council Fire Prevention Officers to ensure Council appointed Authorised Officers are advised of any additional conditions that should be added when issuing a permit for a specific activity.

7. REVOCATION OF PERMITS

A permit may be revoked by an Authorised Officer or by the SA CFS Chief Officer under Section 81 of the Fire and Emergency Services Act if:

the permit holder fails to comply with a condition of the permit; or
if the Authorised Officer or the SA CFS Chief Officer considers that sufficient reasons exist to justify the revocation of the permit.

Any Authorised Officer can revoke a permit in their area of jurisdiction, if there is justification to do so. In order to revoke a permit, the Authorised Officer must contact the permit holder and advise that their permit is revoked under Section 81 of the Fire and Emergency Services Act and the reasons for which it is being revoked. The Authorised Officer is required to document that the permit has been revoked; and that they contacted the permit holder at a certain date and time; and sign to verify who revoked it.

8. REVIEW PROCESS FOR GUIDELINE

This document is due to be reviewed annually by MMBMC and the CFS Region 3 Fire Prevention Officers Reference Group. Changes to this guideline are to be submitted in writing to the MMBMC.

The next review of this Guideline will occur prior to the commencement of the 2021/2022 Fire Danger Season within the Riverland and Murray lands Fire Ban Districts.

APPROVED BY

Ray JACKSON
CHAIR – MURRAY MALLEE BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE