

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: FIRES IN DRUMS

1. **Period of Burning**
 - (a) Fires may be lit at any time during the hours of daylight, providing all other conditions are met.
2. **Open Drums**
 - (a) Old oil drums are not normally considered an approved incinerator. However provided they are covered with a fine wire mesh over the top to stop burning materials blowing out and hot ambers cannot fall out the bottom of the drum they will be considered permissible.
3. **Before the Fire**
 - (a) Ensure that the ground around the drum or incinerator is clear (for 3 metres minimum) of any vegetation or material that may ignite as a result of the fire.
 - (b) Obtain a weather forecast (NZ Met Service, 0900 999 25 Canterbury Plains, or 0900 999 26, Canterbury High Country)
 - (c) No fire shall be lit while a strong or gusty wind is blowing or is forecast or when conditions are such that the fire is likely to spread if it escapes from the drum or incinerator. Maximum allowable wind strength is 19KPH (Beaufort 3).
 - (d) Notify occupiers of neighbouring properties likely to be affected by smoke drift.
 - (e) The fire should be supervised by an adult (adequately dressed for safety) with hand tools, a supply of water and a means of delivery, to deal with any outbreak of fire.
 - (f) Ensure a suitable means of communication is on site to notify emergency services should they be required.
 - (g) Regard must be given to the provisions of the Resource Management Act, in particular clean air and smoke nuisance issues. Contact Environment Canterbury for advice.
4. **During the Fire**
 - (b) The fire is to be supervised at all times. Remain in attendance until the fire is completely out.
 - (c) The fire must be serviced by a domestic (high pressure) water supply adequate to extinguish the fire, and the surrounding area should be dampened down before lighting.
5. **After the Fire**
 - (a) Check to ensure the area around the drum or incinerator is safe. (Re-ignition can occur some hours later after a wind change).
6. **Ensure the Fire is Out**
 - (a) Please note that any permit or authority issued is not a legal defence against claims for damages which may be caused by the fire. The responsibility for its control and the liability for any damages which might arise, lie with the person lighting the fire.

Property owners within neighbouring Rural Fire Districts, Public Conservation Land, and the associated Fire Safety Margins, are reminded that these areas have fire control measures in place all year round. Advice should be sought from the relevant Authority.