

Can I or can't I?

at Mt Baw Baw Alpine Resort and Baw Baw Village

To report a fire
DIAL 000

Updated January 2023

This guide gives you general information about what you can and can't do at any time of the year at the Mt Baw Baw Alpine Resort, when fires in the open air are legally restricted. Additional measures are in place during the declared Fire Danger Periods and on days of Total Fire Ban.

The Mt Baw Baw Alpine Resort and Baw Baw Village are located on protected public land in accordance with s62(1) of the *Forest Act 1958*. Consequently, fire restrictions are in force all year round. CFA declares Fire Danger Periods by municipalities in the country area of Victoria during periods of increased fire risk. The Resort adopts the Fire Danger Period as declared for the Baw Baw Shire.

Total Fire Bans (TFB) are declared by CFA on days when fires are likely to spread rapidly and be difficult to control. The West and South Gippsland Fire Weather District total fire ban declarations and forecast Fire Danger Ratings apply within the Mt Baw Baw

Alpine Resort and Baw Baw Village. The penalties for lighting fires illegally during the Fire Danger Period, on protected public land and on Total Fire Ban Days include large fines and possible imprisonment.

Fire Danger Ratings and Total Fire Ban declarations are posted on the Fire Danger Rating sign at the entry to the Resort (corner of Mt Baw Baw Tourist Rd and South Face Rd), on the CFA and BoM websites, and the Vic Emergency app.

There are no set aside or designated areas within the Resort where a solid fuel fire is permitted without a permit at any time of the year. Penalties apply for lighting fires without a permit.

On Catastrophic (and potentially on other Extreme) fire danger days the Resort will be closed, so no camping, barbecues or other activities can occur. See Resort Closure Catastrophic FDR Fact Sheet for further information.

Can I have a barbecue using liquid fuel, gaseous fuel or chemical fuel?

A commercially-produced barbecue or portable gas stove is considered a properly constructed fireplace.



At any time of the year

NO, unless:

- the BBQ is located in the following set aside areas – designated car park; within a leased site, or a public space in the Baw Baw Village that is not within a food & beverage venue,
- the ground and airspace within a distance of 1.5m for the outer perimeter and uppermost point of the fire are clear of flammable material,
- the fire is contained in an appliance designed and commercially manufactured to use that fuel,
- the appliance when alight is placed in a stable position, and
- the person in charge of the BBQ must not be outside the line of sight of the BBQ; or more than 50m from the BBQ.

On Total Fire Ban Days



NO, unless

- the BBQ uses only gas or electricity and is a permanently fixed structure built of non-flammable material designed exclusively for meal preparation, or is designed and commercially manufactured exclusively for meal preparation (includes portable gas BBQ and stoves),
- the BBQ is located in the following set aside areas – designated car park; within a leased site, or a public space in the Baw Baw Village that is not within a food & beverage venue,
- the ground and airspace within a distance of 1.5m for the outer perimeter and uppermost point of the fire are clear of flammable material,
- the appliance when alight is placed in a stable position, and
- the person in charge of the BBQ must not be outside the line of sight of the BBQ; or more than 50m from the BBQ.

Can I light a campfire using solid fuel?

A campfire includes a fire in a trench or properly constructed fire-place (including a chiminea, fire pit or similar). There are no public fireplaces within the resort.



At any time of the year

NO, unless:

- a permit has been issued by the resort.

Note: The Resort will not issue a fire permit outside the dates of the declared snow season, and will only consider issuing a permit within a leased site for a fire contained in an appliance designed and commercially manufactured for that purpose.

Note: A permit is required to camp overnight within the Resort. Camping is not permitted within the Baw Baw Village. Camping permits do not include a permit have a campfire.

On Total Fire Ban Days



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Can I use a **portable camping stove**?

A portable camping stove includes – Trangia, portable gas stove or similar – that uses liquid, gaseous or chemical fuel.



At any time of the year

NO, unless:

- the ground and airspace within a distance of 1.5m for the outer perimeter and uppermost point of the fire are clear of flammable material,
- the fire is contained in an appliance designed and commercially manufactured to use that fuel,
- the appliance when alight is placed in a stable position, and
- the person in charge of the camping stove must not be outside the line of sight of the stove; or more than 50m from the stove.

Note: A permit is required to camp overnight within the Resort. Camping is not permitted within the Baw Baw Village.

On Total Fire Ban Days



NO, unless:

- the camping stove uses only gas and is designed and commercially manufactured exclusively for meal preparation,
- the ground and airspace within a distance of 1.5m for the outer perimeter and uppermost point of the fire are clear of flammable material,
- the appliance when alight is placed in a stable position, and
- the person in charge of the camping stove must not be outside the line of sight of the stove; or more than 50m from the stove.

I run a **meal preparation business** (eg. catering), or I'm running an event.

Can I set up and light a fire to **operate a barbecue, cooker or hotplate** at outdoor function?

At any time of the year

NO, unless:

- a permit has been issued by the resort.

On Total Fire Ban Days



NO

Can I have a **BBQ or spit style rotisserie** fired by heat beads, wood or other solid fuel?

At any time of the year

NO, unless:

- a permit has been issued by the resort.

On Total Fire Ban Days



NO

Can I light a fire in the open air to **burn off grass, stubble, weeds, undergrowth, trimmings, bark, leaf litter or other vegetation**?

At any time of the year

NO

Note: Resort Management as land manager of the Resort may apply to DEECA for a fire permit to manage green waste during the resort's Fire Season Preparedness Program

On Total Fire Ban Days



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Can I **drive a vehicle** in places where the vehicle will be in contact with **grass, stubble, weeds, undergrowth or other vegetation**?



During the fire danger period

NO, unless:

- a permit has been issued by the Resort, and
- the vehicle is fitted with an efficient silencing device (eg muffler) that takes all of the exhaust from the engine through the silencing device.

Note: Visitor and guest vehicles are not permitted to leave designated roadways and car parks within the Baw Baw Village, except to enter a leasehold site on a formed driveway, at any time of the year. Resort operational and permitted vehicles should drive on designated operational roads and tracks, and avoid driving vehicles through dry vegetation in hot and dry conditions, even if not a Total Fire Ban Day, because of the risk posed by the hot exhaust system.

On Total Fire Ban Days



NO, unless:

- a permit has been issued by the Resort, and
- the vehicle is fitted with an efficient silencing device (eg muffler) that takes all of the exhaust from the engine through the silencing device.

Note: Resort operational and permitted vehicles should drive on designated operational tracks. Driving vehicles through dry vegetation should be avoided wherever possible, as the risk of starting fires is extremely high and the impact of fire on these days may be much greater.

Can I use a **chainsaw, plant or grass trimmer or lawn mower**?



During the fire danger period

NO, unless:

- the chainsaw, plant or grass trimmer or lawn mower complies with the following when used in vegetation that is not green (that is dry vegetation):
 - free from faults and mechanical defects that could cause an outbreak of fire
 - fitted with an efficient spark arrester
 - have an area of at least 3 metres around the machine cleared of flammable material
- Also, a person must be in attendance at all times the machine is being used, and must carry at least one of the following fire suppression equipment items:
 - one knapsack spray pump, in working order, fully charged with water, with a capacity of not less than 9 litres, or
 - one water (stored pressure) fire extinguisher, in working order, fully charged with water and maintained at the correct pressure, with a capacity of not less than 9 litres

Note: Work undertaken in GREEN vegetation is permitted, however the Resort/CFA suggests maintaining equipment and carrying fire suppression equipment as described above. The spark arrester, knapsack spray pump and water fire extinguisher must comply with the applicable Australian Standards.

Note: A permit is required to cut, trim or remove native vegetation.

On Total Fire Ban Days



This should be avoided wherever possible on Total Fire Ban days because the risk of starting fires is extremely high and the impact of fire on these days may be much greater.

If the work is essential – refer to the requirements during the Fire Danger Period.

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Can I carry out hot work activities in the outdoors including: **welding, grinding, charring, soldering or gas cutting, heating bitumen?**



During the fire danger period

NO, unless:

- a fire-resistant shield or guard is in place to stop sparks, hot metal or slag from the fire
- an area at least 1.5 metres from the operation is clear of flammable material or wetted down sufficiently to prevent the spread of fire
- you have a hose connected to a reticulated water supply or water spray knapsack containing at least 9 litres of water
- all cut-offs and hot materials from the operation are placed in fire-proof containers
- a person is in attendance at all times while the fire is alight and has the capacity and means to extinguish the fire
- the fire is completely extinguished before the person leaves.

On Total Fire Ban Days



NO, unless:

- In limited circumstances DELWP may issue a permit on Total Fire Ban days.

Can I use an **incinerator?**

At any time of the year

NO

On Total Fire Ban Days



NO

Can I use **self-propelled machinery, tractors, slashers, earth moving, excavating or road making machines propelled by a heat engine within 9 meters of any grass, stubble, weeds, undergrowth or other vegetation?**

During the fire danger period

NO, unless:

- a permit has been issued by the Resort for the works, and
- the machinery:
- is free from faults and mechanical defects that could cause an outbreak of fire
- is fitted with a spark arrester in working order, a turbocharger or exhaust aspirated air cleaner
- carries fire suppression equipment comprising either:
 - at least one knapsack spray pump, in working order, fully charged with water, with a capacity of not less than 9 litres, or
 - at least one water (stored pressure) fire extinguisher, in working order, fully charged with water and maintained at the correct pressure, with a capacity of not less than 9 litres.

Note: The spark arrester, knapsack spray pump and water fire extinguisher must comply with the applicable Australian Standards.

On Total Fire Ban Days



This should be avoided wherever possible on Total Fire Ban days because the risk of starting fires is extremely high and the impact of fire on these days may be much greater.

If the work is essential – refer to the requirements during the Fire Danger Period.

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It is the responsibility of every individual using fire to ensure they comply with the fire restriction laws. Anyone using fire must ensure that their actions do not cause a fire to spread to other property. Severe penalties apply under the *Crimes Act 1958* (Vic) to anyone who intentionally or recklessly lights, maintains or fails to contain a fire and allows it to spread on to other property. Penalties also apply under the *Alpine Resorts (Management) Regulations 2020* to anyone who lights, kindles or maintains a fire in the open air in an alpine resort where not permitted.

If in doubt, do not light a fire.

In an emergency dial 000, and state your location at Baw Baw Village and if possible the closest ESTA marker number.

How can I find further information or apply for a permit?

For any clarification or further information about this guide, or to obtain a permit application form, contact the Mt Baw Baw Alpine Resort on (03) 5165 1123, visit our website at www.mtbawbaw.com.au or send an email to permits@mtbawbaw.com.au

The CFA do not issue permits for fires within the Resort, but can provide general advice about restrictions and fires on protected public land. <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/>

DEECA issue permits for fires on protected public land. Any applications to DEECA for fires within the Resort will require the Resort's consent. <https://firepermits.vic.gov.au/>

This guide is produced by the Mt Baw Baw Alpine Resort and has been adapted by permission from the CFA Can I Can't I guide.

Alpine Resorts Victoria acknowledges the Gunaikurnai as the traditional owners of the Mt Baw Baw Alpine Resort crown reserve and pays its respect to elders past, present and emerging.