

FIRE SEASON REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACTORS

1. Contractors are to ensure that all personnel under their control comply with the conditions contained in this document, and the provisions of:
 - *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 (SA)* and regulations
 - *Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)* and regulations
 - *South Australian Forestry Act 1950*

2. These requirements will apply for the duration of the Fire Danger Season as declared by the CFS and/or by ForestrySA whichever commences earlier and concludes later.

These requirements are updated annually prior to the fire season and may be changed from time to time.

3. It is the Contractor's responsibility to ensure that all personnel and each item of plant comply with these requirements. Failure to comply may lead to the suspension of operations until the non-compliance issues are rectified.

3.1. Vehicles and Equipment

All vehicles and equipment entering the forest, whether owned by the Contractor or their employees or sub-contractors, **MUST**:

- Have an efficient spark arrester
- Have attached or carry a working portable extinguisher, minimum capacity nine litres, fully charged with water, and be Australian Standards compliant.
- Carry a fire rake or shovel
- Have an ashtray accessible to all occupants.

3.2. Smoking

Smoking is not permitted. Smoking in the forest environment during Fire season is prohibited by law.

3.3. Fire Extinguishers

In addition to the above requirements (3.1), all vehicles entering the forest must be equipped with one or more working fully charged Foam or Dry Chemical fire extinguishers, and be Australian Standards compliant as per the following table.

Vehicle	Fire Extinguishers Required
Fallers, operators and supervisor's vehicles and trucks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One 2.25 kg Foam or Dry Chemical.
Machinery, which works primarily on firebreaks, e.g. loaders, tractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One 4.5 kg Foam or Dry Chemical in cab • One 9.0 kg Foam.



Machinery, which works primarily within the compartment, e.g. forwarders, skidders, harvesters, dozers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One 2.25 kg or larger Foam or Dry Chemical in or near cab • Two 9.0 kg Foam, one of which may be set up as a remote-operated on-board system.
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NOTE: Foam is the preferred type of chemical fire extinguisher but A (E) Dry Chemical is an acceptable alternative. A (E) Dry Chemical is the appropriate extinguisher for electrical fires.

3.4. Cleanliness

All machinery must be kept free of accumulated grease, oil, fuel, forest litter and flammable material.

3.5. Exhaust Gas Temperature

All machinery must comply with the SA Logging Machinery Testing Procedure. This requires that exhaust gas temperature shall be below 240°C when at operating temperature and normal workload, with an air temperature of 30°C.

3.6. Chainsaws

All chainsaws must:

- comply with the relevant Australian Standards
- be equipped with an efficient spark arrester which is kept clean at all times
- have screens fitted to mufflers to prevent carbon emissions
- be tested periodically to ensure they comply with the South Australian Chainsaw Testing Procedure (Appendix 1)

Refuelling of chainsaws must be done on a firebreak clear of debris and vegetation or in an area that has been cleared for the purpose to at least 1.5 metres square.

Chainsaws must not be restarted at the refuelling area.

3.7. Manual Tree Felling (including pre-commercial thinning)

Each chainsaw operator must have:

- Either a fire rake or a shovel that is to be kept at the refuelling area
- A fully charged Foam or Dry Chemical fire extinguisher which complies with the Australian Standards, minimum capacity of 2.25 kg. The unit, which is required for the faller's vehicle, may be used for this purpose
- A pressurised knapsack containing a minimum quantity of 9 litres of water or a hand pump knapsack of 15 litres capacity in working order; one per faller, which shall be located no further away than at the edge of the closest compartment boundary from the work area.

4. Fire Suppression

The Contractor must take immediate action to suppress all fires in or adjacent to his operation irrespective of the cause of the fire. All fires, including any that occur to plant and equipment, must be immediately reported to “000” and then to ForestrySA phone (08) 8521 1707.

5. Use of Welding, Cutting and Abrasive Tools

5.1. Days when there is no declared Total Fire Ban:

Use of these tools is only permitted if all of the following conditions are met:

- (i) A shield or guard of fire-resistant material is positioned around the activity to prevent the escape of sparks, hot metal or slag
- (ii) The space immediately around and above the activity is cleared of all flammable material to a distance of at least four metres, or wetted sufficiently to prevent the spread of fire
- (iii) A portable water spray in good working order of at least 9 litre capacity is at hand
- (iv) Cut-offs, electrode stubs and hot material from the activity, is immediately placed in a fireproof receptacle
- (v) A person who is able to control the tool is present at all times while the tool is in use or alight.

These five conditions must be met for any welding, gas cutting or grinding during the fire danger season, not just on declared days of Total Fire Ban.

Prior to commencing:

- Contractors must advise ForestrySA of their intention to carry out welding gas cutting or grinding activity.
- Move vehicle to a cleared area. A cleared area to mineral earth, of 4-metre radius in all directions is required and wet down the area to 4m
- Clean closely related machinery parts of flammable debris; use a water jet to clean difficult corners
- Ensure that a minimum of two Foam or Dry Chemical 9.0kg minimum capacity extinguishers which comply with the Australian standards, both of which must be fully charged, a full knapsack spray, and a fire appliance and operator are on hand.

5.2. Days of Total Fire Ban

Generally, use of these tools will not be allowed on a declared day of Total Fire Ban. However, if absolutely necessary the following procedure must be followed.

- 5.2.1. Contractor must obtain a Permit from an Authorised Officer of the appropriate District Council. (Schedule No. 10, issued with conditions under Regulation 33 (10) of the *Fires and Emergency Services Act 2005*.

Note that this Regulation requires notification to CFS Regional Officer and local CFS Brigade.

5.2.2. Contractor must seek permission to use these tools on any ForestrySA managed land before work commenced.

NOTE: Total Fire Bans are usually announced the day before, and apply from midnight to midnight.

6. Work Bans

On days when ForestrySA considers that fires are likely to spread rapidly and could be difficult to control a Forest Work Ban will be proclaimed. The starting time of the work ban will be advised.

All Contractors' employees must cease work and leave the forest by the time the ban comes into effect and not return for the period of the ban.

7. Restrictions on Working Outside of Normal Business Hours

Restrictions on working outside of normal business hours will only apply to harvesters working in first thinning operations, on days when the fire danger remains high at the end of the normal business day or is expected to be high over the weekend.

Weekdays

First thinning operations may be directed to cease harvesting by 1700hrs when the Forest Fire Danger Index (FFDI) is likely to remain above 35 after 1700hrs.

The ForestrySA State Duty Officer or a ForestrySA Harvesting Supervisor will advise all contractors engaged in first thinning operations sometime between 1600hrs and 1630hrs on those days when harvesting must not continue past 1700hrs. Loading and haulage operations may not be affected and may continue after 1700hrs.

Weekends and Public Holidays

When the FFDI is forecast to exceed 35 on a weekend day or public holiday, the ForestrySA State Duty Officer or a ForestrySA Harvesting Supervisor will advise all contractors engaged in first thinning operations sometime between 1600hrs and 1630hrs on the day prior that harvesting is not to be undertaken on that day. Loading and haulage operations will not be restricted.

Harvesting can re-commence on the first normal business day after the weekend or public holiday.

8. Fire Fighting Appliance

Heavy equipment contractors shall have on site at all times, and in good working order, a mobile firefighting appliance that meets the following minimum specification:

- Water Tank capacity - 500 litres available for firefighting at any time while Harvesting and transport equipment is operating. This means that if the unit is to be used for cleaning machinery during the day it cannot be emptied, but must still contain a minimum quantity of 500 litres of water while work continues on the site.
- Pump Capacity - Delivery rate of 100 litres per minute at 500 kilopascals.
- Water Delivery - Two 30 metre hoses, one mounted on a live reel, rubber construction with an internal diameter of 19 mm, and fitted with an appropriate fire-fighting nozzle.
- Fire extinguisher - The unit shall also contain fully charged and operational Foam or Dry Chemical fire extinguishers with a total capacity of 9.0kg which comply to Australian Standards.

There is no specific requirement as to how the unit is mounted, except that it must be mobile, and capable of being taken into the forest compartment by the extraction equipment on site. If a trailer unit is used, it should be capable of being towed by any piece of logging equipment on site.