

Shire of Denmark 2020/2021 FIREBREAK AND FUEL MANAGEMENT NOTICE
Section 33 BUSH FIRES ACT 1954

FIRST AND FINAL NOTICE

TO ALL OWNERS AND/OR OCCUPIERS OF LAND SITUATED WITHIN SHIRE OF DENMARK.

As a measure to assist in the control of fires, or preventing the spread or extension of a bush fire, Notice is hereby given to all owners and/or occupiers of land within the Shire of Denmark that pursuant to the powers conferred in Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*. Works in accordance with this notice must be carried out before the **1st day of December each year**, or within 14 days of becoming the owner or occupier of land if after this date. All work specified in this Notice is to be maintained up to, and including, the **30th day of April** in the following calendar year.

FIRE PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY
YOU OWN THE PROPERTY – YOU OWN THE RISK

DEFINITIONS:

For the purpose of this Notice the following definitions apply:

Alternative Fire Management Arrangement includes a Variation as defined in Requirement 9 of this Notice, a Bushfire Management Plan, Bushfire Management Statement or Fuel Load Management Plan approved by the Shire of Denmark to reduce and mitigate fire hazards within a particular subdivision, lot or other area of land anywhere in the Shire of Denmark.

Asset Protection Zone (APZ) is a fuel reduced area surrounding a building, or an asset of value, whether residential, commercial, industrial or environmental as outlined in Requirement 8 of this document.

Authorised Officer means an employee of the Shire of Denmark appointed as a Bush Fire Control Officer pursuant to the powers conferred in Section 38 of the Bush Fires Act 1954.

Bush Fire Attack Level (BAL) is a means of measuring the severity of a building's potential exposure to ember attack, radiant heat and direct flame contact. It's measured in increments of radiant heat (expressed in kilowatts/m²).

Bush Fire Control Officer means an appointed and authorised person under the Bush Fires Act 1954.

Low Fuel Boundary Access (LFBA) means a strip or area of ground, not less than 6m wide with 4m trafficable and 4.5m vertically, as close as practical to inside all external boundaries of any **lot sized 5000m² or greater** situated within Shire of Denmark. It should be constructed to a trafficable surface that is maintained including the pruning and removal of any living or dead trees, scrub or any other material encroaching into the LFBA area. Such LFBA may be constructed by one or more of the following methods: ploughing, cultivating, mulching, raking, burning, chemical spraying or any other method to achieve the required standard as required by an Authorised Officer. LFBA should include passing bays every 100m (20m long and 6m wide) and not terminate or lead to a dead end without provision for egress to a safe place or a cleared turnaround of a 10m radius.

Fire and Burning Information Booklet is the information booklet included with this Notice that forms part of this Notice.

Flammable Material means any plant, tree, grass, substance, object or material that may, or is likely to catch fire and burn, or any other material deemed by an Authorised Officer to be capable of combustion.

Fuel Depot / Fuel Storage Area means an area of land, a building or structure where fuel, ie (petrol, diesel, kerosene, liquid gas or any other fossil fuel) is kept in any container or manner.

Fuel Load is any combustible material on the property inclusive of, but not limited to, litter, leaves, twigs, trees and bark whether dead or alive, in isolation or clusters that, in the opinion of an Authorised Officer, is likely to fuel a fire. A litter depth of 5mm from the top of the layer to the mineral earth beneath is indicative of approximately 2.5t/ha. A litter depth of 15mm from the top of the layer to the mineral earth beneath is indicative of approximately 8t/ha. It does not include 'managed vegetation' such as lawns, mulch and gardens that in the opinion of an Authorised Officer does not constitute a fire risk. The Shire of Denmark can provide a booklet on determining fuel load levels which includes a fuel load measurement guide, for your use on request.

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

Maintaining Fuel Loads relates to the management of leaf litter and vegetation as described in this Notice. Reducing fuel load levels does not necessarily require the removal of existing natural vegetation. A combination of methods can be utilised including parkland clearing, safe burning, raking, weed removal, pruning, mulching and/or the removal of plant material.

Managed Vegetation includes vegetation that is pruned away from buildings, under pruned to minimise contact with ground fuels and that is kept free of dead suspended matter such as twigs, leaves and bark. Parkland Cleared means removal of all vegetation understory & grasses, other than 'substantial vegetation' to create a low fuel area.

Standing Bush means all types of forest, bushland, woodland and scrub areas. It is defined to include trees, bushes, plants, stubble, rushes and undergrowth of any kind whatsoever whether dead or alive. Any area of standing bush to be burnt requires a permit from 1st of October to 15th December and 1st March to 30th April.

Substantial Vegetation refers to all types of vegetation, where the diameter of the trunk measured 1m above the ground level exceeds 50mm.

Trafficable means to be able to travel from one point to another in a four-wheel drive fire appliance unimpeded on a ploughed, cultivated, mulched or sprayed surface as approved by an Authorised Officer without any obstruction that may hinder such fire appliances. Low Fuel Boundary Access is not to terminate, or lead to a dead end, have tight bends or be without provision for egress to a safe place or a cleared turn around area of not less than a radius of 10m.

Vertical Axis means a continuous vertical uninterrupted line at a right angle to the horizontal line of the firebreak to a minimum height of 4.5m from the ground.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC LAND CATEGORIES

The specific requirements below relating to land categories within the Shire are to be implemented and maintained to the satisfaction of an Authorised Officer.

1. Lots zoned Residential, Industrial, Commercial & Professional Office size 2500m² or less.

- Reduce fuel load from the whole of the land such that fire fuel is maintained to a maximum of 2t/ha or;
- 5t/ha for predominately Karri bush areas
- Isolated trees and managed vegetation may generally be maintained
- Vacant land must be maintained with grass and groundcovers maintained to 100mm or less

2. (A) Lots zoned Residential, Industrial & Commercial size greater than 2500m².

Establish and maintain an Asset Protection Zone in line with the requirements of Section 8 of this Notice. Vehicular access such as driveways within this zone is required to allow for the safe travel of emergency and other vehicles at all times. Minimum standard for this access is a 6m horizontal clearance with a 4m trafficable surface and 4.5m vertical axis, including a suitable turnaround for a large fire appliance a radius of 10m.

For the remainder of the land on the lot outside of the Asset Protection Zone:

Maintain all grass on the land to a height no greater than 100mm

- Maintain a maximum fuel load in natural bush areas of 8t/ha or 15t/ha for predominately Karri Bush areas
- Ensure no tree crowns overhang a building
- Prune trees and shrubs, and remove dead flammable material within 2m of all buildings
- Ensure the roofs, gutters and walls of all buildings on the land are free of flammable matter

2 (B) Lots sized greater than 5000m².

In addition to the provisions of Requirement 2(A)

- Establish and maintain Low Fuel Boundary Access with a 6m width including a 4m trafficable surface and 4.5m vertical axis.

NOTE – Where any conditions listed in Requirements 2(A) or 2(B) are physically impractical to implement on a lot, the Shire may approve an Alternative Fire Management Arrangement via a Variation to Firebreak and Fuel Management Notice or Bush Fire Management Plan. Applications are available on the Shire of Denmark website.

3. Land zoned Special Rural, Special Residential, Landscape Protection, Tourist or Rural Multiple Occupancy

- Comply with specific fire related provisions that relate to the Town Planning Scheme or relevant Bush Fire Management Plan
- Comply with requirements 2(A) and or 2(B) as applicable

4. Rural Land

Establish and maintain an Asset Protection Zone in line with the requirements of Section 8 of this Notice around all habitable buildings (please consult the Shire for clearing regulations around any other buildings). Open pasture/grassed areas must generally be maintained to a height of not more than 100mm This includes:

- Comply with Vehicular Access as per requirement 2(A)
- Low Fuel Boundary Access as per requirement 2(B)
- Open pasture/grassed areas must be managed to reduce fire fuel loads which must be maintained throughout the Restricted and Prohibited Burning Times. If livestock grazing occurs as part of a managed agricultural pursuit at commercial stocking rates as per the Dept of Agriculture & Food guidelines, pasture may exceed 100mm if approved by an Authorised Officer
- Actively managed pastures, forming part of an agricultural pursuit, may exceed a 100mm height if approved by an Authorised Officer
- Bush area exceeding 40ha must be compartmentalised into areas not exceeding 40ha. This access must have a 6m width with a 4m trafficable surface and 4.5m vertical clearance
- Where access is longer than 100m passing places should be installed along accesses at a rate of 1 every 100m they should be 20m long and 6m wide. A turnaround point should be installed at a rate of 1 every 500m at a radius of 10m

5. Specific Hazards: Fuel Depot / Fuel Storage Area / Haystacks / Stockpiled Flammable Material and Power & Telecommunication Infrastructure

- Remove all flammable material within 10m of where fuel drums, fuel ramps or fuel dumps are located and where fuel drums, whether containing fuel or not, are stored
- Install and maintain Low Fuel Zone, 4m wide immediately surrounding any haystacks or stockpiled flammable material
- Install and maintain Low Fuel Zone, 1m wide immediately surrounding any power infrastructure (domes, poles etc)
- For telecommunications infrastructure a minimum asset protection zone of 10m must be installed. For further conditions contact/consult with the relevant Shire department

6. Plantations, any area which trees have been planted for commercial purposes

The Shire of Denmark has adopted the Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection developed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. This requires all plantations in the Shire of Denmark to adhere to these guidelines. Copies are available from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services website or the Shire of Denmark office.

7. Strategic Fire Access Routes (SFAR)

Where a Strategic Fire Access Route is located on your property you will be required to install and maintain it to the satisfaction of the Shire. It must be:

- Maintained between 1st December to the 30th April the following year
- Be clear of all obstructions

- Gates must be provided and unlocked between properties where the SFAR is located

8. Asset (Building) Protection Zone Specification (APZ)

The Asset Protection Zone for habitable buildings and related structures, as defined within this Notice, must meet the following requirements, unless varied under an approved 'Alternative Fire Management Arrangement' as defined within this Notice. It applies only within the boundaries of the lot on which the habitable building is situated:

- For habitable buildings built to AS3959, the APZ is to be maintained as per the Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) assessment for that specific property. The APZ should, at a minimum, be of sufficient size to ensure the potential radiant heat impact of a fire does not exceed 29kW/m², Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) 29
- For habitable buildings not built to AS3959, the APZ must extend a minimum of 20m from the habitable building, attached structures or adjacent structures within 6m of the habitable building Please Note; this may be dependent upon specific BAL
- On sloping ground the APZ distance shall increase at least 1m for every degree in slope on the sides of the habitable building that are exposed to down slope where natural vegetation exists
- APZs predominantly consist of managed vegetation, reticulated lawns, gardens and other non-flammable features
- All grass is maintained to, or under, 100mm
- Fuel loads must be maintained to, or under, 2t/ha
- Clear separation distance between adjoining, or nearby, tree crowns and canopies should be greater than 5m apart with a coverage of less than 15% so as not to form a continuous canopy
- 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
- Shrubs 0.5m to 5m high are not to be planted in groups or under trees within 3m of the habitable building must not exceed 5m². There must be a gap of at least three times the height (at maturity) of the shrub away from the habitable building
- Trees over 5m high are not to be within 6m of a habitable building
- Trees are to be under pruned to at least a height of 2m from the ground
- There are no tree crowns or branches hanging over habitable buildings
- Ensure the roof, gutters and walls of all buildings on the land are free of flammable material
- Install paths and non-flammable features immediately adjacent to the habitable building
- Wood piles and flammable materials should be stored a safe distance from habitable buildings

9. Application to vary the above requirements

If it is considered impracticable to implement any of the requirements of this Notice you may apply for a Variation to the Firebreak and Fuel Management Notice. This must be done in writing to the Shire of Denmark by no later than the 1st day of November each year seeking permission to implement alternative measures to assist in the control of bush fires, or preventing the spread or extension of a bush fire. If permission is not granted in writing by the Shire of Denmark you must comply with the requirements of this Notice.

10. Additional Works

In addition to the requirements of this Notice, you may be required to carry out further works which are considered necessary by an Authorised Officer and specified by way of a separate written notice. Such notice will be forwarded to the address of the owner/s as shown on the Shire of Denmark rates record for the relevant land.

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 Denmark may, by its Authorised Officers and with such servants, workmen and contractors, vehicles and machinery as the Authorised 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.

BURNING OF GARDEN REFUSE

Shire of Denmark Policy P050101 Bush Fires Act 1954 Section 24F & 24G (Restricted Burning)

- No burning of garden refuse is permitted during the Restricted Burning Time (RBT) without a permit
- No burning of garden refuse is permitted throughout the entire Prohibited Burning Time (PBT)
- All garden refuse that is burnt is to be thoroughly dry (not green) so as not to cause a smoke nuisance to neighboring properties.

CAMP AND COOKING FIRES

Shire of Denmark Policy P050102 (Bush Fires Act 1954 Section 25 (1a) and (1c))

Pursuant to the powers under Section 25 (1a) of the Bush Fires Act 1954, the Shire of Denmark hereby prohibits the lighting of fires in the open air in its district for the purpose of camping or cooking during the prohibited burning times, unless the fire is:

(A) At a person's home; (A person's permanent home or residence must be a building approved by the Shire. A temporary shed or caravan or other structure on an otherwise vacant lot is not classified as a 'permanent home' and the lighting of camping or cooking fires in these situations is prohibited during the PBT and subject to the issue of a permit during the RBT) or

(B) In an area which:

- (i) Is set aside for that purpose by the State Authority or Local Government responsible for the care, control or management of the land; and
- (ii) Bears the State Authority's or Local Government's sign denoting that purpose; and
- (iii) All combustible material is cleared from within a 5m radius of the fire; and
- (iv) The fire danger rating of the day indicates less than "Very High"

The fire must be:

- Contained within a purpose-built structure of brick or rocks and mortar, or
- Contained within a purpose-built steel container recognisable as a properly constructed barbecue, or
- Is a sand fire pit structure, suitable for a camp fire or cooking fire, that has a maximum diameter of 1m and a minimum depth of 300mm.

Approved locations within the Shire of Denmark

Private Land – Riverbend Caravan Park: 40 Riverbend Lane Denmark, Ayr Saileen: 21 Tindale Road Bow Bridge, Boat Harbour Chalets: 171 Boat Harbour Road Parryville.

Public Land – Parry Beach Caravan Park (Shire), Denmark Boating and Angling Club (Parry Beach, Shire), Peaceful Bay Caravan Park (Shire)

Responsibilities to Extinguish Fires (Bush Fires Act 1954 Section 28 and 46)

Property Owners/Occupiers of land are reminded that they must have the ability to contain, control and extinguish any fire burning on their land at any time. Where a bush fire is burning that the owner/occupier of the land shall, whether they have lit or caused such a fire to be lit or not, take all possible measures to extinguish a fire. Where a property owner/occupier fails to extinguish the fire, A Bush Fire Control Officer may take all proper measures to extinguish such fire and expenses of that action are recoverable from the relevant owner. The fees associated with fire response are available in the Shire of Denmark's Schedule of Fees and Charges.

A Bush Fire Control Officer may postpone the lighting of any fire at any time or direct that any fire is extinguished if they are of the opinion that if the fire is lit or not extinguished that the fire is in danger of escaping 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*.

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.

By order of the Council.

Ceinwen Gearon
Shire President

Fire & Burning Information Booklet

WHATS INSIDE:

- Overview of your requirements under the Bush Fires Act 1954
- **Asset Protection Zones and Hazard Reduction**
- **Planned Burning and Alternative Mitigation Activities**
- Understanding Fire Danger Ratings and Fire Bans
- **Restricted and Prohibited Burning times**



www.emergency.wa.gov.au



Providing you with information and community warnings about emergencies, Fire Danger Ratings and declared Total Fire Bans

To report all fires ring 000



Firebreak and Fuel Load Notice

Shire of Denmark's Firebreak and Fuel Load Notice (the notice) identifies the requirements for all residents and ratepayers in preparing and maintaining their properties for the bush fire season.

Low Fuel Boundary Access, fuel loads and other hazard reduction requirements help to prevent the spread or extension of a bush fire and provide access for firefighting activities during a fire or for mitigation ultimately increasing the safety for our community.

Requirements listed in the Notice must be in place before 1st December each year and maintained up to 30th April the following year.

Given the bush fire threat in our community, it is important that all residents know what the requirements are for their property.

Information sheets which further explain elements of the Notice are available on the Shire's website.

Firebreak examples:



Low Fuel Boundary Access

Low Fuel Boundary Access is there to reduce the spread of a low intensity fire and to provide safe access on your property to firefighters.

Firefighters need to be able to use the access as a place of safety for themselves and their vehicles so that the fire will not travel under their vehicles or underfoot.

On days of strong winds or extreme conditions it is generally accepted that a 4m low fuel boundary access will be unlikely to stop a wildfire. The more fire prevention work you undertake, the greater the chance of your family and property surviving a fire.

Can brigades access your property safely?

In order for emergency vehicles to access your property safely, low fuel boundary access is required to be no less than 6m wide with 4m trafficable and have no less than 4.5m height clearance. Low Fuel Boundary Access must be trafficable for the vehicle pictured below this includes turning circles of 19.5m and any bridges on your property will need to be rated to a minimum of 14 tonnes.



Low Fuel Boundary Access (LFBA):

Means a strip or area of ground, not less than 6m wide with 4m trafficable and no less than 4.5m in height, as close as practical to the inside of all external boundaries of any lot owned and/or occupied by you and situated within Shire of Denmark.

LFBA must be constructed to a trafficable surface suitable for a four wheel drive fire appliance that is kept and maintained including the pruning and removal of any living or dead trees, scrub or material encroaching into the vertical axis of the LFBA area.

Such LFBA may be constructed by one or more of the following methods: **ploughing, cultivating, mulching, raking, burning, chemical spraying or any other method** required to achieve the required standard as outlined in the Firebreak and Fuel Management Notice.

Fire Bans

Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban (HVMB)

A HVMB is imposed by Local Government and prohibits the use of engines, vehicles, plant or machinery to avoid the start, or spread, of a bush fire.

STAY INFORMED

When a HVMB is declared it is published on the Shire's website and broadcast on ABC 630 AM.

When a TFB is declared it is published on the DFES website, broadcast on ABC 630 AM and DFES information line 13 33 37. You can also check the Shire website or Emergency WA website at www.emergency.wa.gov.au

An SMS Service is available for subscribers for Fire and Emergency information. To sign up visit the Shire of Denmark website. www.denmark.wa.gov.au



Information sheets on Fire Bans and other fire related topics are available on the Shire's website.

Total Fire Ban (TFB)

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.

A full list of activities prohibited during a TFB is available at:

<https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans>

Section 46 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 allows the Shire of Denmark to postpone the lighting of any fire within the district. These Bans will be communicated by the most practical means available at the time.

Local Volunteer Brigades

Ocean Beach Bush Fire Brigade

Fire Control Officer Hank Alberts
Ph: 0412 080 262

East Denmark Bush Fire Brigade

Fire Control Officer William Miller
Ph: 0467 648 421

Scotsdale/Mt Shadforth Bush Fire Brigade

Fire Control Officers Sid Marshall / Carl Wesley
Ph: 9899 4316 / 0444 584 697

Mt Lindesay Bush Fire Brigade

Fire Control Officer Murray Brooker
Ph: 0429 094 136

Harewood Bush Fire Brigade

Fire Control Officer Mike Hills
Ph: 0417 097 199

Carmarthen Bush Fire Brigade

Fire Control Officer Craig Hughes
Ph: 0407 223 297

William Bay Bush Fire Brigade

Fire Control Officer Simon Coppock
Ph: 0467 891 013

Somerset Hill Bush Fire Brigade

Fire Control Officer Callum Baxter
Ph: 0409 446 993

Parryville Bush Fire Brigade

Fire Control Officer Kevin Hard
Ph: 9840 9336

Kordabup Bush Fire Brigade

Fire Control Officer Craig Lilley
Ph 0417 746 848

Owingup Bush Fire Brigade

Fire Control Officer Bryce Edwards
Ph:0408 956 133

Mehninup Bush Fire Brigade

Fire Control Officer Paul Moncrieff
Ph: 0413 117 192

Peaceful Bay Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

VACANT

Ph: Contact Hazelvale Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Hazelvale/Tingledale Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Fire Control Officers Alex Williams / Brian Vigus
Ph: 0417 188 843 / 0417 188 158

Nornalup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Fire Control Officer Neville Brass
Ph: 0429 401 144

Denmark Volunteer Fire & Rescue (Town BFB)

Fire Control Officers Lee Shelley / Paul Harbron
Ph: 0416 476 933 / 0438 916 093

KEY CONTACTS

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Lez Baines
Ph: 0428 788 088

Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer's

Bryce Edwards - Nigel Marsh
Ph: 0408 956 133 / 0459 576 587

Community Emergency Services Manager

Scott Medhurst
Ph: 0428 913 937

Fire Weather Officer

Adrian Kranendonk
Ph: 9848 1340

General Enquiries

Shire of Denmark
Ph: 9848 0300

Burning Periods

Dates are subject to seasonal conditions any changes will be advertised

Burning period dates may be varied due to climate or weather conditions. Variations will be advertised in local newspapers and on the Shire of Denmark website and Facebook page.

PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD 16 Dec to Last day of Feb

All burning, including garden refuse, is prohibited during this period. **Camp & cooking fires are prohibited throughout the Shire during this period, except in approved locations.**

TO REPORT FIRES CALL 000

RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD 1 Mar-30 Apr & 1 Nov- 15 Dec

You must obtain a permit to burn before lighting and follow all permit conditions. Permits are available free of charge by contacting your local Volunteer Fire Control Officer.

BURNING ALLOWED 1 May – 31 October *See Note

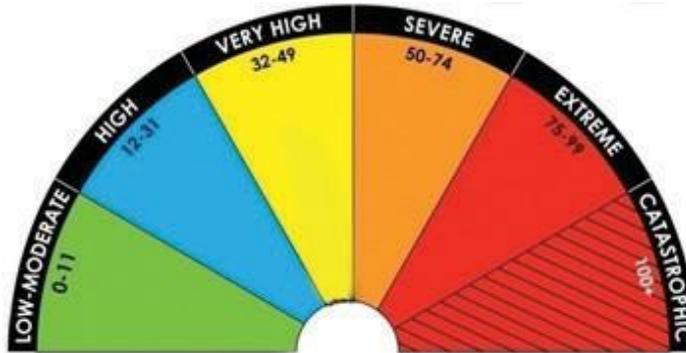
No permits required. Exercise caution and manage smoke nuisance to limit disturbance to neighboring properties. You must have the ability to extinguish your fire if requested.

***NOTE: 1st October onwards ALL Standing Bush requires a permit**

PERMITS TO BURN

During the Restricted Burning Period Permits can only be obtained from Local Volunteer Fire Control Officers. Please refer to the Shire Website for contact list and details

ALL BURNING is prohibited on days where the Fire Danger Rating (FDR) is VERY HIGH OR ABOVE; and if either a Total Fire Ban / Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban has been declared.



Fire Danger Rating (FDR) Index

The Fire Danger Rating tells you how dangerous a fire would be if one started. Ratings are forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology based on weather and other environmental conditions such as fuel loads and curing rates.

Catastrophic - Leaving early is the safest option. Homes are not designed to withstand fires in catastrophic conditions.

Extreme, Severe - Leaving early is the safest option. Only consider staying if you are prepared to the highest level.

Low-Moderate, High, Very High - Keep yourself informed and be ready to act if necessary.

Fire Danger Rating (FDR) for Shire of Denmark can be found:

- www.denmark.wa.gov.au
- Fire Information Boards located throughout the Shire South Coast Hwy Denmark South Coast Hwy Nornalup Bow Bridge Roadhouse Peaceful Bay Caravan Park Denmark Visitors Centre Cnr Ocean Beach and Campbell Roads
- Emergency WA website www.emergency.wa.gov.au

The fire weather district for the Shire of Denmark is:

STIRLING COAST

Asset (Building) Protection Zone

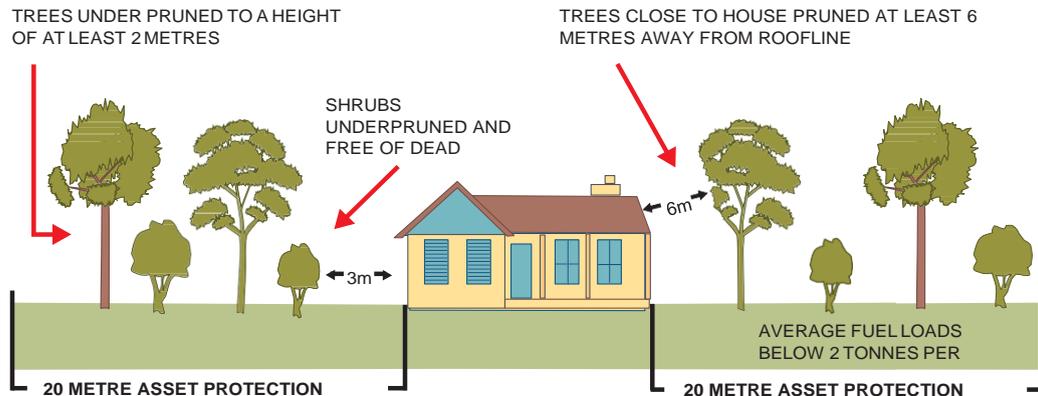
Asset Protection Zones

(APZ) are a fuel reduced area surrounding a building or asset of value, whether residential, commercial, industrial or environmental.

Standards for APZ are outlined in the Shire's Firebreak and Fuel Load Notice, however it is acknowledged that established properties may have vegetation including

managed gardens that have been cultivated over many years and that pre-date research into the requirements of a good APZ.

With careful management and some good advice it is still possible to establish an APZ without necessarily having to remove any living vegetation or carry out significant ground works.



The illustration above shows some suggestions for maintaining a good APZ.

Rangers from the Shire of Denmark are also able to visit your home to provide advice on how to establish or maintain a good APZ.

Example of a good APZ

- Trees and large shrubs do not overhang buildings.
- Fuel loads are below two tonnes per hectare.
- Gardens and plants close to buildings are managed.
- Wood piles and dry dead material are away from buildings.
- Verandah, carports etc are kept clear of flammable material like leaves and cardboard boxes.



Fire Hazard Inspections

A **FREE** Shire service is available to help identify potential fire hazards on your property and to develop plans aimed at managing those risks.

- how to identify and manage bush fire risks that exist on your property
- fuel load measurement and management
- preparing your property for bush fires including shrub pruning and vegetation management advice
- winter hazard reduction burning training
- how to establish a Bushfire Ready Group in your area
- ensuring your property complies with the Shire's Firebreak and Fuel Load Notice.

To arrange a site visit or learn more about Bushfire Ready at a time convenient to you phone 9848 0300.

Bushfire Preparedness - Bushfires are unpredictable and happen every year. The single biggest killer is indecision. To survive a bushfire you must be prepared to make your own decisions. Visit the following pages to meet likeminded local people and to help you plan.



YOU CAN'T OUTFRUIT,
OR OUTLAST IT.

SO TAKE 5 MINUTES
TO OUTSMART IT.

5 MINUTE
**FIRE
CHAT**



www.firechat.wa.gov.au



Visit the DFES website for more information on Bushfire Ready Groups www.dfes.wa.gov.au

For more information on making a plan visit www.firechat.wa.gov.au

Burning of Garden Refuse



There are many methods of fuel reduction available to residents. Reduction of fuel does not have to be as drastic as removing all vegetation. Burning garden refuse is one option available at certain times of the year.

During Restricted Burning Periods a permit is required and is subject to the conditions as set out on the permit. Note: You **MUST NOT** burn **AT ALL** during the Restricted Burning Period if the Fire Danger Rating (FDR) is forecast to be **VERY HIGH** or **ABOVE**.

Burning may take place, subject to:

- the FDR being low-moderate or high
- you have the ability to contain, control and extinguish the fire at all times
- a 5 metre wide area clear of flammable material surrounds the pile
- at least one person is in attendance at all times
- neighbours are informed of your intention to burn
- the smoke does not cause a nuisance to neighbours or create a traffic hazard
- household or commercial waste, any noxious materials, or green material are not to be burnt.
- Information on planned burning can be found at www.dfes.wa.gov.au/planned_burning

Hazard Reduction

The Shire conducts free safe planned burning workshops.

These workshops are conducted by Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade members and Shire staff to assist residents to learn how to maintain their property and reduce fuel loads.

Workshops are weather dependent and are held throughout the year



While burning can be a convenient way of removing dead plant material from your property, there are some things you should consider before lighting any fire.

Weather conditions

On days when the air moving in from over the ocean is warmer than the air at ground level, smoke can be trapped under an inversion layer and can take a long time to disperse. Always check with the Bureau of Meteorology to make sure they have not issued a haze alert and check the weather conditions in your local area. Ensure you check the long-range forecast for changing conditions.

Inform your neighbours

Always give your neighbours plenty of notice of your intention to burn. This will give them time to get the washing off the line or make arrangements for any person with respiratory issues who may be badly affected by smoke. This may include consideration of agricultural pursuits such as vineyards and orchards.

Condition of refuse

Plant material that is green, partly green or wet will create more smoke than dry material. It will not burn efficiently and piles of smouldering material can create long-lasting smoke hazards. **Do not burn green waste** only burn dry dead material to minimise the amount of smoke produced.



Example of a dry burn



Example of a green burn

For more tips download the information sheet on the Shire's website or phone 08 9848 0300.

Alternatives to Burning

There are a range of alternatives to managing fuel loads other than by burning. In many circumstances, hand and mechanical clearing methods may provide the most effective methods in some circumstances to protect assets. These methods can be safer than burning, and easier to organise and maintain.

Raking or manual removal of fuel load: Remove fuels such as fallen leaves, twigs and bark on a regular basis.

Mowing grass Keep grass short (10cm), green and well watered.

Slashing and mulching: This is an economical method of fuel reduction. To be effective, the cut material must be removed or allowed to rot before summer starts. Slashing may leave grass in rows, increasing fuel in some places.

Grazing: Grazing livestock can be an effective means of reducing grass fuels. Refer to the Firebreak and Fuel Load Notice for more information.

Ploughing and grading: These methods can produce effective firebreaks, however, the areas need constant maintenance. Loose soil may erode in steep areas, particularly where there is high rainfall and strong winds. Stepping and grading the firebreak into the incline reduces this effect.

Spraying: Grass can be sprayed with herbicide to reduce fuel loads. This may be a practical alternative particularly if erosion is a concern or if areas are difficult to access. Standing grass needs to be reduced to under 50mm.

Fuel loads

It is important to keep fuel loads managed to the levels required by the Notice.

The severity of ember attack and the intensity of the radiant heat generated in a bush fire increases as fuel levels increase.

Having a lot of leaf litter and ground fuel close to your home not only increases the likelihood of damage but also makes it harder and more dangerous to fight the fire.

The reduction of fuel loads on your property keeps you, your family, your neighbours and firefighters safe.



RECYCLABLE

Disposal of green waste

Shire residents and ratepayers are able to dispose of green waste and garden refuse free of charge at the Denmark Waste Transfer Station.

Garden refuse can also be used as mulch or compost to improve soils and the growth of plants. If you have large quantities of green waste (branches, tree trunks) you can arrange for mobile mulching services to mulch the material onsite.

Mulch piles should be no larger than 5 cubic metres to reduce the risk of spontaneous combustion and must be surrounded by a firebreak.

Burning near Quickup Dam and Denmark Surface Water Catchment Areas - Special controls apply for vegetation in these areas under the Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947. Please view the info sheet at www.denmark.wa.gov.au or visit www.water.wa.gov.au or call Water Corporations Albany Regional Office on 9841 0100 for more information

Maintaining Reserves

The Shire is undertaking a strategic review of bush fire risk across all Shire Reserves (including road reserves). This will culminate in a Bushfire Risk Management plan including mitigation works and treatments.

The works are prioritised and carried out on a risk management basis, with priority given to reserves where there is a fire risk to the surrounding community. These hazards are managed by various methods including firebreak maintenance and construction, invasive weed management and hazard reduction burns.

Verges

The Shire of Denmark has approximately 1000km of verges and does not have the capacity to manage fuel loads on all verges. Landowners are encouraged to maintain their verges as part of their fire hazard management plans for their own property. **Currently verges within the Shire are unable to be burnt.**

Contact the Shire Rangers on **9848 0300**. For information on maintaining verges.



OUR PLAN LEAVING FOR A SAFER PLACE

Below is a basic plan to follow in the event of a bush fire. More information is available on the making a plan at www.firechat.wa.gov.au

Our triggers to leave will be _____

Things we must do _____

We will relocate to _____

We will get there by _____

Our backup plan is _____

Our **RELOCATION KIT** is located _____

A relocation kit could contain clothing, passports, important documents, photographs, pet food and lead. You could also list important items to add if there is time and it is safe to do so (ie medication, phone charger.)

When writing your **PLAN** consider:

People, **p**ets and **p**ossessions

Leaving for a safer place - where will you go?

Alternative routes, and alternative plans - what if it is not safe to leave?

Next few days - if you cannot return home, what will you need?

OUR PLAN Stay and actively defend

If you are considering this option you must be well prepared. This means being mentally and physically prepared to fight the fire without any assistance.

Leaving early is the best option.

We will be ready by ensuring we have:

- a well-established and maintained Asset Protection Zone
- the right clothing / protective equipment
- an independent water supply and pump
- the equipment and ability to extinguish spot fires
- the ability to go several days without assistance, fresh water/food.

Our role/s in defending our home _____

As the fire front approaches we will take shelter _____

Our backup plan is _____

Our *SURVIVAL KIT* is located _____

A Survival Kit contains everything you need around your home, for example protective clothing, torches, battery operated radio etc.

When writing this **PLAN** think about:
Protection of people, pets, possessions

Last resort - where will you take shelter?

After the fire - are you able to extinguish spot fires?

Next few days - could you go several days without assistance?

To Report all Fires **RING 000**

FIRE WARNINGS AND ALERTS

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Public Information Line: 13 33 37

website: www.dfes.wa.gov.au

Emergency WA

website: www.emergency.wa.gov.au

Bureau of Meteorology

recorded information line: 1300 659 210

website: www.bom.gov.au



953 South Coast Highway, Denmark
enquiries@denmark.wa.gov.au
www.denmark.wa.gov.au

Local Fire Brigade _____

School _____

Child Care _____

Doctor _____

Family _____

Neighbour/s _____

Other contacts _____

Seen something suspicious? Arson is a serious crime that can attract significant penalties. To report arson, suspicious activity or fire lighting phone Crime Stoppers : 1800 333 000