

BUSHFIRE SAFETY



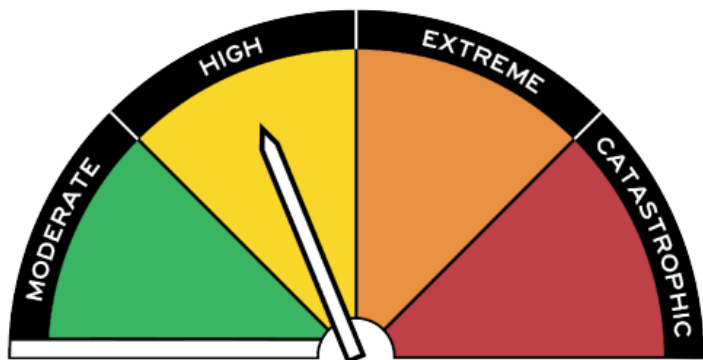
For all emergencies including fire, call 000

Understanding Fire Danger Ratings

When there is minimal risk, Fire Danger Ratings will be set to 'No Rating'



Scan for four-day FDR
YARA-YARA



MODERATE

Plan and prepare

HIGH

Be ready to act

EXTREME

Take action now to
protect life and property

CATASTROPHIC

For your survival, leave
bushfire risk areas



Australian Fire Danger Rating System

Get to know your Fire Danger Ratings - visit www.emergency.wa.gov.au/#firedangerratings

1 Nov – 28 Feb
**PROHIBITED
BURNING**



1 March – 31 March
**RESTRICTED
BURNING**



1 April – 30 Sept
**UNRESTRICTED
BURNING**



1 Oct – 31 Oct
**RESTRICTED
BURNING**



1 Nov – 28 Feb
**PROHIBITED
BURNING**



Jan Feb March April May June July Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec

BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS 2023/2024

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Number</i>
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (New Norcia)	Gavin Halligan	0427 545 041
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (Mogumber)	Simon Forrester	0428 519 034
Fire Control Officer 1 – Shire of Vic Plains (Calingiri)	Nicholas Parry	(08) 9628 7004
Fire Control Officer 2 – Shire of Vic Plains (Calingiri)	Jason Cacic	(08) 9628 7004
Fire Control Officer 3 – Shire of Vic Plains	Evan Lawrence	(08) 9628 7004
Fire Control Officer 4 – Bolgart	Colin Guthrie	0427 912 922
Fire Control Officer 5 – Bolgart	Todd Meston	0427 006 054
Fire Control Officer 7 – Mogumber	Marty Vanbeek	0477 796 122
Fire Control Officer 8 – New Norcia	Grant Sinclair	0427 548 061
Fire Control Officer 9 – Yerecoin	Richard Pearson	0418 923 987
Fire Control Officer 10 – Yerecoin	Hugh Johnson	0427 771 642
Fire Control Officer 11 – Yerecoin	Gary Manning	0427 546 095

For all emergencies including fire, call **000**

Please do not call a Bush Fire Control Officer to inform them of an incident, this is not the way to inform the Shire of an incident and will delay response.

A Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban.

A Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban

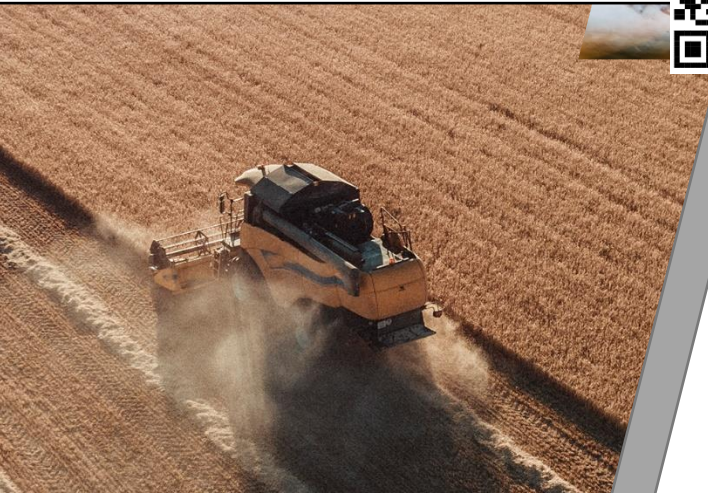
(H&VMB) is a declared by the Local Government under the *Bush Fire Act 1954* that stops the movement of vehicles, machinery and harvest operations for a specified period of the day where the fire behaviour index is 40 or above during a declared Total Fire Ban.

A H&VMB can also be set by the Local Government on days that the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer believes it necessary for whatever reason.



Total Fire Ban

A Total Fire Ban (TFB) is declared by DFES on days when fires are most likely to threaten lives and property. This is because of predicted extreme fire weather or when there are already widespread fires and firefighting resources are stretched. Occasionally TFBs may be declared outside of a fire season (such as in May or June) due to other factors such as higher temperatures and expected strong winds preceding a storm front.



Scan the QR Code to join the Shire's Ban Notification SMS system or listen to the ABC Radio

SPONTANEOUS VOLUNTEERING (FARM RESPONSE)

Spontaneous Volunteers are non-registered volunteers who occasionally attend bushfires to assist. These volunteers are critical to the expedient response and reducing the initial spread of bushfire. Spontaneous Volunteers are often referred to as *'farmer response'* and response is normally part of their business or personal sense of inclination to the community. A Spontaneous volunteer although may on occasion, does not need to attend Bush Fire Brigade meetings or attend other mandatory requirements of a Bush Fire Volunteer.

Although Spontaneous Volunteers do not need to attend training of a Bush Fire Volunteer, they must complete the basic course of Rural Fire Awareness. This course outlines some basic information in relations to the safe and coordinated response to a bush fire, it will include safety information, localised response protocols, how and where to seek instruction and what protections are afforded to you and or your staff. Below are the steps a Spontaneous Volunteer is required to obtain to enter a fire ground as of 1 September 2023.

1

Complete the Rural Fire Awareness training in person or online via www.dfes.wa.gov.au
This is a 4hr session that provides a certificate of attendance upon completion.

2

Obtain a Fire Response Vehicle Identifier from the Shire of Victoria Plains.
The Vehicle ID sticker will provide spontaneous volunteers with access to fire grounds and an easy way to identify training.
Contact: reception@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au for forms.

3

Ensure equipment and appropriate clothing / personal protective equipment is ready
In line with the DFES Guidelines for Operative Private Equipment at Fire.



PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY BY 1 OCTOBER ANNUALLY

Notice is given to all landowners/occupiers within the Shire of Victoria Plains to comply with required before 1 October Annually to comply with the directives of the s. 33 Fire Hazard Reduction Notice to reduce the outbreak, spread and extension of a bushfire, these standards must be maintained throughout until 29 March Annually.

A copy of the full s. 33 notice can be found on the Shires website or a hard copy with your rates.

Requirements of land 4000-meter square and under	Requirements of land 4001-meter square and over
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slashing Dead flammable matter including dead grass shrubs and plants shall be slashed, mowed, or trimmed down by other means to a height no greater than 50mm across the entire property. • Asset Protection Maintain all dead flammable material below 2 tonne per hectare across the entirety of the property. (See definitions for fuel load) • Clean Gutters Ensure roofs, gutters and walls of all buildings are free of flammable matter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slashing Dead flammable matter including dead grass shrubs and plants shall be slashed, mowed, or trimmed down by other means to a height no greater than 50mm across the entire property. Unless used for pasture or crop. • Asset Protection Maintain all dead flammable material below 2 tonne per hectare extending 20 meters out from all buildings. (See definitions for fuel load) • Clean Gutters Ensure roofs, gutters and walls of all buildings are free of flammable matter. • Fire Breaks Install a minimum 3-meter-wide and 4-meter height clearance fire break no further than 3 meters away from. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The entirety of the property boundary - Every 400 hectares of land - All buildings, sheds, and fuel storage - All stationary internal combust

FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY INCURE PENALTIES UP TO \$5000

FIREBREAK CONSTRUCTION

In the rural regions of Western Australia, firebreaks play a vital role in safeguarding lives and properties. Firebreaks serve numerous functions and when properly constructed, can considerably mitigate the damage caused.

It's important to clarify that the primary function of a firebreak isn't merely to halt the progression of a fire, as commonly believed. Its fundamental purpose is to provide a strategic site for firefighting activities and ensure a safe access and egress. In milder conditions, firebreaks can indeed prevent the spread of fire between properties.

For maximum effectiveness, firebreaks should be devoid of any combustible materials, and they must never end in a dead-end. Moreover, these breaks should be safe for firefighters who might need to travel on the rear of a fire vehicle. This implies that any overhanging branches that could pose a risk to the firefighters or obstruct vehicle access to the fire should be removed.



✓ Acceptable firebreak



✗ Non acceptable firebreak

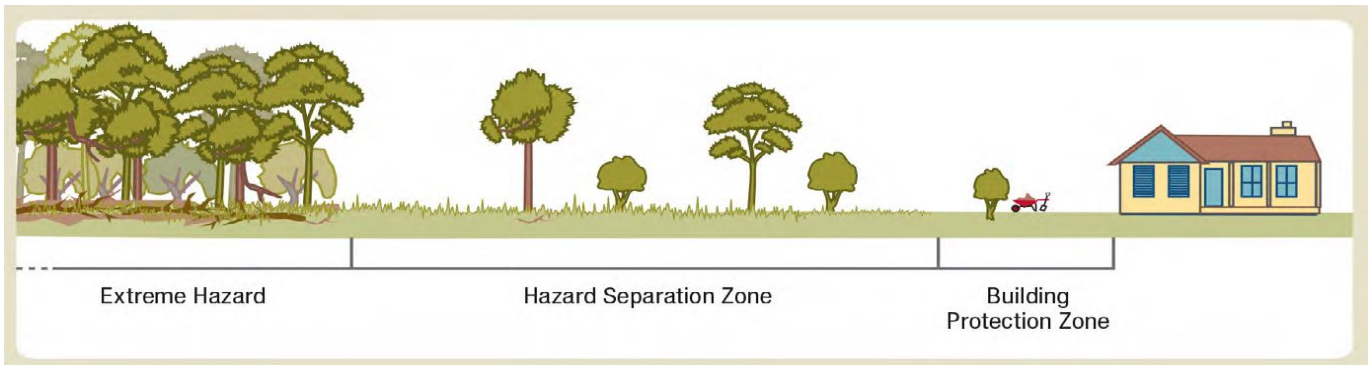


ASSET PROTECTION ZONE (APZ)

An Asset Protection Zone (APZ) is an area extending 20 metres from the furthest point around an asset building where there is reduced flammable material. This means there is less material that can catch fire, improving the dependability of a property.

Consider the below best practice.

- ✓ **Maintain the fuel load under 2T per hectare.**
Consider, will it burn if embers are flying everywhere.
- ✓ **Prune overhanging trees and branches**
Trees and branches can catch fire and cause direct flame contact with your asset.
- ✓ **Clean gutters**
Gutters are often a weak spot that collects dead material and catch fire in bushfires.
- ✓ **Remove wood piles and fuel**
Piles of rubbish, wood and fuel can create intense fire activity that may impact your asset through radiant heat or direct flame contact.



HOW FIREPROOF IS YOUR PLAN?

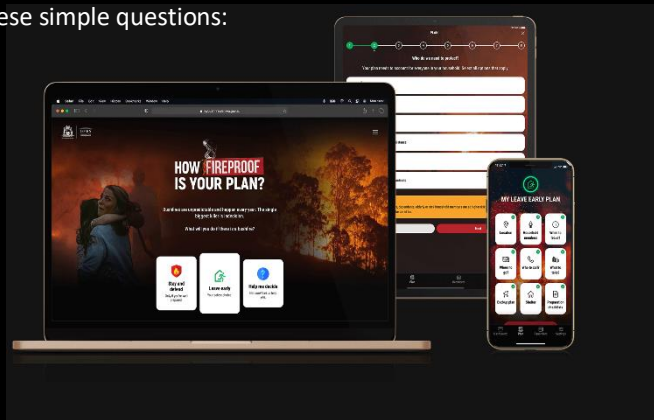
Find out in 5 minutes at mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au

Dangerous bushfires can start at any time. It's important to understand your risks and plan what you'll do to keep safe when a bushfire threatens your home and family. One of the most critical and valuable things you can do is to make a bushfire plan. Take 5 minutes now to discuss these simple questions:

When will you leave?

What will you take?

Where will you go?



Scan the QR Code or visit mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au to get started today



EMERGENCY INFORMATION

[Emergency.wa.gov.au](https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au)

ABC Radio

DFES Alerts & Warnings 13 3337