

## In the Bay of Plenty region

The Regional Air Plan sets out the rules that control the environmental effects of burning.

Some outdoor fires, apart from gas fire barbecues and incinerators, may require a fire permit. Normally, a fire permit can be obtained with a phone call to your district or city council.

There are times when no fires will be allowed – such as hot, dry summer periods when fire danger is extreme.

**Note that a fire permit does not give you the right to ignore the Regional Air Plan requirements and create a smoke nuisance.**

## Looking for other ways to get rid of your waste?

Visit the Waste and Recycling Directory at [www.boprc.govt.nz](http://www.boprc.govt.nz)



## 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.

If there are fire-fighting costs involved you will very likely be required to pay these as well!

**Always consider your neighbours before lighting your fire.**

### To obtain a fire permit phone:

Kawerau District Council	07 306 9009
Opotiki District Council	07 315 3030
Rotorua District Council	07 348 4199
Western Bay of Plenty District Council	07 571 8008
Whakatane District Council	07 306 0500
Tauranga City Council	07 577 7000

For further information please contact  
Bay of Plenty Regional Council

**Phone:** 0800 884 880

**Fax:** 0800 884 882

**Pollution Hotline:** 0800 884 883

**Email:** [info@boprc.govt.nz](mailto:info@boprc.govt.nz)

**Website:** [www.boprc.govt.nz](http://www.boprc.govt.nz)

**Address:** 5 Quay Street, PO Box 364, Whakatāne 3158

*Printed on a certified sustainable paper*



**Smoke Sense**  
a sensible approach  
to open burning



Fire can be a handy way to dispose of dry shelterbelt tree trimmings and untreated timber. It is important that you do it right for the safety of you, your property and the environment.

A smoky fire is a sure sign that you're burning waste material incorrectly.

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

### Residential areas

There is very little domestic rubbish that can be burnt apart from paper and seasoned greenwaste – and even these will create smoke. It is far better to use your council's curbside recycling programme. Contact your local district or city council to find out more. You are less likely to upset your neighbours by not undertaking any backyard burning in a residential area.

### Rural areas

Farmers and orchardists can use controlled burn-offs to get rid of vegetation waste but are also encouraged to consider mulching as a way of disposing of their greenwaste. Below are some tips to make sure you are following the best practice for open burning:

- Let material dry properly (usually 2 - 3 months). The drier it is, the less it smokes and the faster it burns. Keep the fire small and add to it, rather than have a big fire.
- Don't burn plastic, rubber, tyres or any other waste known to produce black smoke. Recycle instead!
- Try to avoid scraping a lot of soil into the pile (particularly if using heavy machinery) as this will reduce the airflow and generate more smoke.
- Stack your rubbish in a way that will ensure there is good airflow to the base of your fire. The more air, the better the blaze.
- Locate your fire well away from buildings, hedges, shelterbelts, trees, vehicles, etc. Make sure it's somewhere that smoke won't obstruct the view of road traffic or cause a nuisance to neighbours.

## Never burn...

- Chemicals
  - Materials that can produce toxic gases
  - Food waste
  - Metals
  - Paints, varnishes, etc.
  - Animal carcasses
  - Pesticides
  - Plastic
  - Rubber (this includes tyres as well as items that contain rubber and plastic such as old furniture)
  - Treated timber
  - Waste oil or petroleum products
- Rule 5 of the Regional Air Plan outlines what is permitted for open burning and Rule 20 outlines what is prohibited from open burning.



## Did you know?

Burning any of the materials listed above, or even just creating a smoke nuisance, could result in a \$300 fine.

- 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.
- 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!