

Health Information



Environmental Health

Bushfires have the potential to cause a number of environmental health concerns beyond the immediate damage caused by the fire.

Chemicals and Other Hazards

Houses, sheds, and other buildings or structures that are burnt in a bushfire can leave health hazards in the remaining rubble and ash including:

- Asbestos;
- Ash from burnt CCA-treated timber can contain up to 10 per cent (by weight) arsenic, chromium and copper;
- Electrical hazards;
- Medicines;
- Garden or farm chemicals and pesticides;
- Other general chemicals, such as cleaning products or pool chlorine;
- Metals and other residues from burnt household appliances; and
- Ash and dust
- Gas cylinders

For more information visit Healthy WA website: www.healthywa.gov.au

Asbestos Damage and Contamination

During a fire asbestos often shatters from the heat and releases flakes of asbestos cement around the property. If the home or structure on your property was built before 1990, particularly between the 1970's and 80's, it should be suspected of containing asbestos, typically as flat or corrugated cement sheeting.

If you suspect or know your home or dwelling contains asbestos, please contact the Shire's Environmental Health Officer.

For more health information after a bushfire, please see www.yourdenmark.wa.gov.au/bushfire-recovery

Or contact the WA Department of Health and see Disaster Management <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Health-for/Environmental-Health-practitioners/Disaster-Management>

Further information

For more information refer to https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/After-a-bushfire-hazards-on-your-property or the Environmental Health Officer at the Shire of Denmark on 9848 0300.