

# Outdoor Burning

Outdoor fires can produce smoke and odour which can harm people's health and cause a nuisance. Fires can also affect property and the environment.

## Know the rules before you burn

- The Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan (PMEP) has specific zone rules to minimise the negative effects of smoke, odour and air pollution from outdoor burning – See the Zone Rules Summary below and check if you are in the Blenheim Airshed.
- Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) can impose fire restrictions at any time of the year.
- Check the current fire season status and whether you need to obtain a fire permit at [www.checkitsalright.nz](http://www.checkitsalright.nz)

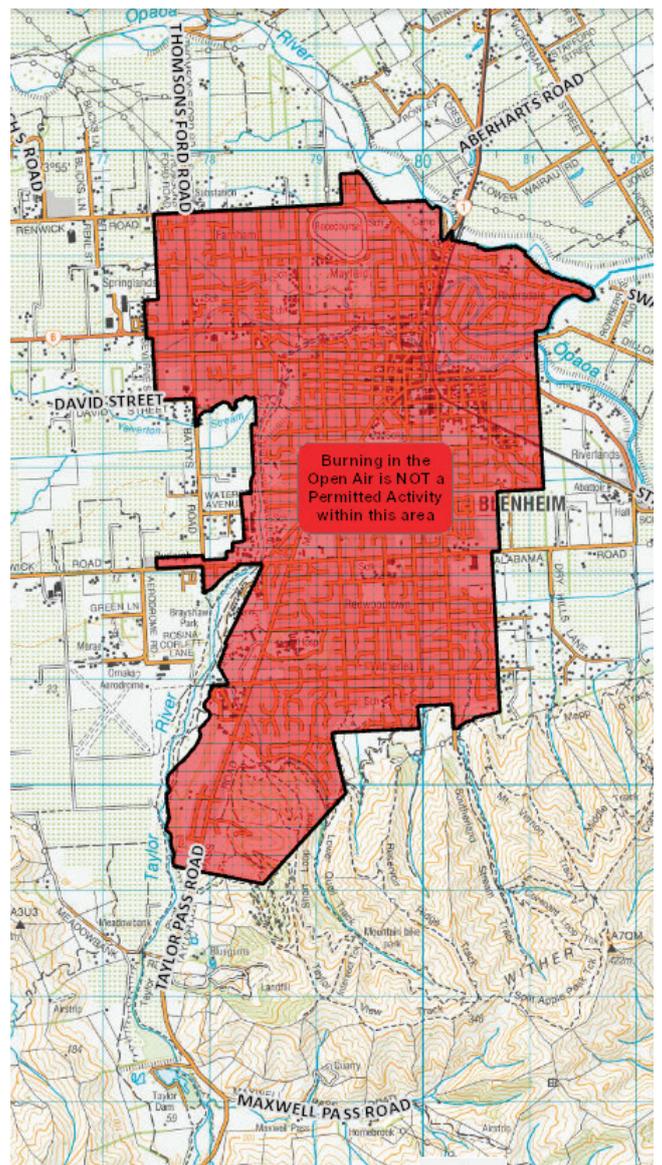
## Are you in the Blenheim Airshed?

Burning in the open is PROHIBITED within the Blenheim Airshed unless:

- **The fire is used exclusively for the cooking or smoking of food for non-commercial purposes;**
- **Is a brazier but is not used during the months of May, June, July or August;**
- **Does not involve any prohibited fuels.**

Before you light an outdoor fire you should check if your property is in the Blenheim Airshed. This can be done on the Council website – search “Are you in the Blenheim Airshed”, type in your property address, and select search.

You can see a larger map under the “Blenheim Airshed” thumbnail on our Smart Maps Webpage.



## Penalties include:

- Infringement notice requiring the payment of a \$300 fine.
- Serious or repeated breaches can also result in Abatement Notice or Enforcement Order.
- Prosecution under the RMA which could result in a fine of up to \$300,000 for an individual, up to \$600,000 for any parties other than individual; or up to 2 years imprisonment plus a criminal record.



## PMEP Permitted Activity Rules for Burning in the Open

**For all Zones – Smoke must not be objectionable or offensive when detected at or beyond the legal boundary of the area of land on which the permitted burning activity is occurring.**

✓ rule applies ✗ rule does not apply	The property where the burning is to occur must be located <b>outside</b> the Blenheim Airshed.	Only material generated on the same property or a property under the same management or ownership must be burned.	The total volume of material being burned must not exceed 2m <sup>3</sup> .
Urban Residential 1, 2, 3 Rural Living	✓	✓	✓
Open Space 1, 2, 3*, 4	✓	✓	✓ *Open Space 3 this only applies if adjoining land zoned Urban Residential 1,2 (including Greenfields) & 3, Coastal Living or Rural Living.
Rural Environment	✓	✓	✗
Coastal Living, Marina	✗	✓	✓
Coastal Environment, Lake Grassmere Salt Works	✗	✓	✗
Business 1, 2 Industrial 1, 2	Burning in the open is <b>prohibited</b> within the Blenheim Airshed unless the fire is used exclusively for the cooking or smoking of food for non-commercial purposes.		
Business 3, Port, Port Landing Area, Coastal Marine, Floodway, Airport	Burning in the open is a discretionary activity and requires a Resource Consent to be issued.		

### For Urban Residential 1, 2 and 3 Zones

Discharges to air within the Blenheim Airshed from outdoor burning in a brazier, or a fire used exclusively for the cooking or smoking of food for non-commercial purposes is permitted when the following are complied with;

- A brazier must not be used during the months of May, June, July or August.
- Only wood with a moisture content of 25% dry weight or less is burnt, and no rubbish or prohibited materials are burnt.
- All reasonable steps are taken to minimise the amount of smoke discharged.

### Check before you light

- What Zone rules are relevant for your property? [www.bit.ly/PMEP-Vol2](http://www.bit.ly/PMEP-Vol2)
- Is your property within the Blenheim Airshed? [www.bit.ly/BlenheimAirshed](http://www.bit.ly/BlenheimAirshed)

#### ✓ Ok to burn

Only burn well-dried material that can't be composted, recycled, or used as firewood.

All vegetation must be allowed to dry so it burns vigorously without causing much smoke. Optimal time for drying will depend on the type of vegetation.

#### ✗ Not ok to burn

- Painted, stained, oiled or coated wood.
- Treated wood.
- Composite wood boards.
- Pellets containing copper and chlorine above certain amounts.
- Metals, including cables.
- All rubber including tyres.
- Materials containing metals, asbestos, tar, and bitumen.
- Synthetic materials including plastics, foams, fibre glass, batteries, chemicals, paints and motor vehicle parts.
- Waste oil.
- Peat.
- Sludge from industrial processes.

Questions about burning?  
Contact the Council:

Marlborough District Council  
15 Seymour Street  
PO Box 443  
Blenheim 7240

Ph: +64 3 520 7400  
Email: [mdc@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:mdc@marlborough.govt.nz)  
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