

Blasting

Prescribed activity and conditions

This information is to assist persons who would otherwise require an exemption under section 22C of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* to carry out blasting in the open air during a total fire ban (TFB).



What conditions do I need to comply with to carry out blasting during a TFB?

During a total fire ban, blasting (see definition) may only be carried out:

- in the course of trade or commerce; or
- by (or on behalf of) a public authority, and only when all of the following conditions are complied with:
 - ✓ Notification must be provided to DFES and the relevant local government between 24 hours and 30 minutes prior to the blasting commencing using the online notification form on the DFES website.
 - ✓ If the blasting is to be carried out within 3 km of land managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' Parks and Wildlife Service, notification must be provided to the respective local District or Regional Duty Officer from Parks and Wildlife between 24 hours and 30 minutes prior to the activity commencing.
 - ✓ Any directions issued by a bush fire control officer in respect of the prevention of fire at the blasting site must be complied with (regulation 39D(2) of the *Bush Fires Regulations 1954*).
 - ✓ The ground within a 10 m radius of any lit fuse or lit explosive must be clear of inflammable material.
 - ✓ At least one approved fire extinguisher (see definition) in proper working order must be located in close proximity to the person carrying out the blasting.

Definitions

Blasting means the use of explosives on land.

Approved fire extinguisher for an activity means a fire extinguisher suitable to extinguish a fire likely to occur in relation to the activity; and has a capacity of at least 9 kg or 9 L; and complies with the current Australian Standards.

Ways to keep informed of a TFB:

A TFB is declared the evening before it is to take effect. You can check after 6.00pm to see if a TFB has been declared for the following day.

- Call TFB hotline 1800 709 355
- Visit <https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au>
- Call 13 DFES (133 337)
- Listen to ABC local radio and other media outlets
- Check roadside Fire Danger Rating signs
- Follow DFES on Facebook or Twitter
- Subscribe to RSS at the following link to receive email notifications
<https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au/#cap-rss>



Follow the steps!

Check	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirm if it's a TFB• DFES Total Fire Ban + www.emergency.wa.gov.au/#totalfirebans• Phone: TFB hotline 1800 709 355
Notify	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notify DFES and the relevant local government by completing the DFES online notification form between 24 hours and 30 minutes prior to the activity commencing.• Notify Parks and Wildlife Service (P&W) between 24 hours and 30 minutes prior to the activity commencing where the activity is occurring within 3 kms of land managed by P&W.
Proceed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subject to prescribed activity conditions, proceed with the activity as required.

Can anyone carry out this activity during a TFB?

No – the prescribed activity can only be carried out in the course of trade or commerce, or by (or on behalf of) a public authority. This activity is NOT allowed to be carried out during a TFB by the general public. For more information on restrictions during a TFB, please refer to the DFES website www.dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans

Penalties for non-compliance with activity conditions:

Stakeholders who do not comply with the conditions within the Regulations may receive an infringement of \$1,000, or upon conviction receive a penalty of \$25,000 and/or be jailed for 12 months.

Who should I contact if I need further information?

Please call the Total Fire Ban Hotline (available 24/7) on 1800 709 355 or email exemptions@dfes.wa.gov.au during business hours.