



PILE BURN ADVISORY

DUFFYS FOREST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The execution of a pile burn is primarily undertaken as one of a suite of methods to reduce naturally occurring organic fuels on a property.

Approval for pile burning can only be given by the NSW RFS for disposal of natural organic materials that were removed during hazard/fuel reduction works. To use this method you may need to justify that you cannot dispose of the material by the normal garbage collection or re-use it on site (composting).

For example, if the pile is too large; or access is too difficult to reasonably allow for removal.

It is also worth noting that there is some relevance to how the fuel is cleared. For example, if a machine has been used to clear and stack the fuel, it could easily be argued that it could then be loaded and transferred off site to a waste disposal facility negating the need to undertake a pile burn.

To minimise smoke, the pile should be dry before burning. For more information, see the NSW RFS document Standards for Pile Burning

To be able to undertake any form of hazard reduction works including the use of fire, there is a need to apply and obtain the following:

1. A Hazard Reduction Certificate, which is required 365 days of the year, is primarily designed to provide an effective Asset Protection Zone to a dwelling or other asset and not for land clearing/development purposes – Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Certificate Application Instructions attached
2. A Fire Permit is required for burning activities during the Bush Fire Danger Period in Rural Fire Districts and at all times in Fire and Rescue NSW Districts around the state. Fire Permits help ensure fire is used safely and minimise the danger to you, your property and the community
3. There are also notification requirements which need to occur prior to undertaking an approved Hazard Reduction activity (Pile Burn), once 1. & 2. above have been complied with, which includes the following:
 - a) Minimum 24 hours notice to immediate neighbours who may be impacted by the activity
 - b) Minimum 24 hours notice to NSW Rural Fire Service of the proposed activity
 - c) Minimum 24 hours notice to Fire and Rescue NSW if the proposed activity is within FRNSW District

Please refer to the following to assist with providing information and details of the required processes:

1. HRC Application Instructions – attached
2. NSW RFS Planned Burn Notification portal <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/about-us/our-districts/mia/fire-information/BFDP/burn-notifications>
3. Information link to Bush Fire Danger Period & Fire Permit requirements <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/BFDP>
4. Safe Burning Activity Guideline <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/farm-fire-safety/safeburning>
5. Lighting A Fire – Quick Facts poster - attached

Should you require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact New South Wales Rural Fire Service Northern Beaches District at northernbeaches@rfs.nsw.gov.au or 9450 3000.