

Authorised fire types on PCL in a restricted fire season

Introduction

When to use

Use this table as the authorised fire types on public conservation land (PCL) in a restricted fire season. As long as they meet the description and conditions, in the table below, these fire types do not require a fire permit on PCL, as they are not considered to be fires in open air.

Note: PCL is always in a restricted fire season, unless moving into a prohibited season in alignment with the surrounding land. This decision to move into or out of a prohibited fire season is made by Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

Table of fire types, descriptions and conditions

Fire type	Description and conditions
Gas-operated appliances	<p>Manufactured portable gas-operated appliances, such as butane tramping stoves, gas barbeques and outdoor gas heaters.</p> <p>Find out more about the safe use of barbeques and gas cylinders and outdoor gas-operated appliances.</p> <p>Conditions</p> <p>The gas-fire must not be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> lit if the appliance is not in full operational condition in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications lit unless on a flat, level surface, stable and solid enough to support the weight of the appliance plus any containers and food used during cooking lit unless at least one metre clear of all combustible material lit in conditions where wind or other factors may cause the fire to spread to surrounding flammable material left unsupervised while flame is present.
Pressurised liquid appliances	<p>Manufactured portable liquid cookers which use liquid under pressure to fuel the cooker. The type of liquid is not specific (e.g. White spirits, kerosene or methylated spirits) but the delivery mechanism is.</p> <p>Note: This excludes cookers using an open top, non-pressurised system.</p> <p>Conditions</p> <p>The pressurised liquid fire must not be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> lit if the appliance is not in full operational condition in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications lit unless it is on a flat, level surface, stable and solid enough to support the weight of all the appliance parts plus any containers and food used during cooking lit unless at least one metre clear of all combustible material lit in conditions where wind or other factors may cause the fire to spread to surrounding flammable material left unsupervised while flame is present and/or the liquid is still turned on.

<p>Campfires in a permanent fireplace</p>	<p>Positioned and constructed by the Department of Conservation (DOC) to minimise the threat of fire spread and located within formally established DOC overnight campsites or daytime amenity areas.</p> <p>Conditions</p> <p>The campfire in a permanent fireplace must not be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lit if the fireplace has any damage that could allow the fire, hot embers, or ash to escape and spread beyond the constructed fireplace • within three metres of any combustible material • lit where notices and advertising are present which specifically prohibit the lighting of fires • lit during a prohibited fire season • lit in conditions where wind or other factors may cause the fire to spread to surrounding flammable material • left unsupervised while burning and without the ashes being fully extinguished • used to burn rubbish.
<p>Cooking and warming fires</p>	<p>Small, open outdoor wood-burning fires are only permitted to be lit on PCL in remote areas and only if required for essential cooking or survival purposes. As a guide, remote areas for this purpose are considered to be at least 3km from the nearest public road, public vehicle easement accessway or publicly accessible jetty or wharf.</p> <p>Additionally, fires must not be lit in locations fitting the freedom camping criteria, as defined in the Freedom Camping Act (2011).</p> <p>Conditions</p> <p>The cooking and warmth fire must not be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more than 0.5 m diameter x 0.5 m height (including wood and flames) • within three metres of any tree or any place underneath overhanging vegetation; and • within three metres of any log or any dry vegetation • lit unless and until the ground surface within three metres of the site of the fire has been cleared of all combustible material • lit where notices and advertising are present which specifically prohibit the lighting of fires or specify the lighting of fires only in other types of receptacles or places • lit in National Parks which have bylaws prohibiting the lighting of wood burning fires in the open air • lit during a prohibited fire season • lit in conditions where wind or other factors may cause the fire to spread to surrounding flammable material • left unsupervised without the ashes being fully extinguished • used to burn rubbish. <p>Note: This only applies to small open fires (as described above). Solid fuel fires, front loaded portable fires, non-gas barbecues or chimineas are all prohibited fire types on Public Conservation Lands at all times.</p> <p>Find out more about the safe use of campfires.</p>

Document information

Owner	Service Delivery Wildfire Manager
Steward	Wildfire Specialist
Last reviewed	1 March 2024
Review period	Every second year

Record of amendments

Date	Brief description of amendment
August 2018	Re-Drafted and published for Fire and Emergency
September 2019	Content owner updated for Tranche 2 changes, no review
July 2022	Reviewed, no changes, template updated
February 2024	Reviewed and tables contents updated with Department of Conservation signoff
March 2024	Addition to the header row to include requirements that any fire meets description and conditions in the table