

26 June 2018

EPA reminds community of outdoor burning impacts

As we head in to cooler weather the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is reminding the community of the impacts that wood smoke from burning in the open can have on people's health and the environment.

Both the smoke particles, and the chemicals it contains, are harmful to human health and can cause environmental nuisance.

The EPA's advice heading in to the winter months is that people should be aware that smoke is a significant contributor to poor localised air quality. Although people may enjoy an outdoor fire, they may have others in their neighbourhood that are elderly, have respiratory diseases or have young children where exposure to smoke may cause considerable health impacts.

The EPA's Manager Legislation and Policy Steve Mudge says the rules around burning in the open have been in place for almost three decades.

"Rules around burning in your backyard have been in place since 1994 for metropolitan Adelaide, however the EPA's Air Quality Policy came into effect in 2016.

"This policy brings together many existing rules, with backyard burning being one of them. The only change in the policy regarding burning in the open is that the laws are now applied to all township areas across the state and metropolitan Adelaide equally.

"These simple rules mean that people can still enjoy outdoor activities in winter, but minimise the impacts of wood smoke on the community.

"Burning wood for the primary purpose of cooking is allowed, however the fire must be proportionate to the food being prepared," he said.

"You can use charcoal for heating, however if you want to burn wood for a comfort fire you need a permit from your council.

"Permits ensure that a fire on any given day is for that specific purpose. Without a permit it is very difficult for a local council compliance officer responding to complaints of smoke to know if a fire is legitimately for a permitted purpose.

"You do not need a permit if you live in rural areas outside of townships, however be safe and follow the CFS Codes of Practice," Mr Mudge said.

The EPA has released a series of videos to explain the rules around indoor and outdoor burning activities.

[EPA burning videos](#)

USE YOUR WOOD HEATER PROPERLY

Keep your home fire burning better and ensure your heater is running efficiently and does not emit excessive smoke. For more information contact your local council or epa.sa.gov.au/woodsmoke

WOOD SMOKE AND YOUR HEALTH

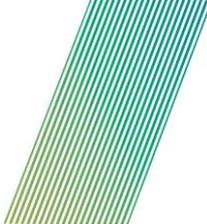
Wood smoke is not good smoke.

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Media release



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Wood smoke contains particles that are harmful to you, your family and your neighbours. If you can smell it, you're already breathing it.

For more information contact your local council or epa.sa.gov.au/woodsmoke

BURNING IN THE OPEN

In South Australia there are new laws in place to help minimise smoke impacts on the health of the community, and protect the environment, from burning in the open.

Keep South Australia's air healthy and community safe by burning responsibly.

For more information contact your local council or visit epa.sa.gov.au