

In the Bay of Plenty region

Outdoor fires, apart from gas barbecues and incinerators, may require a permit. Normally, this can be obtained with a phone call to your district council. There are times, however, when no fires will be allowed – such as hot, dry summer periods when fire danger is extreme.

Did you know...

If you have a fire which gets out of control and damages someone else's property, you are responsible for the cost of repairing the damage, and if there are fire-fighting costs involved you will very likely be required to pay these as well!

Before lighting your fire, always consider your neighbours!

To obtain a fire permit phone:

Kawerau District Council	07 323 8779
Opotiki District Council	07 315 6167
Rotorua District Council	07 348 4199
Western Bay Of Plenty District Council	07 571 8008
Whakatane District Council	07 306 0500

For further information please contact Environment Bay of Plenty:

Telephone: 0800 ENV BOP (368 267)

Facsimile: 0800 ENV FAX (368 329)

Pollution Hotline: 0800 73 83 93

Email: info@envbop.govt.nz

Website: www.envbop.govt.nz

Address: 5 Quay Street, P O Box 364, Whakatane



Smoke Sense

a sensible approach to lighting fires in rural areas



If you live on a rural property, fire can be a handy way to dispose of of your rubbish. It is important, though for your safety, for your property's safety and for the environment – that you do it right.

A smoky fire is a sure sign that you haven't.

Smoke can pollute the air and endanger your health. The solution is easy – keep smoke to a minimum!

Any time you are planning to burn rubbish:-

- Contact your district council to obtain a permit when necessary. Permits are free.
- If it is windy (more than 10 knots) wait for calmer conditions. It is safer, and ash won't get blown about.
- Avoid lighting your fire when the weather is cool, and the air is still, such as evening or early morning. Smoke will tend to hang around and take a long time to disperse.

- Locate your fire well away from buildings, hedges, shelter belts, trees, vehicles, etc. Make sure it's somewhere that smoke won't obstruct the view of road traffic or cause a nuisance to neighbours.
- Stack your rubbish in a way that will ensure there is good air flow to the base of your fire. The more air, the better the blaze.
- Let material dry properly. The drier it is, the less it smokes and the faster it burns. Rather than have a big fire, keep it small and keep adding to it.
- Don't burn plastic, rubber, tyres or any other waste known to produce black smoke. Recycle instead!
- Stay and supervise the fire at all times. Keep a fire extinguisher or supply of water close by in case things get out of hand.

Once your fire is ablaze, it can be tempting to toss anything and everything onto it. For our environment's sake, please don't!

Never try to burn:

- Chemicals
- Materials that can produce toxic gases
- Food waste
- Metals
- Paints, varnishes, etc
- Animal carcasses
- Pesticides
- Plastic
- Rubber
- Treated timber
- Waste oil or petroleum products

Burning any of these materials could result in a \$300 instant fine