

Fire management boundaries within the Northern Territory

Area	Emergency Response Area (ERA)	Fire Management Zone (FMZ)	Fire Protection Zone (FPZ)	Fire Management Area (FMA)	Fire Danger Area (As declared under a Fire Danger Period)	Fire Ban Area
Controlling Authority	Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Services (NTFRS)	Bushfires NT	Bushfires NT	Bushfires NT	Bushfires NT; Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Services (NTFRS)	Bushfires NT; Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Services (NTFRS) – if ERA is affected
Legislation	Fire and Emergency Act 1996	Bushfires Management Act 2016	Bushfires Management Act 2016	Bushfires Management Act 2016	Bushfires Management Act 2016 ; Fire and Emergency Act 1996	Bushfires Management Act 2016 ; Fire and Emergency Act 1996
Description	<p>Under the <i>Fire and Emergency Act 1996 (NT)</i> an ERA is established for the for the purpose of managing urban and urban-fringe development around major population centres in the Northern Territory.</p> <p>The below areas are classified as an ERA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater Darwin Region Batchelor Adelaide River Pine Creek Katherine Mataranka Tennant Creek Ti Tree Alice Springs Yulara 	<p>Fire Management Zones (FMZ) are declared across the Northern Territory (NT) and have a Regional Bushfires Committee established which develop a regional fire management plan for each zone.</p> <p>There are five FMZ's in the NT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alice Springs FMZ Arnhem FMZ Barkly FMZ Savanna FMZ Vernon Arafura FMZ <p>Within a FMZ there are designated FPZ's.</p>	<p>Fire Protection Zones (FPZ) are areas with a greater numbers of assets and smaller property sizes.</p> <p>More stringent fire management controls are imposed to reduce the risk of bushfires in those areas. These controls include, but are not limited to, establishing firebreaks, prohibiting the lighting of fires without a permit, limiting the use of welding, cutting and grinding equipment, and leaving a fire unattended.</p> <p>There are four FPZ's in the NT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern protection zone Alice Springs protection zone Katherine protection zone Tennant Creek protection zone 	<p>Fire Management Area (FMA) are established for a limited period and require properties within the area to establish a Fire Management Plan (FMP).</p> <p>The property fire management plan must specify arrangements for the effective mitigation, management and suppression of fire on that land by the owner or occupier of that land.</p>	<p>A Fire Danger Period is declared over an area when it is determined that fuel loads and weather conditions have created dangerous fire conditions.</p> <p>This declaration can be made each year over areas classified as Fire Weather Forecast Districts and/or FMZ of the Territory that are experiencing what is often referred to as a 'bushfire season'.</p> <p>A Fire Danger Area is an established area within which certain activities with the potential to ignite fires are controlled according to <i>the Act</i>. These controls include, but are not limited to, the lighting of fires, the use of welding, cutting and grinding equipment, disposal of burning or smouldering things, and prohibiting leaving a fire unattended.</p> <p>These periods can last for several months.</p> <p>In the designated fire danger area, it is mandatory for all landholders to obtain a permit to burn.</p>	<p>If Bushfires NT and NTFRS determine that some or all of the following determinants will make it very difficult to control a fire, a ban on lighting fires in the open may be imposed in a particular area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forecasted increase in fire weather conditions; Fuel conditions (Fuel loads, curing rate, continuity); Operational availability for suppression response; Proximity of area to townships, urban and peri-urban areas. <p>A fire ban period can be declared for up to 24 hours.</p> <p>This ban imposes a restriction on lighting fires in the open and all permits to burn are void during a fire ban period.</p> <p>The Australian Fire Danger Rating System also influences the declaration of a fire ban area.</p>

Action	Emergency Response Area	Fire Management Zone	Fire Protection Zone	Fire Management Area
Required to obtain a permit to burn .	✓	Only during a declared fire danger period	✓	✓
Required to obtain a permit to burn for aerial ignition activities.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Required to install and maintain a 4m firebreak around the perimeter of property and infrastructure (15m width for properties affected under the <i>Weeds Management Act 2001</i> (Gamba Grass))	✓		✓	✓
Ability to light a fire for the purpose of cooking, boiling water or disposing of an animal carcass	✓	✓	✓	✓

All landowners have a responsibility to protect property on the land from fire and stop the fire from spreading to other land (S90 (1)) [Bushfires Management Act 2016](#), [Fire and Emergency Act 1996](#) ((NT) S33).

If a fire is unable to be controlled or stopped from spreading to other land, the owner is required to notify Triple 000, relevant fire wardens and all neighbours on nearby properties where the fire may spread as soon as possible (S90 (2); BMA).