

Shire of Denmark Community Fire Regulations

Building Protection Zone

The Shire of Denmark requires that a 'Building Protection Zone' is maintained by householders to a maximum of 2 tonnes/ hectare. This zone extends to at least 20m from the external wall of any building. 2 tonnes/ hectare of fuel is considered to be 2 handfuls of fire fuel (any combustible material) per square metre.

Restricted Burning Period

Fuel reduction burns and open fires, lit by property and land holders, are restricted to strict scheduled dates. These dates have been set by the Shire of Denmark. Householders should check dates of prohibited, restricted and unrestricted burning carefully to avoid attracting serious fines.

Fire Weather Rating Signs

Fire Weather Rating Signs are located at six places in Denmark (on the South Coast Hwy in front of the Visitor Centre, opposite the cemetery, and at the Bow Bridge roadhouse; on the corner of Cambell Rd and Ocean Beach Rd; at Peaceful Bay; and in Nornalup). These signs indicate to visitors whether fires are prohibited, restricted or unrestricted. Residents should ensure they are familiar with the current fire regulations.

Details about the building protection zone, other seasonal fire regulations and important dates can be downloaded from the Shire of Denmark website.

www.denmark.wa.gov.au/councilservices/fire_emergency_management

Native Plants and Adaptation To Fire

The plants of our southern forests have evolved in the presence of fire for thousands of years. Many native plants have developed adaptations which allow them to continue to exist in fire prone environments.

Some plants (eg: Jarrah - *Eucalyptus marginata*) are able to reshoot from buds on their stems or roots while others hold their seeds in tough woody pods that open in the heat of a fire. These seeds drop onto a rich ash bed which assists with seedling growth.



Photo: *Hakea oleifolia*

Many plants, in the drier forest types, reach maturity within three to four years in a bid to ensure their seeds are ready in the case of a wildfire.

For further information please contact the Shire of Denmark NRM Officer (08) 9848 0300/ nrm@denmark.wa.gov.au or the Denmark Environment Centre (08) 9848 1644.

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Fire and Ecology (Shire of Denmark)



Photo: Prescribed low intensity burn

- Fire and Our Forests
- Community Fire Safety
- Community Fire Regulations
- Plants and Adaptation To Fire



Fire and Our Forests

Across the South-West of Australia, fire has shaped our landscape over time.

Many factors affect how fire impacts the environment. These include fire frequency, fire intensity, the season, slope, aspect and the scale of the fire. Weather is also an important element in fire behaviour - such as wind, temperature and humidity.

A low intensity burn is optimal for fire safety, biodiversity values, as well as allowing for escape routes for wildlife.

In general, the greater the fire intensity, the greater the environmental impact and the longer it can take for an ecosystem to recover.



Community Fire Safety

Community fire safety is everyone's responsibility. By becoming aware and implementing fire safety measures, we can help to protect the community and the environment from damaging bushfire.

Bushfire Ready Groups

Bushfire Ready Groups may exist in your area - if not you may wish to create one. Bushfire Ready Groups enable residents to understand fire preparedness, offer advice, and create support and contact groups in the event of a fire. For information about this, contact the Community Emergency Services Manager at the Shire of Denmark on (08) 9848 0300.

Key Safety Measures

- Have a fire action plan and evacuation plan ready for your family.
- Clear combustible rubbish and timber from at least a 20 metre radius around your home.
- Clear roofs and gutters of leaves and debris.
- Mow or slash existing fire breaks regularly.
- Slash all grasses below 100mm in height.
- If conducting a fuel reduction burn, check the weather conditions prior to burning, keep watch at all times and keep extinguishing items close by eg: a fire rake and a water supply.



Methods of Fuel Load Reduction

Fuel Reduction Burns

On larger properties, fuel reduction burns can be broken into compartments to create a mosaic and burnt on a rotation cycle to comply with Shire of Denmark fire regulations. Householders should be careful to only conduct low intensity burns and follow conditions outlined on fire permits. Prior to conducting a fuel reduction burn, rake fuel from around trees which may be at risk of being severely damaged by scorching.



Hand Fuel Reduction

On small properties, hand clear or rake excess fuel from around buildings and pull suspended dry material down from trees and bushes to remove the ladder of fuel. Take green waste to the tip or compost. Slashing existing fire breaks and paddocks can reduce fuel loads.

Weed Control

Weeds should be removed where possible. Fuel reduction burns can often result in weed germination occurring. Be prepared to follow up on infestations following a fuel reduction burn.