

MOSSEL BAY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES  
FIRE PERMIT PROCEDURES

1. The procedure to obtain a permit to burn is as follow:
  - Phone the local fire service to apply for a permit.
  - A trained fire prevention officer will contact the owner to arrange a date for an inspection to be carried out.
  - An application form will be completed on the day of the inspection of the property.
  - If the area is declared safe, the fire prevention officer will issue the applicant with a permit.
  - Permits and applications are valid for a period as specified on the documentation.
  - It is the owner's responsibility to inform the relevant authority 2 hours beforehand, of his/her intention to burn.
  
2. Burning will only be allowed under the following conditions:
  - Burning must be done during safe weather conditions.
  - Burning must be done during daylight hours.
  - Fires must be attended until completely extinguished.
  - Fires must be extinguished if they create a hazard, nuisance, pollution problem or threat to public health.
  - Fire fighting equipment adequate for the size of the fire must be nearby.
  
3. Burning without a permit from the Local authority may lead to procecution.
  
4. Owners also have to follow the requirements set in the National Veld and Forest Fire act,1998.  
Sections 12(2) and 12(3) provide for notice and co-operation between neighbours in the case of firebreaks that are to be burnt. The owner intending to burn must consult with the neighbour to find a suitable date for both, but if the owner cannot obtain agreement then he or she may simply give 14 days' written notice of the intention to burn. In either case the Act requires the neighbour to burn his or her firebreak on the same day as agreed or notified, to be present or have an agent present, and have sufficient fire fighters available to prevent the spread of the fire - this is also applicable to any controlled burning.
  
5. The permit issued by the Local Authority must not be confused with the permit issued by the Department of Agriculture – below is an explanation of the permit issued by the Department of Agriculture:

**12. Regulation 12 in terms of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act: Prevention and control of veld fires**

- (1) Except on authority of a written permission by the executive officer, no land user shall—
  - (a) burn any veld on his farm unit; and
  - (b) utilise as grazing any veld on his farm unit that has burned.
  
- (2) The provisions of regulation 2 (2) and (3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis* with regard to an application for a permission referred to in subregulation (1): Provided that—
  - (a) such application shall be submitted at least 30 days prior to the intended date of burning or grazing, as the case may be; and
  - (b) a permission referred to in sub regulation (1) (a)—
    - (i) shall not be issued unless the executive officer is satisfied that the burning of veld is an accepted veld management practice in the area within which the farm unit concerned is situated, or that exceptional circumstances prevail on the farm unit concerned;
    - (ii) shall be issued only if the veld concerned is to be burned during periods of which particulars are available at the extension office concerned; and
    - (iii) shall be issued to the provisions of the Forest Act, 1968 (Act 72 of 1968).