

Queensland Primary Producers

FIRE, IT'S A RESPONSIBILITY

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) is the primary provider of fire and emergency services in Queensland. Operating as one team, QFES is the joint efforts of Fire and Rescue, the Rural Fire Service (RFS) and State Emergency Service (SES).

Our mission is to:

- enhance firefighter safety
- preserve life
- preserve property and agricultural assets
- conserve the environment.

In all emergency response operations, QFES benefit from local knowledge and relevant personnel being involved in hazard reduction activities. We operate jointly with local government, land management agencies, landholders and occupiers to ensure that the best efforts are applied to effectively identify and respond to fires.

Planning for Fire

The differences in fuel can dramatically affect the spread of fire, the flame structure, fire duration and the intensity of fires. It's important to be prepared to deal with fires in your area.

As a Primary Producer, completing a Fire Management Plan as part of your property plan is essential in planning for the fire season.

Fire has broken out

When occupiers become aware of an unauthorised fire burning on their property (private and public) they are responsible for actions including:

- notifying neighbours who could potentially be effected
- taking all reasonable steps to extinguish or control the fire
- as soon as practical, reporting the fire by calling triple zero (000), even if they don't want help.

When a fire crew arrives on the scene, the Incident Controller will liaise with the landholder/occupier to discuss the situation, investigate options and ensure that the fire is contained appropriately.

The attending brigade is there to monitor the situation and provide necessary support and assistance.

Lighting Fires

Fires that are exempt from permits are those:

- that are less than two metres in any direction (except during a fire ban or restriction)
- lit outdoors in a properly prepared fireplace for the purpose of cooking and
- certain fires used by primary producers for industrial purposes.

All other fires require a permit.

Burning cane in preparation for harvest is an essential part of farming operations for many primary producers in Queensland. A such, special provisions are covered by a Commissioner's Notification under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* which allow for burning without a fire permit. For further information, contact you local Fire Warden or RFS Area Office.

The permit to light fire system is free. To apply for a permit, contact your local Fire Warden or RFS Area Office by visiting: www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au.

Further information on the permit system and an application form is available in the brochure Applying to Light Fires in Queensland.

If there is a fire on your land, it becomes your responsibility to control it as best as you can and prevent it spreading to other properties. Rural Fire Brigades are there to help.

Remember YOUR FIRE, YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.



www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au

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