



Safe Burning of Offal Holes

Definition Of Offal Hole

A hole excavated for the purpose of disposing of offal and dead carcasses

Do I Need A Permit?

If your fire meets the above definition for Offal Hole you may still require a fire permit depending on your location.

Do I need a Permit?				
Fire Season	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Urban Zone
Open	No	No	Yes	No Offal Hole Fires Allowed
Restricted	No	No	Yes	
Prohibited (Total Fire Ban)	No Offal Holes can be burnt during a Total Fire Ban			

To know which zone you are in give us a ring, 0800 77 33 63

There Are Some Things To Be Aware Of

Before

Think about where you excavate your offal hole. If you are using a contractor, discuss with them:

- ✓ Where they will excavate the hole. Ensure there is a clear area of at least 30 meters from any combustible material.
- ✓ Check you have adequate insurance to cover for: Property loss, Public liability, Fire Suppression costs.
- ✓ Check the long-range weather forecast for the following 48 hours
 - Fires should not be lit with a wind in excess of 15kmh.
 - If your Offal Hole is near areas of scrub and tussock, the maximum wind must not exceed 11kmh. (see attached Beaufort Scale).
 - It's best to burn in the afternoon, when the wind pattern for the day is usually established.
- ✓ Think about what you will wear.
 - Natural fire clothing, such as cotton or wool are more heat resistant. Synthetic materials can melt and cause severe injuries.

- Wear a pair of thick leather gloves to protect your hands.
- Wear sturdy lace up leather boots, ideally with a steel cap.
- ✓ The fire should only be lit with wind blowing away from any shelter belt, trees, fences, buildings or other combustible material.

During

Have a plan in case things don't go as planned

- ✓ If using accelerants to burn the offal hole, make sure you understand how to use them to prevent injury.
- ✓ Keep an eye on your fire while burning.
- ✓ Make sure you have resources on site encase the fire spreads, E.g. tractor with front end loader, water.
- ✓ In the event of fire moving outside the area, dial 111 and ask for the Fire Service.

After

- ✓ Check your offal hole in the days and weeks following burning. They can hold their heat for a long time, creating unwanted fires days and weeks later

You are responsible for keeping your fire safe

Alternatives to Burning

Fire is a useful tool but comes with inherent risks. There may be alternative and safer ways to remove your waste.

For free advice on all rural fire activities contact Southern Rural Fire on 0800 77 33 63.

Check out our website www.southernruralfire.org.nz for up to the hour fire danger information and much more.

Wind Specification – Beaufort Wind Scale

Beaufort Wind Force	Descriptive Term	Kph	Observable wind effect
0	Calm	< 1	No perceptible wind movement. Smoke rises vertically.
1	Very Light Air	1 to 5	Direction of wind shown by smoke drift but not by wind vanes.
2	Light Breeze	6 to 11	Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; ordinary vanes moved by wind.
3	Gentle Breeze	12 to 19	Leaves and small twigs in constant motion; wind extends light flags.
4	Moderate Breeze	20 to 29	Burning should not occur in these wind conditions.

