

# BACKYARD BURNING & CAMPFIRES

## FIRE AND SMOKE SAFETY

### IN THE ISAAC REGION



Sitting around a small backyard firepit with family and friends is something we look forward to during the cooler months. However, backyard fires can quickly become an uncontrolled smoke nuisance if not controlled appropriately.

### Backyard fires and restrictions

On private property in the Isaac region, fires are only permitted outdoors in a fireplace which has been constructed to prevent the fire or any burning material from escaping, or if permitted by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES).

Permitted fires can still cause problems, such as a smoke nuisance, for surrounding neighbours so steps should be taken to reduce the likelihood of a disturbance

### Avoiding smoke nuisance

To reduce the likelihood of creating a smoke nuisance it is recommended that:

- Clean firewood and kindling are used rather than using green waste to fuel a fire
- Fires are less than 2 metres by 2 meters in size
- The burning of paints, hazardous chemicals, wet paper or cloth and sanitary napkins, is avoided as they release hazardous chemicals
- Burning wet or green vegetation is avoided as it smoulders and causes excessive smoke

## FIRE FACTS

- **Using green waste to fuel a fire can increase smoke hazards**
- **Council's local law allows backyard fires only if contained in cooking or heating appliances and in approved incinerators.**
- **Residents burning an area or materials larger than 2 metres by 2 metres must obtain approval from the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES)**
- **As little as a litre of water can help to cool an average size campfire to a safe temperature.**
- **91% of burns caused by outdoor fires are a result of contact with coals rather than flame.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
**WELLNESS@ISAAC.QLD.GOV.AU**  
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#### Fires on beaches, reserves, and parks

In public places such as parks, reserves and beaches, fires can only be lit in a fireplace, barbecue or incinerator that has been constructed by council. If there is no fireplace, barbecue or incinerator provided in these areas it is often to prevent fires from occurring.

If visiting a beach, park or reserve with an existing fireplace, fire ring or fire locations it is advise that you bring firewood and kindling with you. Wood in many of Queensland's parks are protected and cannot be collected or used for fires.

#### Fires in ISAAC National Parks and State Forests

The Isaac region is home to many national parks and state forests including, Cape Palmerstone National Park, Homevale National Park, Mazeppa National Park and the Peak Range National Park. However, all ISAAC parks and forests prohibit open fires.

#### Campfire alternatives

Off-ground self-contained appliances, such as Oz-pig style cookers, are safe alternatives to traditional fires and can be used where (or when) campfires or barbecues cannot, such as:

- in areas where campfires are not allowed
- where fires are seasonally restricted due to high fire danger
- during QPWS fire prohibitions

#### Tips to consider before lighting a fire

If you are lighting a fire in your backyard or in a public space, the following should be considered:

- Obtain a [QFES](#) or [Rural Fire Service \(RFS\)](#) permit before a lighting a large fire
- Comply with all conditions of the permit
- Observe fire restrictions and fire bans on the [QFES](#) website
- Recycle or reuse waste where possible
- Regular composting reduces the need for burning in the open air
- Take large branches or trees to Council Waste Management Facilities
- Make sure the fire is out before you leave

For more information on fire safety or to apply for a fire permit please visit the [Queensland Government](#) or the [Rural Fire Service QLD](#) in regards to all restrictions and policies placed in Queensland to improve fire safety.

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