

# Media release



Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019

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## CFA Recommends Permits to Burn for Agricultural Purposes

CFA District 22 Operations Manager Tony Owen has recommended to councils within the District that conditions are suitable for the consideration of application for permits to burn under Schedule 13 of the Country Fire Authority Act.

The recommendation applies to the municipalities of Strathbogie, Moira and Greater Shepparton.

Schedule 13 Permits for the burning of grass, stubble or vegetation may be issued for agricultural purposes from this week. Schedule 14 permits for the burning of fruit trees will be issued on a case by case basis.

Burning off grass, stubble, weeds, undergrowth or other vegetation during the Fire Danger Period is permitted ONLY if the land holder has a written permit issued by the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer, a Fire Prevention Officer of a public authority or by the CFA District office.

A permit is only valid if all conditions are followed, including light up times, notifications, weather conditions and required means of extinguishment.

Mr Owen urged operators of agricultural businesses to understand the risks when planning their burn-offs.

Before burning off:

- Obtain a permit your local council or CFA and comply with all permit conditions
- Notify neighbours at least two hours before starting the burn
- Notify the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) on 1800 668 511
- Check the weather forecast for the day of the burn and a few days afterwards
- Check the fuel moisture conditions
- Establish a fire break of no less than three metres cleared of all flammable material
- Make sure there are enough people to monitor, contain and extinguish the burn safely and effectively

Communities are likely to see smoke in the air and residents should consider this when reporting fires to emergency services. Residents should also be aware that the fire danger period is still in force and permits will be issued in a very limited way to support agricultural businesses. For further information, please refer to the CFA website or the VicEmergency Hotline Call 1800 226 226.

CFA has the authority to revoke permits at any time.

At all times, conditions of the permit must be adhered to as required by law. Zero tolerance will be given to any breach of permit conditions. Referral to Victorian Police will occur for any permit breach.

**ENDS.**

**For further information contact CFA District 22 Office. 5833 2400**

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