

SHIRE OF VICTORIA PLAINS

FIRE SEASON GUIDE

FOR ALL EMERGENCIES INCLUDING FIRE, CALL 000

Fire Season Quick Guide

Burning Restrictions					
RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD		PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD		RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD	
Permits Required		Burning Prohibited		Burning Prohibited	
From Oct 1*	Until Oct 31*	From Nov 1*	Until 28* Feb	From Mar 1*	Until March 31*
*These dates are subject to change according to seasonal conditions. Changes will be advertised on the Shires website and social media. All burning is prohibited on days where: • A Total Fire Ban (TFB) is declared • A Harvest Vehicle Movement Ban (HVMB) is declared					



Fire Danger Rating – What Does it mean?



MODERATE – Plan & Prepare

HIGH – Be ready to act

EXTREME – Take action NOW to protect life and property

CATASTROPHIC – TAKE ACTION NOW TO PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY

The Shire of Victoria Plains is Situated within the Yarra Yarra District

Fire Danger Ratings Can Be Found At

WWW.EMERGENCY.WA.GOV.AU

RANK	NAME
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Gavin Halligan
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Simon Forrester
Fire Control Officer 1 – Shire of Victoria Plains	Mikayla James
Fire Control Officer 2 – Shire of Victoria Plains	Jack Van Voorst
Fire Control Officer 3 – Shire of Victoria Plains	Chantal Bell
Fire Control Officer 4 – Bolgart	Colin Guthrie
Fire Control Officer 5 – Bolgart	Todd Meston
Fire Control Officer 6 – Mogumber	Clint McPherson
Fire Control Officer 7 – Mogumber	Dave Bantock
Fire Control Officer 8 – New Norcia	Grant Sinclair
Fire Control Officer 9 – Yerecoin	Richard Pearson
Fire Control Officer 10 – Yerecoin	Hugh Johnson
Fire Control Officer 11 – Yerecoin	Nick Scotney

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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 a fire and will delay response.

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, machiner 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 contact the Shire Office

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.

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 are required to comply 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
• 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.	• 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-meterheight clearance fire break no further than 3 meters away from. - 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 RESULT IN 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.



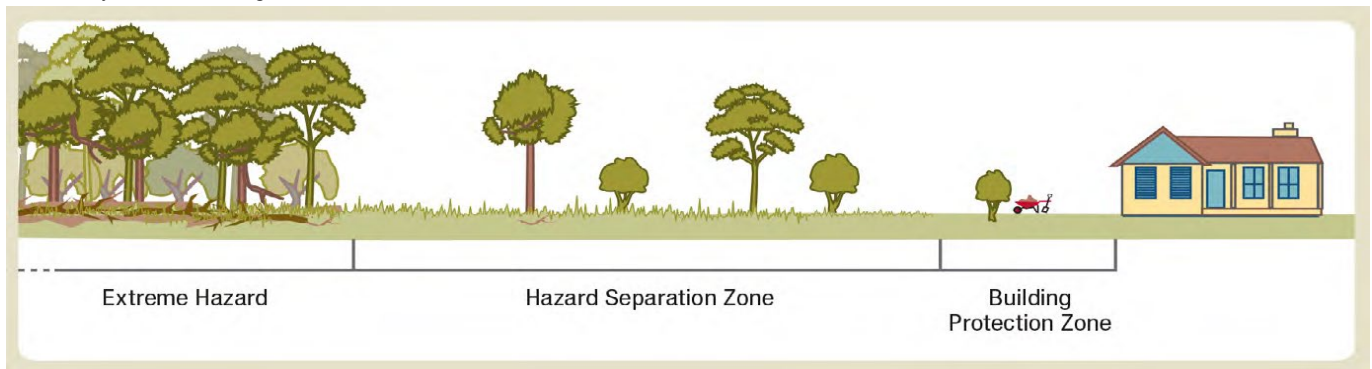
Clean gutters

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.



Emergency WA – App & Website

The Emergency WA app and website are the official source of all alerts and warning for all hazards across Western Australia, Including Total Fire Bans and Fire Danger Ratings for the Shire of Victoria Plains.

Why Use Emergency WA?

- 📍 Localised Alerts – Set up watch zones for your key locations and receive notifications about nearby incidents
- ⚠️ Up-to-Date Warnings – Access the latest emergency information and advice
- 🧩 All-in-One Tool – View incidents, check conditions, and stay informed in one place

Get Connected

- 🌐 Visit **www.emergency.wa.gov.au**
- 🧩 Download the **Emergency WA app** (Apple App Store & Google Play)
- 🔔 Enable notifications to receive alerts for your area



CHECK EMERGENCY WA REGULARLY FOR CURRENT ALERTS AND WARNING DURING AN EMERGENCY



EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Emergency.wa.gov.au or via the Emergency WA App
ABC Radio

DFES Alerts & Warnings 13 33 37



Magnet