



# Fire & Burning Information 2018/19

Inside:

- Overview of requirements under the Bush Fires Act
- Ways to reduce fuel loads on your property
- Understanding Fire Danger Ratings and Fire Bans



For a map of local reported emergencies, fires and burns visit the Emergency WA website [www.emergency.wa.gov.au](http://www.emergency.wa.gov.au).



**Your Home**

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# Your Home

Habitable building means a dwelling, workplace, place of gathering or assembly, a building used for storage or display of goods or produce for sale by wholesale in accordance with classes 1-9 of the Building Code of Australia. The term habitable building includes attached and adjacent structures like garages, carports, verandahs or similar roofed structures that are attached to, or within 6 metres of, the dwelling or primary building.

Building Protection Zones for habitable buildings must extend a minimum of 20 metres out from any external walls of the building, attached structures or adjacent structures within 6 metres of the habitable building.

Driveways and access ways are to be a minimum of 3 metres wide with a vertical clearance of 4 metres to allow for the safe passage of a fire appliance to all buildings and assets on the land.

All grass in Building Protection Zones must be maintained to or under 5cm in height.

There must be no tree crowns or branches hanging over habitable buildings.

Trees are to be low pruned (or under pruned) to at least a height of 2 metres from the ground.



Fuel loads within Building Protection Zones must be maintained at 2 tonnes per hectare or lower.

On sloping ground the Building Protection Zone distance shall increase at least 1 metre every degree in slope on the sides of the habitable building that are exposed to down slope natural vegetation.

Trees and shrubs over 2 metres high must not be planted in groups close to the habitable building, there must be a gap of at least 3 times the height (at maturity) of the shrub away from the habitable building.

Building Protection Zones must consist of non-flammable managed vegetation, reticulated lawns and gardens and other non-flammable features.

The crowns of trees must be separated to create a clear separation distance between adjoining or nearby tree crowns. The separation distance between tree crowns is not required to exceed 10 metres.

A small group of trees within close proximity to another may be treated as 1 crown provided the combines crowns do not exceed the area of a large or mature crown size for that species.

Firewood and flammable materials must be stored 20m from habitable buildings.

Roof gutters should be free of leaves and other combustible material

No tree or shrub over 2 metres high are to be within 2 metres of a habitable building.

**The Building Protection Zone is an area of very low fuel levels and managed vegetation 20 metres out from habitable buildings. (As defined in the Residential Design Codes of WA and in AS 3959) and must meet the listed requirements.**

**Your Home**

# Your Property

## **Land with areas less than 1 hectare**

Maintain all grass on the land to a height no greater than 10cm. All windrows or dead flammable material must be removed. Maintain fuel loadings in natural bush areas at less than 8 tonnes per hectare across the land. Land with a habitable building must maintain a Building Protection Zone in line with Section 1 of this notice.

## **Land with areas less than 10 hectares** *(Select one out of the three options)*

1. Install bare earth firebreaks 3 metres wide immediately inside within 10 metres of all boundaries in a continuous form. All overhanging branches, trees, limbs etc. to be trimmed back from over the firebreak area to a minimum height of 4 metres to allow for the safe passage of a fire appliance or;
  2. Maintain all grass on the land to a height no greater than 10cm all windrows and or dead flammable material must be removed. An access area within 10 metres of the boundary with a minimum width of 3 metres with a vertical clearance of 4 metres were all overhanging branches are trimmed back to allow for the safe passage of a fire appliance or;
  3. A combination of the above two options for properties with natural bush sections and pastured land sections
- On land for the use of tendering livestock a level of feed can be maintained to last the season. All grass a distance of 5m from any firebreak must be maintained to a height no greater than 10cm. Maintain fuel loadings in natural bush areas at less than 8 tonnes per hectare across the land. Land with a habitable building must maintain a Building Protection Zone in line with Section 1 of this notice.

## **Firebreak**

A strip or area of trafficable ground, which is at least 3 metres wide with a minimum height of 4 metres, which is kept and maintained of clear of all inflammable matter. Any living or dead trees, scrub or any other material encroaching within the minimum height of the

firebreak must be pruned or removed. In Pastoral areas it is considered acceptable if a vehicle can travel through crop area within 10 metres of the firebreak to traverse around low branches or limbs.

**Land with areas greater than 10 hectares** *(Select one out of the three options)*

1. Install bare earth firebreaks 2 metres wide immediately inside within 10 metres of all boundaries in a continuous form for all cropped/stubble areas, or 3 metres wide for all natural bush/remnant vegetation areas on the property within 10 metres of the property boundary. All overhanging branches, trees, limbs etc. to be trimmed back from over the firebreak area to a minimum height of 4 metres to allow for the safe passage of a fire appliance or;
2. Maintain all grass on the land to a height no greater than 10cm all windrows and or dead flammable material must be removed. An access area within 10 metres of the boundary with a minimum width of 3 metres with a vertical clearance of 4 metres were all overhanging branches are trimmed back to allow for the safe passage of a fire appliance or;
3. A combination of the above two options for properties with natural bush sections and pastured land sections.

On land for the use of tendering livestock a level of feed can be maintained to last the season. All grass a distance of 5m from a firebreak must be maintained to a height no greater than 10cm. Maintain fuel loadings in natural bush areas at less than 8 tonnes per hectare across the land.

**Firebreak**

A strip or area of trafficable ground, which is at least 2 metres wide for cropped/stubble areas, or 3 metres wide for bushland/remnant vegetation areas with a minimum height of four metres, which is kept and maintained totally clear of all inflammable matter. Any living or dead trees, scrub or any other material encroaching within the minimum height of the firebreak must be pruned or removed. In Pastoral areas it is considered acceptable if a vehicle can travel through crop area within 10 metres of the firebreak to traverse around low branches or limbs.

**Your Property**

# Other Conditions

## **Fuel Depot and Storage Areas, Haystacks, Chaff Dumps, Stockpiled Flammable Materials and Stationary Machinery.**

Remove all flammable matter within 10 metres of Fuel Depot and Storage Areas of where fuel drums whether containing fuel or not, fuel ramps or fuel dumps are located, Haystacks, Chaff Dumps, Stockpiled Flammable Materials, Stationary Machinery are stored.

Install bare earth firebreaks 3 metres wide immediately inside and along all boundaries of land in a continuous form with a vertical clearance of 4 metres where overhanging branches are trimmed back immediately adjacent to Fuel Depot and Storage Areas, Haystacks, Chaff Dumps, Stockpiled Flammable Materials and Stationary Machinery.

## **Bushfire or Emergency Management Plans**

*Compliance is required throughout the year, every year*

Means a bushfire management plan, emergency management plan or an approved Bushfire attack level (BAL) assessment that has been developed and approved to reduce and mitigate fire hazards as part of a Town Planning Scheme, subdivision approval, development approval or a building permit.

All properties with a Bush Fire, Fire or Emergency Management Plan shall comply with the plan in its entirety. Any requirements identified in a Bush Fire, Fire or Emergency Management Plan are in addition to the requirements of this notice.



## Additional Works

In addition to the requirements noted above, regardless of land size and location, the Shire of Northam or its duly authorised officer may require you to undertake additional works on your property to improve access and or undertake further hazard removal and/or reduction works, where in the opinion of that authorised officer, it is to be necessary to prevent the outbreak and/or the spread of a bush fire.

Take notice that pursuant to Section 33(4) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, where the owner and/or occupier of land fails or neglects to comply with the requisitions of this Notice within the times specified, the Shire of Northam may by its officers and with such servants, workmen and contractors, vehicles and machinery as the officers deem fit, enter upon the land and carry out the requisitions of this Notice which have not been complied with and pursuant to Section 33(5) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, the amount of any costs and expenses incurred may be recovered from you as the owner and or occupier of the land.

If the requirements of this Notice are carried out by burning, such burning must be in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

## Application to vary the Firebreak Requirements with Alternative Arrangements

If it is considered impracticable for any reason whatsoever to implement any of the requirements of this Notice, you may apply in writing to the Shire of Northam by no later than the 7th September each year for permission to implement alternative measures. If permission is not granted in writing you must comply with the requirements of this notice.

The Penalty for failing to comply with this Notice is a fine not exceeding \$5000 and 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 and/or occupier by the date required by this Notice.

## Other Conditions

# Burning & Permits

## The Burning of Garden Refuse

Pursuant to the powers contained in section 24G (2) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, the Shire of Northam prohibits the burning of all garden refuse within its district during the Prohibited Burning Times. This prohibition applies to all persons within the Shire's district.

The burning of garden refuse or rubbish on the ground or in an incinerator that would otherwise be permitted under Section 24F is prohibited absolutely on all land within the district during the Prohibited Burning Time.

The burning of garden refuse or rubbish on the ground or in an incinerator that would otherwise be permitted under Section 24F is prohibited on all land under 2000m<sup>2</sup> in size during the Restricted Burning Time, without a Fire Permit issued under Regulation 15 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

During the Restricted Burning Time, residents of the Shire may burn the bush for fire mitigation purposes by following the conditions of a valid permit to burn.

During the Restricted Burning Time, residents on land that is greater than 2000m<sup>2</sup> in area it is permissible to undertake the burning of garden refuse (dry leaves, small branches, off cuts, etc.) in separate piles on the ground no larger than 1m<sup>3</sup> between the hours of 18:00 (6pm) and 23:00 (11pm) by complying with all the conditions of section 24F (3) in the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.





## Permits to burn

Means a “Permit to Burn the Bush” as issued by an Authorised Officer under section 18 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*. Applications for Permits are available from the Shire of Northam at no cost during the Restricted Period.

Applications for Permits can be made online on the Shire of Northam website ([www.northam.wa.gov.au](http://www.northam.wa.gov.au)) or with a Fire Control officer in your area.

You must comply with all conditions imposed by the Shire or an Authorised Officer in respect of any Permit issued by the Shire.

Permits will not be valid on days of “very high”, “severe”, “extreme” or “catastrophic” fire danger.

Permits may also be revoked if in the opinion of an authorised officer the conditions are not deemed suitable for prescribed burns.

Take Notice that pursuant to *Section 18 (11) of the Bush Fires Act 1954* - Where a person starts a fire on land, if the fire escapes from the land or if the fire is in the opinion of a bush fire control officer or an officer of a bush fire brigade out of control on the land, the person shall be liable to pay to the local government on the request of and for recoup to its bush fire brigade, any expenses up to a maximum amount of \$10 000 incurred by it in preventing the extension of or extinguishing the fire, and such expenses may be recovered in any court of competent jurisdiction.

A person who commits a breach of this section other than subsection (11) is guilty of an offence.

Penalty: For a first offence \$4 500 and for a second or subsequent offence \$10 000.

## Burning & Permits

# Fire Bans & Burning Periods

## Restricted and Prohibited Burning times

The "Prohibited Burning Time" means the 1 December each calendar year through until 28th February the following calendar year (inclusive, and as varied pursuant to Sections 17 and 18 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*).

The "Restricted Burning Time" means the 1 October through until 30 November and the 1 March through until 30 April each calendar year (inclusive, and as varied pursuant to Sections 17 and 18 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*).

## BURNING PERIOD

OPEN PERIOD  
1 MAY – 30 SEPT

BURN  
PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY NOW

RESTRICTED PERIOD  
1 OCT - 30 NOV

PERMIT REQUIRED

PROHIBITED PERIOD  
1 DEC – 28 FEB

NO BURNING

RESTRICTED PERIOD  
1 MARCH – 30 APRIL

PERMIT REQUIRED

### **Total Fire Bans (TFBs)**

A TFB is declared by DFES on days when fires are most likely to threaten lives and property. This may be because of predicted adverse fire weather or if bush fires are impacting resources. The declaration of a TFB considers local factors such as the forecast weather, available resources, the number of days since last rain and the amount of vegetation in the area that could burn during a fire.

**Stay informed** - When a TFB is declared it is published on the DFES website, broadcast on ABC 720AM and information line 1800 709 335

### **Harvest, Movement of Vehicles and Hot Works Bans**

All persons 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 in a diesel powered vehicle.

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 Shire of Northam (08) 9622 6100.

A person/s who lights a fire contrary to the provisions of this section or who fails to carry out any direction given to him is guilty of an offence that carries a maximum penalty of \$10,000.

A Harvest Vehicle Movement and Hot works Ban will be advertised on the Shire of Northam Website or Emergency Information Line on (08) 9621 1120. Where possible on ABC Radio 531AM, Radio West 864 AM. Ban updates can be obtained or via a free SMS service which is available upon request from the Shire of Northam (08) 9622 6100



*The Shire of Northam is proud to support local Bushfire Brigades. The above vehicle has been provided for the management of fires within the Shire of Northam.*

## **Fire Bans & Burning Periods**

# Information Conditions

## **BUSH FIRES ACT 1954**

Firebreak and Fuel Load Notice

*Shire of Northam*

Pursuant to the powers contained in Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* (as amended), notice is hereby given to all owners and occupiers of land within the Shire of Northam adopted the following requirements as a measure to assist in the control of bush fires, or preventing the spread or extension of a bush fire which may occur within the Shire.

All owners and/or occupiers of land within the Shire of Northam are required to carry out fire prevention work in accordance with this notice by **1 November each calendar year and maintained until 30 April the following calendar year**, or within 14 days of becoming an owner or occupier of land if after that date, to comply with the requirements set out in this notice.

**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ORDER MAY RESULT WITH THE ISSUE OF AN INFRINGEMENT NOTICE PENALTY \$250.00 OR PROSECUTION IN A COURT OF LAW WITH A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF \$5,000 AND BE LIABLE WHETHER PROSECUTED OR NOT TO PAY THE COSTS OF PERFORMING THE WORK DIRECTED BY THE NOTICE.**

This notice gives the minimum requirements for fire control within the Shire of Northam and all residents and ratepayers are encouraged to be “Bushfire Ready” by undertake additional fire protection measures, creating a household “Bushfire Survival Plan” to ensure the safety of property and life. Further additional information to that contained in this notice can be obtained from the Are You Bushfire Ready website [www.areyouready.wa.gov.au](http://www.areyouready.wa.gov.au) or from the Shire of Northam website [www.northam.wa.gov.au](http://www.northam.wa.gov.au)

All previous versions of this notice are hereby cancelled.

## 5 MINUTE FIRE CHAT



1

**WHEN** will you know to leave?



2

**WHERE** will you go?



3

**WHICH** way will you go?

Information Conditions

# Local Brigades

Northam State Emergency Service  
*Henry Street Northam*  
0407 112 436  
[ndses@bigpond.com](mailto:ndses@bigpond.com)

Bakers Hill Bushfire Brigade  
*17 Tame Road, Bakers Hill*  
0432 720 144  
[bakershillbfb@northam.wa.gov.au](mailto:bakershillbfb@northam.wa.gov.au)

Clackline Bushfire Brigade  
*Tighe Road, Warranine*  
0439 741 572  
[clacklinebfb@northam.wa.gov.au](mailto:clacklinebfb@northam.wa.gov.au)

Inkpen Bushfire Brigade  
*Inkpen Road after Colgongine Rd, Inkpen*  
0427 058 698  
[inkpenbfb@northam.wa.gov.au](mailto:inkpenbfb@northam.wa.gov.au)

Irishtown Bushfire Brigade  
*Cnr Irishtown and Haddrill Rd, Irishtown*  
0439 485 422  
[irishtownbfb@northam.wa.gov.au](mailto:irishtownbfb@northam.wa.gov.au)

Grass Valley Bushfire Brigade  
*Cnr Keane and Wilson Street, Grass Valley*  
0428 916 677  
[grassvalleybfb@northam.wa.gov.au](mailto:grassvalleybfb@northam.wa.gov.au)

Southern Brook Bushfire Brigade  
*Southern Brook Road, Southern Brook*  
0409 089 482  
[southernbrookbfb@northam.wa.gov.au](mailto:southernbrookbfb@northam.wa.gov.au)

Northam Fire and Rescue  
*43 Wellington Street, Northam*  
9622 1071  
[northamvfrs@bigpond.com](mailto:northamvfrs@bigpond.com)

Wundowie Fire and Rescue  
*8 Wandoo Parade, Wundowie*  
9576 6454  
[wundowievfrs@bigpond.com](mailto:wundowievfrs@bigpond.com)

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The Emergency Services are always looking for volunteers. If you'd like to get involved contact you local bushfire Brigade on the above contact details. The Shire of Northam proudly supports the efforts of our Emergency Service Volunteers and encourage the community to get involved.

# MORE INFORMATION



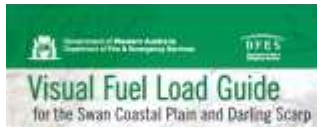
## ARE YOU BUSHFIRE READY?

Head to [www.areyouready.wa.gov.au](http://www.areyouready.wa.gov.au) for more information on how to prepare your home and property in the case of a bushfire.



## EMERGENCY WA

Before you call 000 to report a fire check the up to date list of burn offs in your area by visiting: [www.emergency.wa.gov.au](http://www.emergency.wa.gov.au)



## VISUAL FUEL LOAD GUIDE

DFES provides an easy to use Visual Fuel Load Guide booklet to determine the fuel load on your property. A link to this booklet can be found through the Shire's website: [www.northam.wa.gov.au](http://www.northam.wa.gov.au)

**Local Brigades**

Shire of Northam

395 Fitzgerald Street, Northam WA 6401

PO Box 613, Northam WA 6401

(08) 9622 2100

[records@northam.wa.gov.au](mailto:records@northam.wa.gov.au)

[www.northam.wa.gov.au](http://www.northam.wa.gov.au)

[www.facebook.com/shireofnortham](https://www.facebook.com/shireofnortham)

