

Island Wide Lighting Fires

With hot dry winds and grounds, there is an increased risk of fires occurring on Norfolk Island through human intervention and we must be very vigilant should we intend to light a fire.

In the last four weeks the Norfolk Island Fire Service (NIFS) had 4 callouts to put out fires, mainly grass fires caused through neglect by leaving fires unattended, thinking “they will be alright”.

The Fire Service would like to remind residents and contractors of the protocols for lighting fires of domestic green or dry waste, leaves, cuttings, scrub trimmings as well as during land clearing;

1. Inform the Fire Service of your intent to light a fire, the quantity and the time you intend to maintain the fire.
Fire staff will advise if conditions are favorable for you to light or not.
Preferably call during business hours Phone 22049. No accelerant should be used for safety reasons.
2. Advise your neighbor/s of your intent because it is the right thing to do, due to potential health concerns, impact on the young and elderly, washing on the line, or smoke getting into homes due to open windows.
3. Clear the surrounds up to 2M of the intended fire site. Keep the amount of the material to a manageable size for the water available.
4. Do not burn anything except green or dry waste. NO hazardous waste should be burnt including plastic products, tanalised timbers, pressure packs or cars. These products produce unseen toxic fumes that lands on roofs and gets into water tanks besides being inhaled by surrounding neighbors.
5. **DO NOT LEAVE THE FIRE UNATTENDED** – provide capacity for water to be applied to the fire should it threaten to spread to other areas.
6. When in doubt give the Fire Service a call, **000**.

Should the protocols not be followed, and it only takes one person not to do the right thing, there are strict legislative requirements that could be imposed, often at the offender’s expense.

Should future weather conditions dictate, Fire Bans could also be put in place.

In the case of any emergency relating to fire, please ring **000**.

Chief Fire Officer

30 November 2020