

# SMOKE NUISANCE



Smoke and particles from open-air fires can cause a nuisance to neighbours and interfere with their normal daily activities. While smoke may cause an inconvenience to those living close by, it can also have an impact on people's health.

## PERMITTED FIRES

It is permitted to light a fire outdoors on a private property that is for the purpose of cooking or heating only. It needs to be enclosed in a constructed fireplace that prevents the escape of fire or any burning material, including embers and is no larger than two metres in any direction.

It is only permitted to light a fire in a designated fireplace on Council land.

It is also permitted to have a fire in the following situations:

- For the purpose of burning the carcass of a beast
- At a sawmill for the purpose of burning sawdust or other residue resulting from the operation of the sawmill (planning approval for the sawmill must be current)

## RESTRICTIONS ON LIGHTING FIRES

You cannot light a fire for any reason when there is a declared fire ban or fire emergency.

### PRIVATE PROPERTIES

Permitted fires must be contained in a constructed fireplace that prevents the escape of fire or any burning material, such as a BBQ, firepit or brazier. It must not exceed the size of two metres in any direction and must not create a smoke nuisance. Incinerators and open fires are prohibited.

A Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) Fire Permit is required for fires that are greater than two metres in any direction. A fire permit must be obtained from your local Fire Station or Rural Fire Service fire warden. Fires lit under a permit are regulated by QFES. If you are being impacted by a fire greater than two metres in any direction, please contact your local fire warden in the first instance.

### PUBLIC AREAS

Council prohibits any fire in a public place that is not in a fireplace, barbecue or incinerator constructed by Council.



## CONSIDER WHAT YOU BURN

It is unsafe to burn items such as treated timbers, tyres, nappies, plastics and paints. These items release hazardous chemicals when burnt and are a danger to your health, the health of those around you and the environment. Council manages smoke nuisance by restricting the lighting of fires under local laws and by investigating relevant smoke emissions pursuant to the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

- Ensure your fire is contained
- Only burn clean, dry, aged wood or non-toxic, combustible material
- Do not burn on a windy day- observe the weather
- Ensure the fire has adequate airflow to reduce smoke
- Light fire with a match, cigarette lighter, candle, lamp blow torch or similar device
- Do not use an accelerant
- When finished, ensure the fire is completely extinguished and not left to smoulder
- Dispose of rubbish rather than burning it, such as place it in your waste or recycling bin, or take it to a waste management facility.

## BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

Talk to your neighbours and find out if they have any concerns about you having a backyard fire and be willing to work with them if they have any issues.

## I'M BEING IMPACTED BY SMOKE. WHAT ACTION CAN I TAKE?

It's a good idea to make a note of how often you are being negatively impacted by smoke emissions. For example, is this a one-off or is it happening regularly? If it is a regular occurrence, consider talking with the person who is responsible to find a solution.

If you don't feel comfortable talking with the person directly, consider leaving a respectful letter in their mailbox. If you are unable to find a solution, you can lodge a complaint with Council.

