

Fact sheet: Disposal of bushfire waste



Environment
Protection
Authority Victoria

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Fact sheet

Overview

In the event of a bushfire, landowners and authorities may be required to dispose of perished stock or large quantities of building rubble. The proper disposal of bushfire waste is an important health and environmental consideration. We understand this is a very difficult time for families affected by the fires, and we will work with you in any way we can.

Contact your local council for information on appropriate clean up and disposal of bushfire waste. They can advise on management of particular types of waste (e.g. asbestos, animals) and available options for disposal.

Dead stock

Where possible, disposal to landfill is your first and best option for disposal of dead stock. However, we understand that this isn't always an option.

Onsite disposal

In areas where stock cannot be moved to a landfill, limited numbers can be buried onsite. Burial sites should be carefully chosen, to protect your groundwater, and surface waters from contamination, as well as protecting yourself and your neighbours from odour and possible health hazards. Agriculture Victoria provides a guide to disposing of dead stock after bushfires in [Agnote AG1264](#) on their website: agriculture.vic.gov.au

In the case of intensive animal industries, such as feedlots, piggeries, broiler and egg farms, stock must not be buried on the farm without EPA approval. Approval is required for more than 500 sheep or 150 cattle on the farm.

Burning of dead stock should be avoided unless it is required for disease control, or as a last resort if a burial site is not available.

Spoiled milk

There's a variety of effective ways to dispose of spoilt milk on the farm, after power outages, in bushfire affected areas.

While small volumes of milk can be discharged direct to effluent ponds, it is not the preferred disposal option as it can lead to future odour problems.

On-farm disposal via irrigation, trenching or on non-productive land is possible, provided there are no off-site impacts. The best option needs to be considered for each site using the guidance available from EPA and Agriculture Victoria in [Agnote AGO428](#) on their website: agriculture.vic.gov.au

Building rubble

Building rubble from bushfires mainly consists of brick, concrete, asphalt and timber.

It should be disposed of to a landfill licensed to receive this type of waste. Building rubble should not be deposited to land, such as farms or gullies, without approval from EPA.

Further information

Contact EPA on
1300 372 842 (1300 EPA VIC)
or epa.vic.gov.au

- Incident information and updates: emergency.vic.gov.au
- Find your local council: knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au
- Agriculture Victoria: agriculture.vic.gov.au
- Air quality information: epa.vic.gov.au/airwatch
- Emergency information and fact sheets: epa.vic.gov.au/emergency