



Can I? Can't I?

Campfires
and Barbecues



Campfires can easily escape and start a bushfire

- Understand the campfire and barbecue rules before you visit forests and parks in Victoria.
- Think about using fuels other than wood for cooking while camping.
- Your campfire is your responsibility. You are legally responsible for ensuring that it is safe, does not escape, and is completely put out before you leave.

Before you go

- Pack a **bucket**.
- Make sure you have access to **water**.
- Check the **weather and Fire Danger Ratings**.
- Find out if there is a **Total Fire Ban** where you plan to visit.

Arriving at the campsite

Building your campfire

- Use a **designated fireplace** where available.
- Portable firepits may also be used, except in National Parks where campfires are only permitted in designated fireplaces.
- Make sure there is nothing that could catch fire within **3 metres** of a campfire or **designated fireplace** (including above and around it).
- Keep it small. Your fire (including the logs/branches within it) must be **less than 1 square metre** in size.

Using portable barbecues/stoves[^]

- You can use barbecue/stove appliances that are **designed and manufactured** for that purpose.
- The barbecue/stove must be **stable** (not at risk of tipping over).
- Make sure there is nothing that could catch fire within **1.5 metres** of your barbecue (including above and around it).[†]

[^]Allowed in some National Park areas – contact Parks Victoria to confirm.

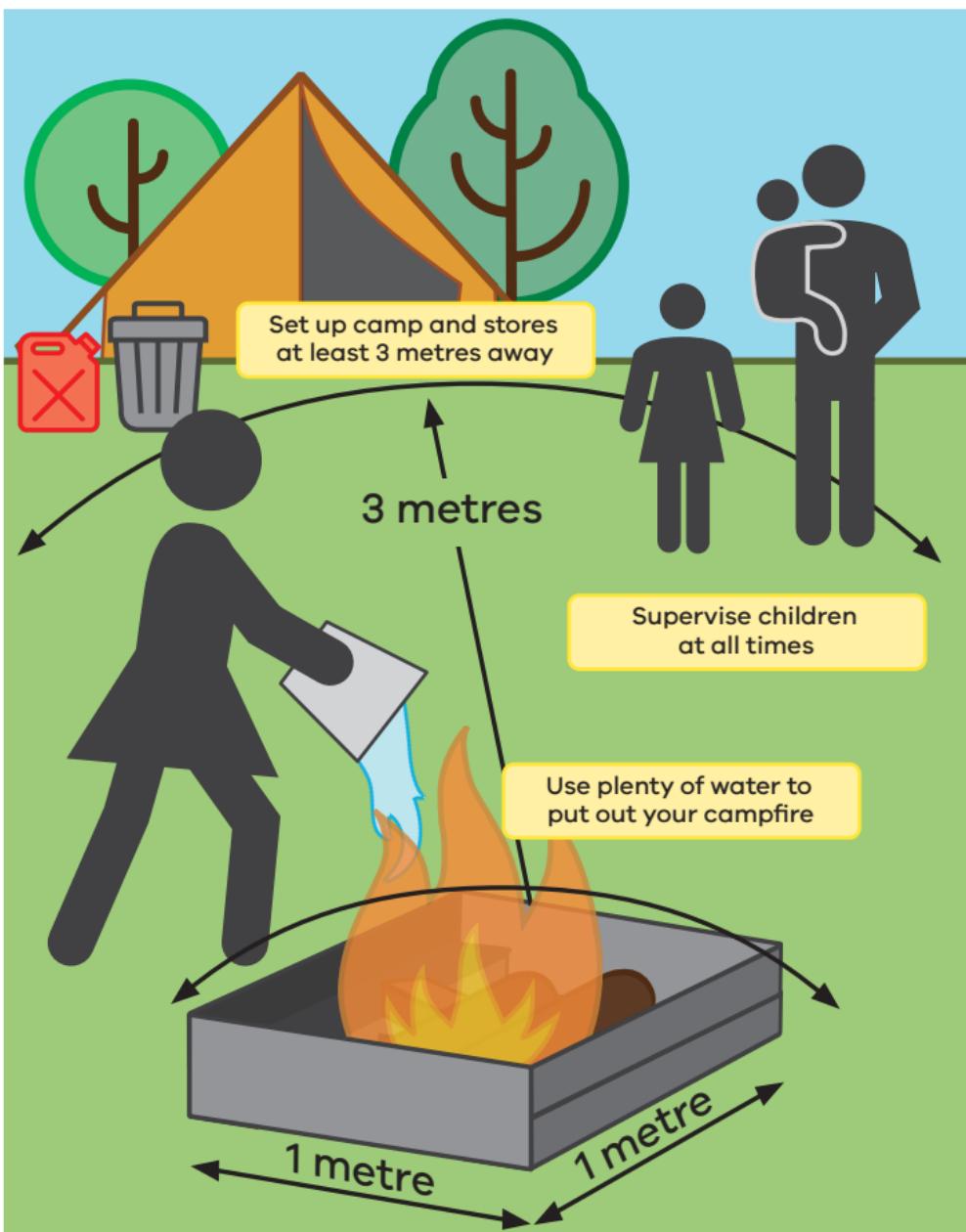
[†]This also applies to any generators you have running at your campsite.

While you are camping

- A responsible adult **must watch** the campfire or barbecue at all times.
- **If it's hot or windy, do not light** a campfire or barbecue.
- If you leave the campsite for any reason, **put out your campfire - even if you plan to come back**.

Leaving the campsite

- Fill up your **bucket with water** and use it to put out your campfire.
- When the **ashes are cool to touch** it is safe to leave.
- **Dirt is not enough** – fires can keep burning underground for days in the right conditions.



*This image relates to general use, not on a day of Total Fire Ban



Do not put glass, aluminium, plastic, rubbish or food scraps into your campfire. Please take these home with you. Leaving these items at your campsite is littering and subject to on-the-spot fines.

Total Fire Ban days

Total Fire Ban days = no campfires, including the use of wood, briquettes, heat beads.



- Find out if a Total Fire Ban is in place.
- Call the Vic Emergency Hotline on **1800 226 226**
- Download the **Vic Emergency App** or visit **emergency.vic.gov.au**

Barbecues on Total Fire Ban days

You can use a permanent gas or electric barbecue on a total fire ban day if it is:

- Built of stone, metal concrete, or another **non-flammable material**.
- Designed and manufactured **only for meal preparation** (including portable barbecues).
- Always in a **stable position** when in use.

You must:

- Only use it to cook a meal.
- Make sure there is nothing that can catch fire within **1.5 metres** of the barbecue.
- **Supervise** the barbecue at all times and make sure you can put it out if necessary.
- Have a hose connected to a water supply or at least **10L of water**.
- Ensure the barbecue is **completely out** before you leave.

- **Unattended** (unwatched) campfires are one of the biggest potential causes of bushfires.
- If we find an unattended campfire or barbecue, we will put it out.
- If we find a campfire or barbecue that is still alight or not completely extinguished, you could be **fined or taken to court**.
- Every person has a **legislative duty** to prevent the spread of a fire.

Information sources

- Check the long range weather forecast before you leave via bom.gov.au
- Find out about Total Fire Bans and Fire Danger Ratings via:
 - VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226
 - emergency.vic.gov.au
 - Vic Emergency App

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**To report suspicious or illegal activity call
DEECA on 136 186**

To contact Parks Victoria call 131 963

vic.gov.au/unattended-campfires