



FIRE BREAK & FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION



Inside:

- Property owner obligations under the Bush Fires Act 1954.
- How to prepare your property against the threat of bushfire.
- Understanding Fire Danger Ratings and other Emergency Info.



Shire of Northam

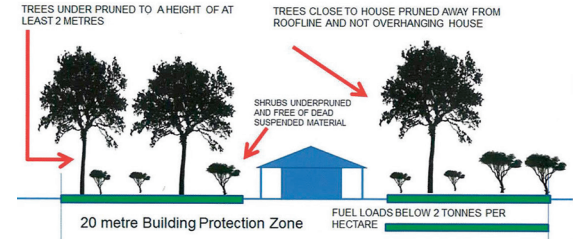
Your Home

Building Protection Zone

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 following requirements.

Habitable building means a dwelling, workplace, place of gathering or assembly, a building used for the 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, verandas 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.
- On sloping ground the Building Protection Zone distance shall increase at least 1 metre for every degree in slope on the sides of the habitable building that are exposed to down slope natural vegetation.
- Building Protection Zones must consist of non-flammable managed vegetation, reticulated lawns and gardens and other non-flammable features.
- All grass in Building Protection Zones must be maintained to or under 5cm in height.
- Fuel loads within Building Protection Zones must be maintained at 2 tonnes per hectare or lower.
- 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 one another may be treated as one crown provided the combined crowns do not exceed the area of a large or mature crown size for that species.
- Trees are to be low pruned (or under pruned) to at least a height of 2 metres from ground.
- No tree, or shrub over 2 metres high are to be within 2 metres of a habitable building.
- Trees and shrubs over 2 metres high must not be planted in groups close to the habitable building and there must be a gap of at least 3 times the height (at maturity) of the shrub away from the habitable building.
- There must be no tree crowns or branches hanging over habitable buildings.
- Firewood and flammable materials must be stored 20m from habitable buildings.
- 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.
- Roof gutters should be free of leaves and other combustible material.

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

Works are required to be undertaken prior to the 1st November each year and maintained until 30th April the following year

Land with area less than 10,000m² (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 on it must maintain a Building Protection Zone in line with the requirements of Section 1 of this notice.

Land with an area g 10,000m² (1 hectare) to 100,000m² (10 hectares)

Options (selected one out of the three options)

1. Install bare earth firebreaks three (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 four (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 where 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
 - Land with a building on it must maintain a Building Protection Zone in line with the requirements of Section 1 of this notice.
 - 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.

Firebreak

Means a strip or area of trafficable ground, which is at least three (3) metres wide for cropped/stubble areas, or Three (3) metres wide for bushland/remnant

vegetation areas with a minimum height of four (4) metres, which is kept and maintained totally clear of all inflammable matter. Such firebreaks may be constructed by one or more of the following methods: PLOUGHING, CULTIVATING, SCARIFYING, RAKING, BURNING, CHEMICAL SPRAYING OR OTHER METHOD as approved by an Authorised Officer.

In agricultural areas it is considered acceptable if a vehicle can travel through crop area within 10m of the property boundary to traverse around low branches or limbs.

Land with areas greater than 100,000m² (10 hectares) *(Select one out of the three options)*

1. Install bare earth firebreaks two (2) metres wide immediately inside within (10) metres of all boundaries in a continuous form, for all cropped/stubble and pasture areas, or three (3) metres wide for all natural bush/remnant vegetation areas on the property within ten (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 four (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 where 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.

Firebreak

Means a strip or area of trafficable ground, which is at least two (2) metres wide for cropped/stubble areas and pasture, or Three (3) metres wide for bushland/remnant vegetation areas with a minimum height of four (4) metres, which is kept and maintained totally clear of all inflammable matter. Such firebreaks may be constructed by one or more of the following methods: PLOUGHING, CULTIVATING, SCARIFYING, RAKING, BURNING, CHEMICAL SPRAYING OR OTHER METHOD as approved by an Authorised Officer.

In agricultural areas it is considered acceptable if a vehicle can travel through crop area within 10m of the property boundary to traverse around low branches or limbs.

Your Property

Other Conditions

Fuel Depot and Storage Areas, Haysheds, Stockpiled Flammable Materials and Stationary Machinery.

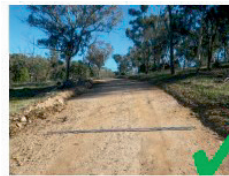
- Remove all flammable matter within ten (10) metres of Fuel Depot and Storage Areas of where fuel drums whether containing fuel or not, fuel ramps or fuel dumps are located, Hay Shed, Stockpiled Flammable Materials, Stationary Machinery are stored.
- Install bare earth firebreaks three (3) metres wide immediately inside and along all boundaries of land in a continuous form with a vertical clearance of four (4) metres where overhanging branches are trimmed back immediately adjacent to Stationary Motors, Haystacks, 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.



COMPLIANT



NON-COMPLIANT

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 1st October each year for permission to implement alternative measures under the following options,

a) A temporary variation for extenuating circumstances only

b) A permanent feature of the property requires a variation to his order, if approved the variation will apply until specifically rescinded or replaced with a new individual notice by the shire.

Take notice if permission is not granted in writing you must comply with the requirements of 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 Period.
- 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 2000m² (square metres) in size during the Restricted Burning Time, without a Fire Permit issued under Regulation 15 of the Bush Fires Act 1954.
- 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 Restricted Burning period between 1st Mar – 30 Apr each year.
- During the Restricted Burning period October 1st & Nov 30th each year , residents on land that is greater than 2,000m² in area it is permissible to undertake the burning of garden refuse (dry leaves, small branches, off cuts, etc.) in a single pile on the ground no larger than 1.0 m³ between the hours of 18:00 (6pm) and 23:00 (11pm) and by complying with all the conditions of section 24F (3) in the Bush Fires Act 1954 & Regulation 15B Bush Fires Regulations 1954.
- Reticulated water supply or min 600lts of water must be available for immediate use at all times, the fire is to be completely extinguished with water prior to leaving area unattended.
- It is recommended that residents undertake 1 m³ burns at a rate of no more than 1 pile at a time.



Reducing fuel increases the chances of your property surviving a bushfire.

The more fuel available to a bushfire, the hotter the fire can burn and the harder it is to control.

For tips on how to Burn Smart on your property, visit <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/plannedburning/>

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.
- 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 “HIGH”, “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 the Shire of Northam prohibits the burning of any road verge within the entire district.

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.

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).
- During the restricted and prohibited burning period (October 1 to April 30), any mechanical operations like rock picking, stubble crunching, slashing dry material (over 60% cured), or verge management must have a 500-litre fire unit or a charged hose with running water readily available.

Cooking & Camping

Pursuant to the powers contained in section 25H (1) of the Bush Fires Act 1954, the Shire of Northam prohibits the lighting of a fire in the open air for the purpose of camping or cooking during the prohibited period. This prohibition applies to all persons within the Shire’s district.

For the purposes of this section (1aa) a gas appliance, comprising a fire the flame of which is encapsulated by the appliance and which does not consume solid fuel, shall not be taken to be a fire in the open air.

An appliance that burns a solid fuel, (BBQ, Pizza Oven, Meat Smoker etc.) cannot be operated on days of “**HIGH**”, “**EXTREME**” or “**CATASTROPHIC**” fire danger rating.

- Any chimney on the appliance must be fitted with a suitable spark arrestor that is maintained in a clean, sound and efficient condition.
- If solid fuel is being consumed, then the burning fuel must be sealed from the open air by a secure, sealable door.
- Appliance must not be left unattended and a reticulated water supply must be available for immediate use.
- Take notice a person/s who contravenes a of this section is guilty of an offence that carries a penalty of \$3,000.

BURNING PERIOD

UNRESTRICTED BURNING 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

Reserves vested with the Shire of Northam

The Shire of Northam reserves the right to conduct any mitigation works deemed necessary on any reserves vested with Shire of Northam for the purpose of reducing the risk of fire to the community. Each reserve will be assessed in accordance with ISO 31000:2018 and identified in the Bushfire Risk Management Plan.

Treatments implemented may include but are not limited to prescribed burns, slashing, mulching or any other means necessary as determined by the Shire of Northam to ensure the risk is reduced to a satisfactory level.

Harvest, Movement of Vehicles and Hot Works Bans

All persons within the Shire of Northam are required to comply with a direction declared under Reg 38A, 38B, 38C & 38D, Bush Fires Regulations 1954.

- A Harvest, Vehicle Movement & Hot Works Ban (HVMBHW) requires the cessation of all harvesting, vehicle movements and hot work operations including 4WD driving, riding of motorbikes and ATV's within the Shire of Northam.
- A Harvest, Vehicle Movement & Hot Works Ban (HVMBHW) prohibits the movement of vehicles on properties within the Shire of Northam except for the essential watering of stock and the feeding of commercial livestock in a diesel powered vehicle accompanied by a 500 litre fire unit with water at the ready.
- A Harvest, Vehicle Movement & Hot Works Ban (HVMBHW) prohibits the use of all welding, grinding and abrasive tools on properties within the Shire of Northam in the open air. Exemptions in accordance with Council Policy may be available. Further information is available by contacting Shire of Northam (08) 9622 6100.

Take notice a person/s who contravenes a declaration made under regulation 38A, 38B, 38C or 38D or who fails to carry out any direction given to him is guilty of an offence that carries a penalty of \$5,000.

A Harvest Vehicle Movement and Hot works Ban will be advertised on the Shire of Northam Website, Shire of Northam Facebook page, and via the FREE SMS notification service.

Where possible notification are broadcast on ABC Radio 531AM, MMM 864 AM.

Register for our free SMS notification service for Harvest Ban and other important information, directly to your phone.

<https://www.northam.wa.gov.au/community/online-services/onlineservices.asPX>



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.

General Advice

This notice gives the minimum requirements for fire control within the Shire of Northam and all residents and ratepayers are encouraged to be prepared by undertaking 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 5min Fire Chat website www.dfes.wa.gov.au/firechat or from the Shire of Northam website www.northam.wa.gov.au

All previous versions of this notice are hereby cancelled.

By order of the Council,

DEBBIE TERELINCK, Chief Executive Officer



HOW **FIREPROOF** IS YOUR PLAN?

Create or update your bushfire plan today.

Visit mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au or download the app.

90% of WA is bushfire prone. Bushfires are unpredictable and happen every year. The single biggest killer is indecision.

What will you do if there is a bushfire?

<https://mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au/>

Information Conditions

Emergency Service Volunteers

WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The Shire of Northam is always looking for Emergency Services Volunteers. If you'd like to get involved contact your local Bushfire Brigade or State Emergency Service Unit on 9622 6100, or dfes.vol.org.au to find out more. Your Shire proudly supports the efforts of our Emergency Service Volunteers and welcomes the community to get involved.

Northam Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Henry Street Northam

Bakers Hill Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
17 Tame Road, Bakers Hill

Clackline-Muresk Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Tighe Road, Warranine

Northam Youth in Emergency Services Cadets
Henry Street Northam

Inkpen Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Inkpen Road after Colgongine Rd, Inkpen

Irishtown Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Cnr Irishtown and Haddrill Rd, Irishtown

Grass Valley Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Cnr Keane and Wilson Street, Grass Valley

Northam State Emergency Service
Henry Street Northam

Southern Brook Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Brook Road, Southern Brook

Northam Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service
43 Wellington Street, Northam

Wundowie Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
*C/- Shire of Northam
395 Fitzgerald St Northam*

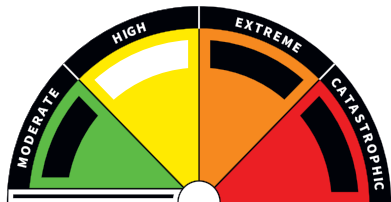
Wundowie Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service
8 Wandoo Parade, Wundowie

Avon District Support Brigade
Henry Street Northam



The New Fire Danger Ratings

YOUR FIRE RISK TODAY IS



BE READY TO ACT
UPDATED 25/09/2022

Moderate: Plan and prepare.

Most fires can be controlled. Stay up to date and be alert for fires in your area.

High Be ready to act.

Fires can be dangerous. Decide what you will do if a fire starts. Leave bushfire risk areas if necessary.

Extreme: Take action now to protect your life and property.

Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous. Put your bushfire plan into action.

If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, plan to leave early.

Catastrophic: For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas.

These are the most dangerous conditions for a fire. If a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost. Homes cannot withstand fires in these conditions.



When there is minimal risk, Fire Danger Ratings will be set to 'No Rating'. On these days you still need to remain alert and abide by local seasonal laws and regulations.



Monitor conditions and emergency. [wa.gov.au](https://www.wa.gov.au) for ratings and bushfire warnings. If a fire starts near you, take action immediately to protect your life. Do not wait for a warning.



Your life may depend on the decisions you make, even before there is a fire. Create or review your bushfire plan at mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au



Shire of Northam

395 Fitzgerald Street, Northam WA 6401

PO Box 613, Northam WA 6401

(08) 9622 6100

records@northam.wa.gov.au

www.northam.wa.gov.au



Shire of Northam
Heritage, Commerce and Lifestyle