

FirePermits Guide: App Users & Farmers

Welcome to FirePermits (<https://firepermits.co.za>)! This guide is designed to be completely step-by-step. If you follow these instructions, you will easily be able to install the app, set up your profile, and legally request burn permits.

Step 1: Install the App on your Phone

FirePermits lives directly on your phone's home screen, just like a normal app, but you download it directly from your web browser instead of the App Store.

If you use an Android (Samsung, Google, etc.):

1. Open the **Google Chrome** app and go to `firepermits.co.za`.
2. Tap the **three dots** (⋮) in the top-right corner of your screen.
3. Tap **"Install app"** (or "Add to Home screen").
4. A popup will ask you to confirm. Tap **Install**.
5. The FirePermits icon is now on your home screen! Tap it to open the app.

If you use an iPhone (Apple):

1. Open the **Safari** app and go to `firepermits.co.za`.
 2. Tap the **Share icon** at the bottom center of your screen. *(It looks like a square with an arrow pointing up).*
 3. Scroll down the menu until you see **"Add to Home Screen"** and tap it.
 4. Tap **"Add"** in the top right corner.
 5. The FirePermits icon is now on your home screen! Tap it to open the app.
-

Step 2: Log In & Enable Notifications

1. Open the FirePermits app from your home screen.
2. Follow the prompt to Log In using your Google Account or Email.
3. **CRITICAL STEP:** The moment you sign in, your phone will ask for permission to **Send Notifications**.
 - You **MUST** tap **"Allow"**.
 - If you do not allow notifications, you will not receive alerts when your permit is approved, or if an emergency burn ban is suddenly activated.
4. *Did you accidentally press "Block"?* Don't worry. You can click the menu inside the app, go to **Settings**, and tap **"Request Permission"** to fix it.

Step 3: Register Your Farm

Before you can burn anything, the system needs to know where your farm is.

1. At the top of your dashboard, tap the **"My Farms"** button.
2. Tap the red **"Add Farm"** button.
3. **Select your FPA:** Pick the Fire Protection Association region you belong to from the dropdown.
4. **Name & Location:** Type in the name of your farm and describe the location.
5. **Accept Terms:** Check the box at the bottom to accept the liability terms.
6. Tap **"Register Farm"**.

Your farm is now permanently saved to your profile!

*(Note: Do you own multiple farms, or operate across different FPA regions? **There is no need to create a new user account!** Your single FirePermits profile is fully global. Simply tap "Add Farm" again, select the new FPA from the dropdown, and add the next location. You must add each distinct farm individually to legally map them).*

Step 4: Request a Burn Permit

When you are ready to start a fire, you need to log it.

1. Go to the **"My Permits"** tab.
2. Tap the red **"Request Permit"** button.
3. **Select Farm:** Pick the farm you just registered.
4. **Burn Type:** Pick what type of fire you are starting (e.g., Slash, Block, Firebreak).
5. **Date:** Pick the date you want to burn.
 - *Note: Some FPAs only allow you to pick "Today's Date" (Same-Day) to ensure weather safety. If the calendar is locked, this is normal.*
6. **Map:** You can tap on the map to drop a pin exactly where the fire will be.
7. Tap **"Submit Request"**.

*(Note: Do you normally phone the Control Room to request a permit? If a Control Room Operator acts as a proxy data-capturer on your behalf telephonically, **you remain strictly legally responsible** for the accuracy of the permit logged on your profile, and you must wait until it is formally Approved before burning).*

Step 5: What Happens Next?

Once submitted, your permit is sent straight to your FPA Manager's dashboard.

-  **Pending:** Your request is submitted and waiting for the Manager to read it.
-  **Approved:** The Manager reviewed your request and clicked Approve! You are legally allowed to burn. *(You will get a phone notification when this happens).*
-  **Denied:** The Manager rejected the request.
-  **Cancelled:** The permit has been revoked (either by you, or forcibly by the Manager).

Viewing Permit Details & Reasons

If you want to know exactly *why* your permit was Denied or Cancelled, simply **tap on the permit in your list**. This opens the full **Permit Details** overlay. If the Manager provided a reason (e.g., "Wind is too high today"), it will be visibly displayed inside a red box at the very bottom of those details!

Strict FPA Verification Errors

When you try to request a permit, you might get a red error saying: **"Membership Paused or that you are not a verified member of the FPA"**

- **What this means:** our local FPA may require you to be an verified member before you can request a burn permit.
- **How to fix it:** Simply call your FPA Manager and explain the situation.

Emergency Burn Bans & Suspensions

If you have an **Approved** permit, the weather might suddenly change. The FPA has two massive safety controls:

1. **Specific Burn Type Suspensions:** If the Manager decides that *only* Slash burns are too dangerous today, they will suspend that specific type. If your permit was for Slash, it will automatically cancel and your phone will beep with an emergency alert.
 2. **Global Burn Bans:** If the entire region is put under an emergency ban, **all** active permits are immediately force-cancelled.
- If either of these happen, your phone will **beep with an instant notification**.
 - Your permit will automatically change to **Cancelled**.
 - You must put out your fire immediately.

Cancelling Your Own Permit

Did your plans change? You can self-cancel your own permit! Simply tap on the permit inside your **My Permits** list, and tap the **Cancel Permit** button at the bottom. This immediately informs the Control Room that you are no longer burning today.