

GUIDELINES FOR BUSH CAMPING CODE
(DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & PRIMARY INDUSTRIES)

Campfires & Barbecues

Campfires are part of the outdoor experience. However, sparks from campfires can easily start the bush burning. Restrictions apply to ensure that fires do not escape and that our bushland is protected. Campfires are not permitted in some areas, or may only be allowed in fireplaces provided. Check before you go.

National and State Parks

Campfires are only allowed in permitted areas in properly constructed fireplaces to reduce damage to the environment. Try using fuel stoves as they are cleaner, cook faster and don't scar the landscape.



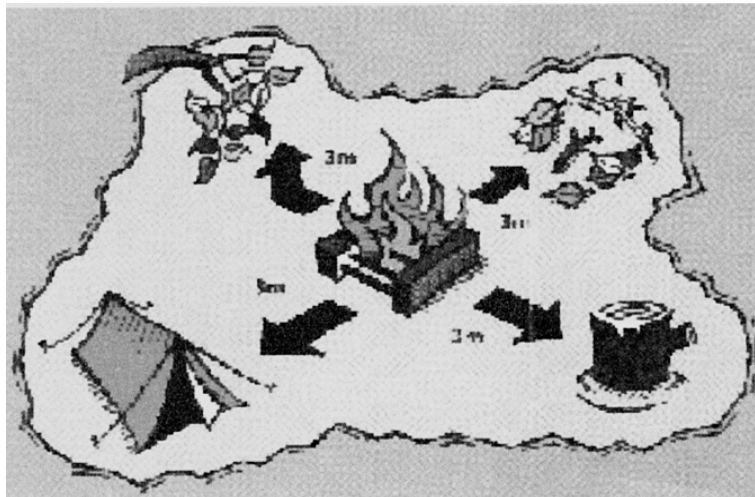
State Forests

Use a constructed fireplace where provided or use a fuel stove. Otherwise light your campfire in a trench 30 cm deep, to prevent embers flying out. Take care as some tree roots can burn.

A properly constructed fireplace is one that contains the perimeter of the fire.

Rocks can be used to construct a fireplace in state forests. Select rocks carefully as they provide home for small reptiles and insects.

Clear the ground and air space of any flammable material (e.g. leaves, twigs, tree stumps) within 3 metres of your campfire.



Be a Caring Camper

- Use only the small amount of wood needed for cooking and warmth
- Wood provides homes for small animals even though you may not see them.
- Use only fallen dead wood. Standing trees, even dead ones, are home for wildlife. Never cut down trees or damage vegetation.

Total Fire Ban Days

Total Fire Ban days are declared when conditions are hot, windy, and the bush is dry. There are nine fire ban districts in Victoria - it is up to you to find out when a fire ban is on. Listen to the radio, contact your local DEPI, Parks Victoria or CFA office before lighting up. If in doubt: keep your campfire out.



On Total Fire Ban Days

- No campfire or open flame barbecues. This includes kettle/Weber style barbecues and solid fuel camp ovens.
- No liquid fuel or gas appliance - in the open, in a tent, annexe or tent like trailer.
- Some parks provide built in electric or gas barbecues. These can be used provided a water supply is within 10 metres, the barbecue is clear of all flammable material three metres around it and an adult is present.

Don't let your campfire go bush!

- Most campfires escape when they are left unattended. An adult must be present at all times.
- Keep your campfire just big enough for cooking and keeping warm.
- Put your fire out with water not soil, even if going for a short walk or swim.
- Take care on dry, windy days (check it is not a Total Fire Ban).

Need more information about campfires?

Contact the DEPI office local to the park or forest where you plan to camp.

Remember, if your campfire is cool to touch it is safe to leave, and it can't go bush!