



Roadblocks and Closures

Roadblocks are usually managed by police officers but the responsibility may be delegated to other authorised personnel such as firefighters or SES.

During a declared bushfire, police and other authorised officers have powers under the Emergency Management Act 2004 to:

- Direct or prohibit the movement of persons, animals or vehicles.
- Require a person to provide such information as may be reasonably required in the circumstances.

It is an offence to:

- Without reasonable excuse refuse/fail to comply with directions.
- Hinder or obstruct the emergency operation.
- Impersonate an authorised officer.

Receive email alerts regarding roadblocks and closures by signing up to SA Police News: police.sa.gov.au.

Practical Tips if a Bushfire is Approaching

When organising your trip, have a Bushfire or Emergency Survival Plan and pack an emergency kit. You can find tools to help you create your plan on the CFS website: cfs.sa.gov.au. Modify or postpone your travel plans when dangerous fire weather is forecast.

If you're driving and approaching bushfire smoke you should:

- Slow down and be aware there could be people, vehicles or animals on the road.

- Turn around where safe to do so and drive to the nearest township or 'Bushfire Safer Place' which is a place of relative safety during a bushfire.
- If you can't reach a designated 'Bushfire Safer Place' make your way to a 'Bushfire Last Resort Refuge'. For more information, maps of these places and to find out if you're travelling in or near one visit the CFS website.
- If you can't make it to either place, pull over to the side of the road and stop your vehicle in a clear area.
- Turn your car headlights on and close vehicle windows and vents.
- Ensure you're not in the path of the fire; and keep your hazard and headlights on and wait until the smoke clears.

If you can't escape the smoke:

- Stay inside your vehicle as it offers better protection than being in the open. Park in a clear area, preferably behind a solid structure to block the radiant heat.
- Face your car towards the fire and turn the engine and air-conditioning off.
- Tightly close the door, windows and air vents.
- Lie in the vehicle footwell and if possible, shelter under woollen blankets to protect yourself from the radiant heat.
- Avoid dehydration by drinking lots of water.
- Heat and smoke from the fire may make breathing difficult. Stay under the blankets and if you have a P2/N95 type of disposable mask, wearing it correctly fitted, may help reduce smoke exposure to poor air quality.

- Stay laying down until the sound of the fire has passed and then carefully leave the car - it will be very hot.
- Move to a safe area such as land that has already been burnt.

If there is a fire or imminent risk of a fire call Emergency **Triple Zero (000)**. If you see anything suspicious immediately call the **Police Assistance Line on 131 444**.

If you have any information about who is deliberately lighting fires or engaging in reckless or negligent fire behaviour call **Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000**.

Deliberately, recklessly or negligently starting a bushfire is a serious offence and will result in criminal proceedings.



Download the free Emergency+ app which contains useful contact numbers for emergency services. The Emergency+ app is developed by Australia's emergency services and their government and industry partners and uses GPS functionality built into smart phones to help a **Triple Zero (000)** caller provide critical location details to assist emergency services.

DISCLAIMER

This publication has been prepared as a public service initiative by South Australia Police in partnership with South Australia Country Fire Service and while every care has been taken in its preparation, no warranty is given nor representation, either expressed or implied, made regarding the accuracy, currency or fitness for purpose of the information or advice provided and no liability or responsibility is accepted by the State of South Australia, its instrumentalities, South Australia Police or South Australia Country Fire Service and their agents, officers and employees for any loss suffered by any person in consequence of any use and reliance placed by any person upon the said information or advice. 10/21



SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE
SAFER COMMUNITIES



Government
of South Australia

YOUR BUSHFIRE TRAVEL COMPANION

When holidaying in South Australia please read, follow and share these simple bushfire safety tips to ensure you stay safe.



COVID-19 INFORMATION

The South Australian Directions apply to anyone living in and entering South Australia. To see the latest information regarding South Australian Directions which may impact border crossings, activities and therefore your holiday plans please visit covid-19.sa.gov.au

Fire Ban Districts

South Australia is divided into a number of Fire Ban Districts and knowing which Fire Ban District you are visiting is the first step in finding out what you can or can't do.

Fire Danger Ratings

During the Fire Danger Season, Fire Danger Ratings are issued for each Fire Ban District daily. To ensure your safety you should find out what the Fire Ban Rating is for the district you are travelling in or through.

Total Fire Ban Day

If the rating is high, a Total Fire Ban Day may be declared. On a Total Fire Ban Day regulations are further escalated. This may also occur outside the declared Fire Danger Season.

The SA Country Fire Service (CFS) may declare Total Fire Bans in some Fire Ban Districts or even across the whole state on days when conditions require it.

Stay Informed

To stay informed about bushfires, to find out which district you're travelling in, the current Fire Danger Rating or if a Total Fire Ban has been declared:

- Visit the CFS website: cfs.sa.gov.au.
- Call the CFS Information Hotline: [1800 362 361](tel:1800362361) (TTY [133 677](tel:133677)). If you are hearing or speech impaired, contact the CFS via the National Relay Service by calling [1300 555 727](tel:1300555727).
- Visit the CFS Facebook page: [countryfireservice](https://www.facebook.com/countryfireservice).

Further information and updates on fires and emergencies can also be obtained by listening to local radio stations, e.g. ABC Local radio and FIVEaa radio.

Radio station information is available in the 'Bushfire Traveller Safety' brochure on the CFS website. The brochure is also available at Visitor Information Centres, holiday/caravan parks and local councils throughout South Australia.

Fires can damage infrastructure and utilities which may impact power and mobile phone towers. It's a good idea to have access to a battery or wind up radio for updates.

Regularly check weather conditions by visiting the Bureau of Meteorology website: [bom.gov.au](https://www.bom.gov.au).

Fire Regulations

South Australia Police is proactively policing the threat of bushfires during the Fire Danger Season and as a result you may see police patrolling high risk areas.

During the Fire Danger Season restrictions apply on lighting fires and/or BBQs to reduce the chance of bushfires starting.

Below are some of the regulations that you should follow while travelling in or through South Australia. More information on regulations is available on the CFS website.

If you aren't following these regulations you are breaking the law and as a result may be issued with an expiation notice or criminal proceedings may be instigated against you.

If you see anything suspicious immediately call the Police Assistance Line on [131 444](tel:131444). If you have any information about who is deliberately lighting fires or engaging in reckless or negligent fire behaviour call Crime Stoppers on [1800 333 000](tel:1800333000).

Campfires

During the Fire Danger Season you **must** ensure any comfort or cooking fire you light is:

- Contained in a properly constructed fire place or in a 30cm deep trench and is no more than ONE square metre in size (height and width).
- The space immediately around and above the fire is clear of all flammable vegetation to a minimum distance of at least FOUR metres.
- A responsible person is in attendance at all times with water or an appropriate extinguisher on hand.
- The fire is completely out and the ground is cold before you leave it.

If you live in a metropolitan area or township boundary you **must only** use charcoal for campfires under the Environment Protection Authority legislation.

Permits are required prior to lighting chimineas, fire drums or braziers, which can be obtained from the local council you are staying in. If a Total Fire Ban Day has been declared in the district you're travelling in you **must not** have a campfire or light a fire for warmth or comfort without a council permit (penalties apply).

No fires, including BBQs and campfires, are permitted in Forestry SA land and forest reserves between November 30 and April 30 each year or on Total Fire Ban Days. Gas BBQs may be permitted under certain conditions. For enquiries, contact the relevant forestry reserve office.

Strict regulations apply in National Parks and Wildlife Reserves. During the Fire Danger Season, regardless of whether a Total Fire Ban Day has been declared, fires are not permitted. For information, go to: parks.sa.gov.au.

BBQs

Regulations differ on the fuel type used in the BBQ

Gas or electric BBQ/cooking appliances (including gas fired kettle BBQ)

A gas or electric BBQ is permitted during the Fire Danger Season providing:

- The BBQ is clear of all flammable vegetation to a minimum distance of FOUR metres.
- A person must be present with an appropriate extinguisher on hand and able to control the fire until it is extinguished.

On a declared Total Fire Ban Day you must comply with the above and also ensure:

- The location of the BBQ or cooking appliance must be within 15 metres of a domestic or commercial premises **or**
- On a coastal foreshore.

Some local councils allow gas or electric BBQs in caravan parks or cleared picnic areas. Look for signs or contact the council for advice.

Solid fuel (wood/charcoal/heat beads) kettle BBQ

A solid fuel kettle BBQ is permitted during the Fire Danger Season providing:

- The BBQ is clear of all flammable vegetation to a minimum distance of FOUR metres.
- A person must be present with an appropriate extinguisher on hand and able to control the fire until it is extinguished.

On a declared Total Fire Ban Day the use of a solid fuel BBQ is **not permitted** unless you have a permit from the local council.

Smoking

During the Fire Danger Season, regardless of whether a Total Fire Ban has been declared for that day:

- You must not smoke within TWO metres of flammable bush or grass outside of a township (penalties apply).
- You must not throw a cigarette butt from a vehicle (penalties apply).
- You must not drop or throw a cigarette butt where it will come into contact with flammable vegetation (penalties apply).

Fireworks

Private fireworks are banned. Don't forget, if you aren't following the regulations you are breaking the law and as a result may be issued with an expiation notice or criminal proceedings may be instigated against you.

Vehicles

During the Fire Danger Season there are restrictions on the use of stationary engines including generators and vehicles driven by internal combustion engines. Before using, check all equipment and vehicles are clean and free from any built up flammable materials including trapped deposits of grass and oil.

Engine exhaust system requirements:

- Ensure all engine exhaust gases exit through the system to prevent the escape of burning material.
- The exhaust system is designed to prevent heated parts coming into contact with flammable vegetation and ensure the system is in good working order.
- Machinery and vehicles that do not have the required and maintained exhaust system must not come within FOUR metres of flammable vegetation, including grass and crops.
- A vehicle driven by an internal combustion engine that does not have a compliant engine exhaust system must not be driven within TWO metres of flammable bush or grass.
- Check pulleys and bearings on equipment and vehicles to ensure there are no signs of seal failure; ensure bearings are greased and all excess is wiped clean.