

The Bushfires Act has been established to help protect life, property and the environment from the threat of wildfire. Within the Act there are a number of important sections with which landholders must comply.



Northern Territory Basic **Fire** Laws

BUSHFIRES ACT

The Act says you must not set fire or cause fire to be set to land or property belonging to any other person under such circumstances as to cause or be likely to cause damage to that other person or that land or property.

Penalty for Failure to Comply with the Bushfires Act: \$25000 Fine or imprisonment for 5 years.

FIRE BANS

A ban on the lighting of fires in the open may be imposed during periods of Very High or Extreme Fire Danger. During this time NO FIRES of any kind may be lit in the open air with the exception of those fires used for cooking or boiling water, provided that the nearest flammable matter to the fire is more than 4 metres away.

Fire bans are announced on radio and in the press; when the Ban is lifted normal burning restrictions continue to apply.

If you have a fire on your property that was lit prior to the commencement of a Fire Ban, you must put it out or if you are unable to do so you must notify a Fire Warden or Fire Control Officer without delay.

Penalty: \$25000 or imprisonment for 5 years.

FIRE PREVENTION

The Chief Fire Control Officer may require you to construct firebreaks on or remove flammable material from land apparently under your control.

Penalty: \$5000 or 2 years and \$500 each day during which the offence continues.

LANDOWNERS OR OCCUPIERS

If you are the owner or occupier of any land and you are made aware that a fire on your property is likely to spread to other land, you must take all reasonable steps to control the fire. If you are unable to do so you must immediately notify:

- a) a Fire Warden or Fire Control Officer; and
- b) all neighbouring property holders of the fact.

Penalty: \$5000 or imprisonment for 2 years.

BURNING MATTER NOT TO BE THROWN DOWN

Cigarettes and other burning or smouldering matter must be thoroughly extinguished before being disposed of.

Penalty: \$5000 or imprisonment for 5 years.

OBSTRUCTION

Hindering a Fire Control Officer or Fire Warden in the exercise of their duty, or failing to comply with any requirement so made is an offence.

Penalty: \$5000 or imprisonment for 2 years.

Giving false information or producing false documentation to a Fire Control Officer or Fire Warden exercising their duty is an offence.

Penalty: \$5000 or imprisonment for 2 years.

This is not a legal document but rather a summary of the Bushfires Act. It does not cover all the provisions of the Act but refers to those matters which the majority of people will be concerned.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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