



The Waipa Fire Control Bylaw 2015 regulates fires and fire hazards within both urban and rural areas of the Waipa District, to protect the public from health nuisances associated with fires, such as smoke, fumes and ash, and also to prevent fires spreading or becoming out of control.

No fire is permitted to cause a nuisance to any person, regardless of whether the fire has a permit. Council officers or Contractors responding to complaints have powers to enter property, and if necessary ask that a fire be extinguished. If this does not occur then they can take steps to extinguish a fire, as can the Fire Service.

Breaches of the bylaw may result in enforcement action. Complaints regarding nuisance or illegal fires should be made to Waipa District Council.

#### WHERE ARE THE URBAN FIRE AREAS AND PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED AREAS?

A number of areas of Waipa District are subject to year-round fire restrictions, pursuant to the Waipa District Fire Control Bylaw 2015 and the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977.

The following areas are classified as urban fire areas or permanently restricted areas, where permits are required for fires at all times:

- Cambridge Township, including Leamington, and the Fencourt rural-residential area
- Karapiro Township
- Kihikihi Township and the St Ledger Road rural-residential area.
- Ngahinapouri Township
- Ohaupo Township
- Pirongia Township
- Rukuhia Township, including the Rukuhia rural-residential area
- Te Awamutu Township
- Tokanui Settlement
- Te Pahu Township

Detailed maps of the fire areas and the properties that are within the fire areas can be seen on Council's website [www.waipadc.govt.nz](http://www.waipadc.govt.nz) under 'bylaws' or by viewing a copy of the bylaw at Council Offices. If you are unsure if your property is within an urban fire area staff at Council Offices will be able to assist you.

Though a property may be zoned as rural or rural-residential under the District Plan, it may still be within an urban or permanently restricted fire area.

#### ARE THERE ANY EXEMPTIONS?

The only fires permitted in urban or restricted areas without a permit are barbeques, braziers or outdoor heaters and traditional cooking fires provided there is no immediate or likely danger to any person or property, appropriate means of extinguishment are available, adequate supervision is maintained at all times and no nuisance is caused.

**HOW CAN A PERMIT BE OBTAINED?**

Requests for permits can be made to Waipa District Council. You must allow a minimum of two working days notice. Officers will often visit the property to ensure that the location and size of the fire is appropriate, and to ensure no material that creates fumes or noxious smoke or smells is to be burnt.

Permits will not be issued to burn any material that is prohibited to be burnt by Waikato Regional Council in the Regional plan. Such materials include but are not limited to:

- Halogenated organic chemicals
- Materials containing heavy metals
- Pitch, paint and paint residues and surface coatings
- Asbestos
- Pathological waste (excluding animal carcasses on production land)
- Rubber and tyres
- Sludge from industrial processes
- Hazardous materials from contaminated sites and buildings
- Materials associated with the recovery of metals from cables
- Components of motor vehicles
- Tar and bitumen
- Any material within a landfill or a refuse transfer station

Even if a fire is subject to a permit, or is exempt from a permit, it is still an offence to cause a nuisance. Other offences include having a fire without a permit, or breaching conditions of permit.

Permits will be issued in writing, and will contain a range of conditions. If a permit is issued it should be held by the person in control of the fire. A person who breaches permit conditions may not be issued further permits in the future.

**HOW MUCH DOES A PERMIT COST?**

Cost will be at the discretion of the officer. Charges for inspection and mileage may apply.

**HOW LONG DOES A PERMIT LAST?**

One permit is issued per property, and maximum duration is usually seven days, but may vary.

**RURAL FIRE AREAS**

Enquiries about fires in rural areas including permanently restricted rural fire areas should be directed to Council Rural Fire Officers. There are rural areas also subject to restrictions (such as peat areas) and obligations not to cause a nuisance to others also exist.

Fires in the rural area are generally subject to restrictions during summer months.

**COUNCIL CONTACTS**

Enquiries regarding urban fires, urban permits or fires causing a nuisance should be directed to Waipa District Council on 0800 924 723.

Council's Environmental Health Officers will generally administer urban fire restrictions and Rural Fire Officers with rural and permanently restricted rural areas.

**DISCLAIMER**

*While Waipa District Council strives to provide accurate, up-to-date data, the information contained in this brochure is intended as a guide only. It has no legal status, and does not purport to be in any way a replacement of any of Council's statutory documentation.*

*Waipa District Council accepts no liability for any losses incurred by any person relying upon this brochure's completeness or the accuracy of its contents.*

**IF A FIRE IS ENDANGERING LIFE OR PROPERTY, OR IS OUT OF CONTROL THE FIRE SERVICE SHOULD BE CONTACTED ON 111**

**IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT A FIRE NEEDING A PERMIT, OR A FIRE CAUSING A NUISANCE CALL COUNCIL ON 0800 924 723**

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