



SHIRE OF NORTHAM

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL OWNERS
AND OCCUPIERS OF LAND WITHIN
THE SHIRE OF NORTHAM**

FIREBREAK ORDER 2015/2016

**BUSH FIRES ACT, 1954
(As Amended) Section 33**

**FIREBREAKS MUST BE COMPLETED
BY 1st NOVEMBER EVERY YEAR
AND MAINTAINED CLEAR OF
ALL FLAMMABLE MATERIAL
UP TO AND INCLUDING 30th APRIL**

FIRST AND FINAL FIRE NOTICE

SHIRE OF NORTHAM
395 FITZGERALD STREET
NORTHAM WA 6401
RANGERS PHONE: 9622 7267
OFFICE PHONE: (08) 9622 6100
OFFICE FAX: (08) 9622 1910
EMAIL: records@northam.wa.gov.au
WEBSITE: <http://www.northam.wa.gov.au>



**HARVEST BAN STATUS
PHONE LINE
(08) 9621 1120**



**TO REPORT A FIRE
DIAL “000”**

FIREBREAK/FUEL REDUCTION REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be installed by 1st November 2015 and maintained up to and including 30th April 2016. Failure to comply with these requirements can result in penalties prescribed by the Bush Fires Act.

Do not burn the road verge without the permission of the Shire and a permit.

TOWN SITE LAND

(includes the town sites/localities of Northam, Grass Valley, Seabrook, Spencers Brook, Clackline, Bakers Hill and Wundowie)

LAND AREA LESS THAN 1 HECTARE

- All hazardous material must be removed from the whole of the land except living trees, shrubs and plants. In this area remaining vegetation except living trees, shrubs and plants is to be maintained to a height of no greater than 7.5cm;
- It is recommended that a 3 metre wide firebreak with an overhead clearance of 4 metres should also be installed, clear of all flammable material, immediately within the external boundaries of the lot;
- As a guideline property owners or occupiers of land are requested, in addition to the applicable firebreak, to clear any flammable material or obstructions (overhanging branches of trees) which may impede the travel of fire fighting personnel and fire appliances.

LAND AREA *EQUAL TO, OR* GREATER THAN 1 HECTARE

- Install a 3 metre wide firebreak with an overhead clearance of 4 metres, clear of all flammable material, immediately within the external boundaries of the lot and;
- Maintain a 20 metre wide low fuel area with a maximum vegetation height (excepting living trees, shrubs and plants) of 7.5 cm around all buildings;
- As a guideline property owners or occupiers of land are requested, in addition to the applicable firebreak, to clear any flammable material or obstructions (overhanging branches of trees) which may impede the travel of fire fighting personnel and fire appliances.

ALL OTHER LAND

(includes the Rural Smallholdings zones of Koojeda Hills, Red Courte Estate, Glenmore Park, Mokine, Clackline)

LAND AREA LESS THAN 5 HECTARES

- Install a 3 metre wide firebreak with an overhead clearance of 4 metres, clear of all flammable material, immediately within the external boundaries of the lot and;
- Install a 2 metre firebreak, clear of all flammable material around and within 7 metres of all buildings and fuel storage areas and maintain a 20 metre wide low fuel area with a maximum vegetation (excepting living trees, shrubs and plants) height of 7.5 cm;
- As a guideline property owners or occupiers of land are requested, in addition to the applicable firebreak, to clear any flammable material or obstructions (overhanging branches of trees) which may impede the travel of fire fighting personnel and fire appliances.

LAND *AREA EQUAL TO OR* GREATER THAN 5 HECTARES

- Install a 2 metre wide firebreak clear of all flammable material;
- Install a 2 metre firebreak, clear of all flammable material around and within 7 metres of all buildings and maintain a 15 metre wide low fuel area with a maximum vegetation height (excepting living trees, shrubs and plants) of 7.5 cm and;
- Firebreaks 2 metres wide shall be cleared and maintained within 7 metres around haystacks, fuel storage areas and buildings including a 15 metre wide low fuel zone with a maximum vegetation (excepting living trees, shrubs and plants) height of 7.5cm.

- A lot greater than 200 hectares requires a 2 metre firebreak to be installed around all parcels of 200 hectares or less;
- A 2 metre firebreak is required around all stationary motors
- A 2 metre firebreak is required around all internal fences that are constructed of rubber tyres and;
- Any fences constructed of rubber tyres shall be kept clear of all flammable materials.
- As a guideline property owners or occupiers of land are requested, in addition to the applicable firebreak, to clear any flammable material or obstructions (overhanging branches of trees) which may impede the travel of fire fighting personnel and fire appliances.

ACCESS TO PROPERTY

All buildings and constructions within the Shire of Northam shall have a minimum 3 metre wide access-way with a 3 metre high vertical clearance from the property's legal access point to the buildings. The purpose of this access-way is to enable access to property improvements by emergency service vehicles and personnel in an emergency situation.

FAILURE TO COMPLY

Failure to comply with a Firebreak and/or a Fire Hazard Notice carries a maximum fine of \$1000 or a prescribed penalty of \$250 on service of an infringement.

A person in default is also liable whether prosecuted or not to pay the costs of performing the work directed by this notice if it is not carried out by the owner/occupier by the date required by the notice.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this order the following definitions apply:

Firebreak—means ground from which inflammable material has been removed and in which no inflammable material (which includes vegetation) is permitted.

Hazardous Material—relates to any matter or material that can catch alight. It includes garden waste, rubbish and unslashed / long grass.

Low Fuel Area—means an area of land which has no hazardous material within it and is maintained on an ongoing basis during the firebreak period.

ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

If it is considered impractical or undesirable to provide firebreaks as required within this order, the approval of Council must be obtained for any variation.

Approval will only be granted up to or before the 7th of November of any year, and will not be obtained unless the prior consent of the appropriate fire control officer has been obtained.

If approval is granted it will be issued in writing and remain until revoked by Council.

HARVEST , MOVEMENT OF VEHICLES AND HOT WORKS BANS

A ban on harvesting, the movement of vehicles in paddocks (except for essential watering of stock) and certain activities in open areas can be imposed during the Restricted or Prohibited burning period when the weather conditions are or are forecast to be very high or above fire danger.

All landowners, occupiers and contractors within the Shire are required to comply with these bans under the provisions of the Bush Fires Act.

A harvest ban requires the cessation of all harvesting operations within the Shire of Northam. A vehicle movement ban does not permit the movement of vehicles on properties within the Shire of Northam except for the essential watering of stock. A hot works ban is defined as a ban on the outdoor use of all welding, grinding and abrasive tools on properties within the Shire of Northam. Exemptions in accordance with Council Policy may be available. Further information is available by contacting Ranger Services on (08) 9622 7267.

The need for a ban will be advertised where possible on ABC Radio 531AM, Radio West 864 AM and the Shire of Northam Website. Ban updates can be obtained 24 / 7 from the Harvest Ban Phone Line on (08) 9621 1120 or via a free SMS service which is available upon request from the Shire of Northam (08) 9622 6100

GENERAL ADVICE

This notice gives the minimum requirements for fire control within the Shire of Northam and all residents and ratepayers are encouraged to undertake additional fire protection measures to ensure the safety of property and life. Further additional information to that contained in this notice can be obtained from the *Department for Fire and Emergency Services website www.dfes.wa.gov.au* or from the Shire of Northam website www.northam.wa.gov.au.

A permit to burn must be obtained during the Restricted Burning Period. Permits are generally subject to a number of conditions, but will not be issued for burning on Sundays or Public Holidays, unless approved by the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.

Gas and electric barbeques are permitted at any time during the Restricted Period, but care should be exercised when using them. Solid fuel barbeques and incinerators are prohibited during the Restricted Period on days of very high or extreme fire danger. A properly constructed incinerator must be used.

Do not light any fires or use Solid fuel barbeques during the prohibited burning period. This includes open cooking or campfires.

Check the weather forecast before undertaking any burning.

RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD 19 SEPTEMBER 2015 TO 31 OCTOBER 2015 PERMIT TO BURN REQUIRED	PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD 01 NOVEMBER 2015 TO 21 FEBRUARY 2016	RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD 22 FEBRUARY 2016 TO 05 APRIL 2016 PERMIT TO BURN REQUIRED
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Fire danger ratings and weather forecasts are available from www.bom.gov.au

The above dates may change due to seasonal fire conditions in which case the details of the changes will be published in the local press.

Permits must be issued by a designated Fire Control Officer . A list of all Fire Control Officers is available on the Shire of Northam website or by contacting your local Bush Fire Brigade or Council Offices. Burning permits are issued free of charge.