

2023-2024 FIREBREAK NOTICE
BUSH FIRES ACT 1954
SHIRE OF DUNDAS

NOTICE TO ALL OWNERS AND/OR OCCUPIERS OF LAND SITUATED IN THE SHIRE OF DUNDAS.

TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Section 33(4) of the Bush Fires Act, where the owner or occupier of land who has received notice fails or neglects to comply with the requisitions of the notice within the time specified, the Shire of Dundas 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 the notice which have not been complied with and pursuant to Section 33(5) of the Bush Fires Act the amount of any costs and expenses incurred may be recovered from you as the owner or occupier of the land.

FIREBREAKS

Landowners are required to clear firebreaks of flammable material not less than 3 metres in width immediately inside all external boundaries of any lot owned or occupied by you within the Shire of Dundas. Such firebreaks may be constructed by one or more of the following methods:

- PLOUGHING;
- CULTIVATING;
- SCARIFYING;
- RAKING;
- BURNING;
- CHEMICAL SPRAYING OR;
- OTHER APPROVED METHOD.

And are to be cleared to the satisfaction of an Authorised Officer of the Shire.

In addition, you may be required to carry out further works which are considered necessary by an Authorised Officer of the Shire and specified by way of a separate written notice.

In some instances, naturally occurring features such as rocky outcrops, natural watercourses, or landscaping such as reticulated gardens, lawns or driveways may be an acceptable substitute for cleared firebreaks. This option must first be discussed with an Authorised Officer of the Shire and approved by the Authorised Officer in writing.

On any lot having an area of less than 3,000m² with a dwelling constructed on it, where the lot is substantially developed (i.e., at least 75% cleared of bush), the keeping of grass on the lot at all times covered by this notice to a height less than 5 centimeters will be accepted in lieu of clearing a firebreak. For the purpose of this notice grass kept at a height of less than 5 centimeters will be deemed not to be flammable material.

All firebreaks must be established by the 30th day of November each year (or within 14 days of you becoming the owner or occupier should this occur after that date) and maintained clear of flammable material up to and including the 31st day of March each year.

APPLICATION TO VARY THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS

If it is considered impracticable for any reason to clear firebreaks or establish other arrangements as required by this notice, you may apply in writing to the Shire of Dundas not later than the 15th day of November each year for permission to provide firebreaks in alternative positions on the land.

If permission is not granted by the Shire you must comply with the requirements of this notice. 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.

THE PENALTY FOR FAILING TO COMPLY with this notice is a fine not exceeding \$5,000 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.

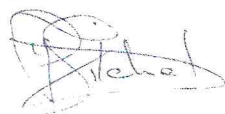
Any alternatives to firebreaks as described in the Firebreak Notice must be submitted in writing to the Shire of Dundas by November 15th. The responsibility for ensuring the protection of your property is yours. Proper preparedness for the fire season will enhance the capacity for you, your family and property to survive a wildfire should one occur. Fire preparedness measures are a defensive method of ensuring survivability from within your property boundary. This may be achieved by a variety of measures which include:

- **Cleared firebreaks and driveways:** have the capacity to slow the progress and contain fires as well as provide access for emergency services.
- **Hazard reduction:** burning, slashing, mowing and chemical treatment have the capacity to reduce the amount of flammable material on your property. The less fuel available to burn during a wildfire, the less intense the fire.
- **Natural features:** such as rock outcrops usually have little flammable material on them. Natural features may be used in conjunction with other firebreak installation methods, such as linking them with constructed firebreaks and driveways, and as containment zones for hazard reduction burns.
- **Reticulation:** Where specialized pastures are established under reticulation (e.g., for stud properties), this may, on application, be accepted in lieu of firebreaks provided the pasture is kept green.
- **Grazing:** This is a very effective method of fuel reduction; however other firebreak conditions must be met.

DATES TO REMEMBER 2023-2024		
RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 1st TO NOVEMBER 30 th (INCLUSIVE)	PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD DECEMBER 1st TO MARCH 31st (INCLUSIVE)	RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD 2 APRIL 1st TO MAY 31ST (INCLUSIVE)
Permits to burn are required during this period for hazard reduction burning.	All burning, including garden refuse is prohibited during this period.	Permits to burn are required during this period for hazard reduction burning.
Alternative firebreak applications to be submitted by November 15th, 2023.	Firebreaks to be maintained clear of flammable material until March 31st, 2024.	Certain climate or weather conditions may cause these periods to be extended or shortened.
Firebreaks must be installed by November, 30th, 2023		Certain climate or weather conditions may cause these periods to be extended or shortened. You must check the press for details or call the Shire Office on 9039 1205 before commencing to burn.
Please note that penalties apply where burning regulations are contravened, or permit conditions are not complied with.		
Dates are subject to change depending on seasonal weather conditions. Updates will be posted on the Shire of Dundas website, and social media platforms.		

TO REPORT FIRES - RING TRIPLE ZERO (000)

By order of the Council



Peter Fitchat
Chief Executive Officer



INFORMATION

FIRE DANGER RATING

No fires may be lit on a day when the forecast Fire Danger Rating for the District is Very High to Catastrophic fire danger. This information is available on the Shire website www.dundas.wa.gov.au and is also displayed on the Information Board on Eyre Highway, Esperance Highway & Coolgardie Highway.

BARBECUES

Solid fuel barbecues, spit roasts, hangi, Weber's, pizza ovens and the like are not permitted on days of Very High to Catastrophic fire danger ratings. Many recreation sites within the Shire of Dundas have gas or electric barbecues installed, which may be used at these times. Gas or electric barbecues at home are also permitted.

PERMITS

Permits are required to burn bush or grass at any time between October 1st and November 30th inclusive and April 1st to May 31st inclusive. Permits are available from the Shire of Dundas Administration Office.

STACKS OR PILES OF TIMBER OR VEGETATION

The Department of Environment and Conservation prohibits the burning of vegetation material on a development site of greater than 2000 square metres. This includes residential and construction lots. Vegetation must be mulched or removed from the site. During any construction phase, material that is cleared from the site should be moved to the front of the block to facilitate easy removal. Very High to Catastrophic fire danger ratings will also affect burning activities. Check with the Shire of Dundas **08 9039 1205**.

INCINERATORS

Incinerators must not be lit during the Prohibited Burning period of December 1st to March 31st inclusive. Incinerators may be lit at other times provided the Fire Danger Rating is not Very High to Catastrophic. Incinerators must be properly constructed and designed to prevent the escape of any sparks or burning material. They must be located at least 2 metres away from any building or fence and from which all flammable material has been removed and kept cleared.

WELDING/CUTTING APPARATUS

If you are using a welder or operating a power operated abrasive cutting and or grinding disc of any kind, you must have at least one fire extinguisher present and be surrounded by a five-metre firebreak.

FIREBREAKS: Firebreaks must be installed and maintained from the November 30th to March 31st inclusive.

FIREBREAK INSPECTIONS: Firebreak inspections are carried out during the period December 1st to March 31st inclusive.

GARDEN REFUSE

During the Prohibited Period (December 1st to March 31st inclusive).

Garden refuse must not be burnt at any time. (These dates may be changed according to seasonal conditions.)

During the Restricted Period (October 1st to November 30th inclusive and April 1st to May 31st inclusive). Garden refuse may be burnt without a permit during the Restricted Period provided the following criteria are met:

- The pile of garden refuse does not exceed 1 cubic metre.
- An area 5 metres wide is cleared around the pile. (Lawn, driveways, paths etc. may be considered as cleared area)
- Only 1 pile of garden refuse is to be alight at any one time.
- The fire is only permitted to be lit between 6.00pm and 11.00pm
- The fire is completely extinguished by midnight the same day.
- At least 1 person is in attendance at all times.
- There is always a means of extinguishing the fire available. (e.g., garden hose, knapsack spray or fire unit).
- You notify your neighbors of your intention to burn.
- The Fire Danger Rating is not Very High to Catastrophic. Check website for information www.dundas.wa.gov.
- The smoke from your fire does not cause a nuisance to neighbors and or traffic.
- Do not burn plastics, another household or commercial waste.
- Do not burn wet or green piles of material at any time as this will cause excessive smoke.

During times other than the Restricted or Prohibited Period:

Garden refuse may be burnt however the same requirements stipulated above are recommended.

PENALTIES		
Section	Offence	Penalty
17(12)	Setting fire to bush during prohibited burning period.	\$250
22B	Lighting of fires prohibited during total fire ban.	\$1,000
24B(3)(a)	Failure to produce permit to burn.	\$100
24(G)	Burning garden refuse contrary to Ministerial or Local Government prohibition or restriction.	\$250
25	Offences relating to lighting a fire in the open air.	\$250
33(3)	Failure to maintain a firebreak as per firebreak notice.	\$250
56(3)	Refusal to state name and abode or stating false name or abode.	\$100
Major offences may result in court action with penalties ranging from \$1,000 to \$250,000 and/or imprisonment.		

TO REPORT FIRES - RING TRIPLE ZERO (000)





SIMPLE AND ONGOING PROPERTY UPKEEP

Set calendar reminders to complete these preparations monthly during fire season

	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
Cut the grass around your property to 10cm or less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prune shrubs so they are not dense	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clean gutters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check gas release valves face away from property	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



MORE LASTING PROTECTION

Set calendar reminders to complete these preparations annually

- Remove any shrubs from against the home
- Keep gas cylinders away from likely direction of fire (i.e. where bush is) and turn release valves outwards
- Remove wood, mulch or any flammable material against or near the house
- Create a minimum two metre gap between your house and tree branches
- Install metal fly wire mesh on all windows, vents and install a protective screen on evaporative air conditioner
- Block any gaps under floor, in the roof spaces, under eaves, external vents, skylights, chimneys and wall claddings
- Install a fire or heat radiant shield such as a solid fence

ADDITIONAL RURAL PROPERTY PROTECTION

- Make sure fire trucks can access and turn on your property
- Check bridge loading and cattle grid loading for fire truck access
- Create fire breaks along paddock boundaries
- Store petrol and gas safely away in a shed
- Install underground water pumps that lead from dams to the house
- If a fire threatens move livestock to a well grazed paddock
- Create a mineral earth firebreak along the boundary of your property

Image Sourced from: DFES Fire Chat Bushfire Preparedness Tool Kit

<https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/safetyinformation/fire/bushfire/BushfireManualsandGuides/DFES-Fire-Chat-Bushfire-Preparedness-Toolkit.pdf>

