

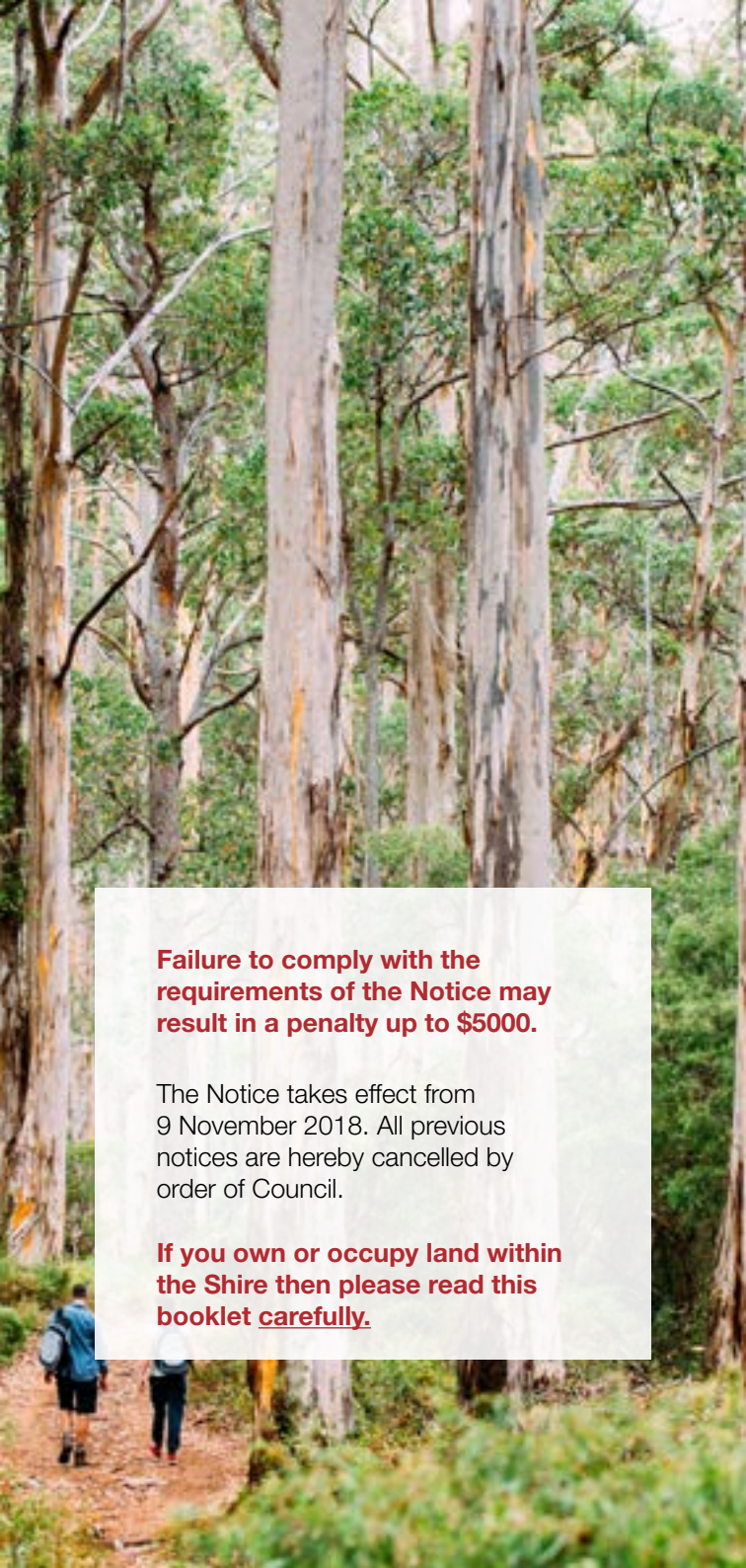


# **Bush Fire Management Information Booklet**

2018-2019



[amrshire.wa.gov.au](http://amrshire.wa.gov.au)

A vertical photograph of a forest. In the foreground, a dirt path leads into the woods. Two people are walking away from the camera on the path; one is wearing a blue shirt and dark shorts, and the other is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants. The forest is composed of many tall, thin trees with light-colored bark, some showing signs of peeling or damage. The canopy is dense with green leaves, and sunlight filters through the branches.

**Failure to comply with the requirements of the Notice may result in a penalty up to \$5000.**

The Notice takes effect from 9 November 2018. All previous notices are hereby cancelled by order of Council.

**If you own or occupy land within the Shire then please read this booklet carefully.**

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# Important Dates

## RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD

### 9 November to 21 December 2018

Burning Garden Refuse	See page 19 for information
Wood BBQs	See page 19 for information
Burning Bush or Grass	Permit Required

## PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD

### 22 December 2018 to 13 March 2019

Burning Garden Refuse	PROHIBITED
Wood BBQs	PROHIBITED
Burning Bush or Grass	PROHIBITED

## RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD

### 14 March to 12 May 2019

Burning Garden Refuse	See page 19 for information
Wood BBQs	See page 19 for information
Burning Bush or Grass	Permit Required

*Dates are subject to change. You must confirm restriction dates prior to undertaking any burning.*

Fire Danger Rating	Burning Garden Refuse	Wood Fuelled Appliance	Burning Bush / Grass
High	Yes See page 20 if a total fire ban	Yes	Yes See page 20 if a total fire ban
Very High	No	Gas/electric only	No
Severe	No	Gas/electric only	No
Extreme	No	Gas/electric only	No
Catastrophic	No	Gas/electric only	No

**TO REPORT ANY FIRES CALL 000**



**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**  
THESE ARE YOUR LEGAL  
REQUIREMENTS

***Bush Fires Act 1954 (as amended)***  
**Shire of Augusta Margaret River**

Pursuant to the powers contained in Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, you are hereby required on or before 1 December to install firebreaks and reduce fuel loading upon your land, whether owned or occupied by you, and thereafter maintain the land up to and including 12 May, in accordance with the Notice, approved Fire Management Plan or approved variation to this Notice.

Landowners should note that restrictions exist on clearing native vegetation under other legislation. Clearing should be limited to the extent necessary to comply with the Notice.

**If your property has an approved Fire Management Plan (FMP) then you are to comply with the requirements of that plan in full. For dwellings constructed after 2011, clearing is permitted if required to maintain your approved Bush Fire Attack Level (BAL) rating.**

## All Lots 4000m<sup>2</sup> and Under

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### Your legal requirements are:

Compliance Date: 1 December through to 12 May inclusive

Requirements	How To Comply
Asset Protection Zone	Refer to page 13-14.
Hazard Separation Zone	Refer to page 15-17.
Vacant Land – Cleared Blocks	Grasses are to be slashed, mowed or by other means, maintained to a height of no more than 10cm.
Vacant Land – Vegetative or Bush Blocks	Fuel Load to be maintained in accordance with the requirements of a hazard separation zone, see page 15-17.
Garden Refuse and Wood Piles	A two (2) metre firebreak is required around all piles of garden refuse and or wood stacks.
Dwellings and Outbuildings	Gutters and rooftops are to be free of excessive twigs, leaves, grass, etc.
Driveway / Access Way	A four (4) metre wide by four (4) metre high clearance zone that allows access for emergency service vehicles to buildings on your property.

## All Lots 4001m<sup>2</sup> and Over

(Excluding rural, vineyards and plantations)

### Your legal requirements are:

Compliance Date: 1 December through to 12 May inclusive

Requirements	How To Comply
Asset Protection Zone	Refer to page 13-14.
Hazard Separation Zone	Refer to page 15-17.
Mineral Earth Firebreaks	A minimum two (2) metre wide trafficable firebreak immediately inside all boundaries on the lot.
Vacant Land – Cleared Blocks	Grasses are to be slashed, mowed or by other means, maintained to a height of no more than 10cm.
Vacant Land – Vegetative or Bush Blocks	Fuel Load to be maintained in accordance with the requirements of a hazard separation zone, see page 15-17.
Garden Refuse and Wood Piles	A two (2) metre wide firebreak is required around all piles of garden refuse and or wood stacks.
Fuel and Fodder Storage Areas	A two (2) metre wide firebreak immediately around fuel storage tank or gas cylinders. A two (2) metre wide firebreak no closer than six (6) metres around fodder.
Dwellings and Outbuildings	Gutters and rooftops are to be free of excessive twigs, leaves, grass, etc.
Driveway / Access Way	A four (4) metre wide by four (4) metre high clearance zone that allows access for emergency service vehicles to buildings on your property.

## Rural and All Other Lots

(Excluding vineyards and plantations)

### Your legal requirements are:

Compliance Date: 1 December through to 12 May inclusive

Requirements	How To Comply
Asset Protection Zone	Refer to Page 13-14.
Hazard Separation Zone	Refer to Page 15-17.
Mineral Earth Firebreaks	A minimum two (2) metre wide trafficable firebreak within one hundred (100) meters of a boundary abutting a road reserve.
Vacant Land – Cleared Blocks	Grasses are to be slashed, mowed or by other means, maintained to a height no more than 10cm.
Vacant Land – Vegetative or Bush Blocks	Fuel load to be maintained in accordance with the requirements of a hazard separation zone on page 15-17.
Ungrazed Pastureland	Where the land is not maintained to 10cm or less, a two (2) metre wide firebreak is required immediately inside all boundaries of the paddock which is not actively grazed.
Garden Refuse and Wood Piles	A two (2) metre wide firebreak is required around all piles of garden refuse and or wood stacks.
Fuel and Fodder Storage Areas	A two (2) metre wide firebreak immediately around fuel storage tank or gas cylinders. A two (2) metre wide firebreak no closer than six (6) metres around fodder.
Dwellings and Outbuildings	Gutters and rooftops are to be free of excessive twigs, leaves, grass, etc.
Driveway / Access Way	A four (4) metre wide by four (4) metre high clearance zone that allows access for emergency service vehicles to buildings on your property.



# Vineyards, Orchards and Olive Groves

**Your legal requirements are:**

Compliance Date: 1 December through to 12 May inclusive

Requirements	How To Comply
Asset Protection Zone	Refer to Page 13-14.
Hazard Separation Zone	Refer to Page 15-17.
Mineral Earth Firebreak	A five (5) metre wide firebreak around each cell or block, of which three (3) metres must be trafficable.
Garden Refuse and Wood Piles	A two (2) metre wide firebreak is required around all piles of garden refuse and or wood stacks.
Fuel and Fodder Storage Areas	A two (2) metre wide firebreak immediately around fuel storage tank or gas cylinders. A two (2) metre wide firebreak no closer than six (6) metres around fodder.
Dwellings and Outbuildings	Gutters and rooftops are to be free of excessive twigs, leaves, grass, etc.
Driveway / Access Way	A four (4) metre wide by four (4) metre high clearance zone that allows access for emergency service vehicles to buildings on your property.



## Plantations

### Your legal requirements are:

Compliance Date: 1 December through to 12 May inclusive

Requirements	How To Comply
Asset Protection Zone	Refer to Page 13-14.
Hazard Separation Zone	Refer to Page 15-17.
Mineral Earth Firebreak	A ten (10) metre wide mineral earth firebreak around each cell or block within the plantation. At least three (3) metres must be trafficable.
Garden Refuse and Waste Wood Piles	A two (2) metre wide firebreak is required around all piles of garden refuse and or wood stacks.
Fuel Storage Areas	A two (2) metre wide firebreak immediately around fuel storage tanks or gas cylinders.
Dwellings and Outbuildings	Gutters and rooftops are to be free of excessive twigs, leaves, grass, etc.
Driveway / Access Way	A four (4) metre wide by four (4) metre high clearance zone that allows access for emergency service vehicles to buildings on your property.



## Variations to the Notice

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### APPLICATION TO VARY FIREBREAK REQUIREMENTS

The Local Government does not issue exemptions to the Notice as it is a landowner / occupier's legal requirement to undertake the requirements of the Notice in accordance with the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

If it is considered impracticable for any reason whatsoever to clear firebreaks or establish other arrangements as required by the Notice, you may apply in writing to the Shire of Augusta Margaret River for permission to provide firebreaks in alternative positions on the land.

**This application must be received no later than 22 November 2018.** If written permission is not granted then you must comply with the Notice within fourteen (14) days of being advised by the Shire of such refusal.

Applications must be in writing and on the approved form available upon request from the Shire of Augusta Margaret River or can be downloaded via the Shire's website at **[www.amrshire.wa.gov.au](http://www.amrshire.wa.gov.au)**

## Definitions Applicable in the Notice

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### **FIREBREAK**

Means a strip of land that has been cleared of all trees, bushes, grasses and any other object or thing which may be flammable, leaving a bare mineral earth two (2) metre wide firebreak with a four (4) metre high vertical clearance.



*Non-compliant firebreak*



*Compliant firebreak*

## Definitions Applicable in the Notice

**ASSET PROTECTION ZONE (APZ)** means:

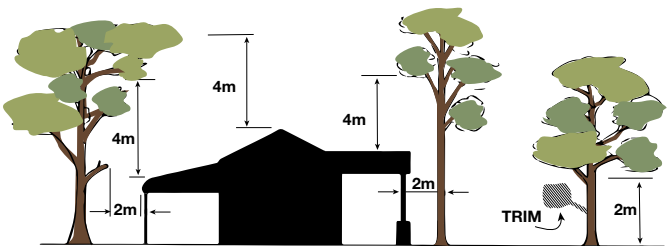
**WIDTH:** Twenty (20) metres measured from the external perimeter of the building or as stated in your approved BAL assessment.

**LOCATION:** Within the boundaries of the lot on which the building is situated.

**FINE FUEL LOADS:** Reduced and maintained to two (2) tonnes per hectare of fuel loading.

**TREES:** No tall trees are to be within two (2) metres of a building and branches are not to overhang a building within four (4) metres.

**SHRUBS:** No tall shrubs or trees are to be located within two (2) metres of a building.



*Below is an example of a well prepared asset protection zone*



## Definitions Applicable in the Notice

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**ASSET PROTECTION ZONE (APZ):** The below visual guide shows the maximum level of ground / fine fuels applicable within a APZ. This equates to approximately 2 tonnes per hectare of fuel loading.



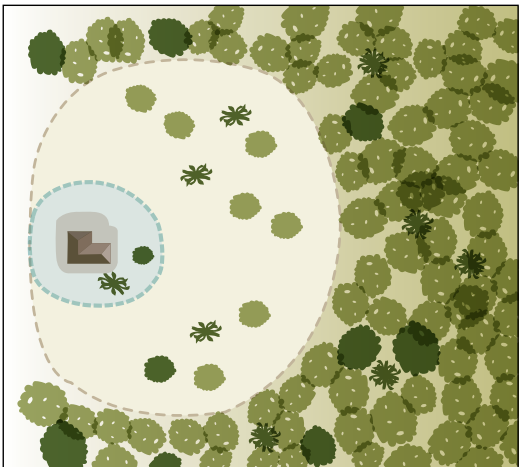
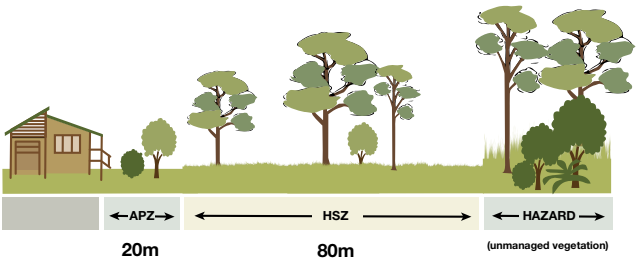
## Definitions Applicable in the Notice

**HAZARD SEPARATION ZONE (HSZ)** means:

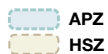
**WIDTH:** A minimum of eighty (80) metres measured from the outer edge of the APZ.

**LOCATION:** With the boundaries of the lot on which a building is situated.

**FINE FUEL LOAD:** Reduced and maintained to no more than 8 tonnes per hectare of fuel loading in Jarrah / Marri forest and woodlands and no more than 15 tonnes per hectare of fuel loading in Coastal Heath or Karri Forest.



Hazard on three sides



## Definitions Applicable in the Notice

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**HAZARD SEPARATION ZONE (HSZ) JARRAH / MARRI WOODLANDS:** The below visual guide shows the maximum level of ground / fine fuels applicable within a HSZ where the vegetation is of a Jarrah or Marri mix. This equates to approximately 8 tonnes of fuel per hectare.





## Definitions Applicable in the Notice

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**HAZARD SEPARATION ZONE (HSZ) COASTAL HEATH OR FOREST:** The below visual guide shows the maximum level of ground / fine fuels applicable within a HSZ where the vegetation is of a Coastal Heath or Jarrah Forest mix. This equates to approximately 15 tonnes of fuel per hectare.



## Definitions Applicable in the Notice

**DRIVEWAY / ACCESS WAY:** Means a minimum four (4) metre wide by four (4) metre high trafficable clearance zone that allows access for emergency service vehicles to a building on your property.

**FLAMMABLE MATERIALS:** Means any bush, plant, tree, grasses, vegetable matter, substance, object, thing or material that may or is likely to catch fire and burn. Excludes living trees and plants.

**TRAFFICABLE:** Means to be able to travel from one point to another in a 4 x 4 fire vehicle on a firm, stable surface, unhindered and without obstruction. A firebreak must not terminate without provision for egress to a safe place or a cleared turn around area of not less than a nineteen (19) metre radius.

**PLANTATION:** Means any area of planted pine or eucalyptus species exceeding 3 hectares on the lot.

**UNGRAZED PASTURELAND:** Means where stock do not maintain the grass on the lot to 10cm or less.

**BAL ASSESSMENT / RATING:** Means an assessment prepared in a manner and form set out in AS 3959 to determine a BAL.

**Would this fire truck be able to access your property in an emergency?**



## **Important Fire Season Information**

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### **Garden Refuse and Rubbish**

Garden refuse and rubbish in one (1) small heap, up to one (1) cubic metre may be burnt during the restricted burning period, 9 November to 21 December and 14 March to 12 May between 6pm and 11pm. One (1) able bodied person capable of extinguishing the fire must be in attendance at all times. A courtesy call to your local FCO would be appreciated.

### **Wood / Solid Fuelled BBQs, Pizza Ovens and Incinerators**

Are NOT permitted to be used when the Fire Danger rating is Very High or above.

Are permitted to be used in the prohibited burning period only if they have a spark arrestor fitted and are only being used between 6:00pm and 11:00pm.

Are permitted to be used during the restricted burning period at anytime only if a spark arrestor is fitted, a permit is required for burning outside of the hours of 6:00pm to 11:00pm.

Wood fuelled pizza ovens are permitted to be used in accordance with the above conditions between 4:00pm and 11:00pm.

### **Gas / Electric Fuelled BBQs and Pizza Ovens**

Are permitted to be used at any time during the year.

### **Campfires**

Are NOT permitted at all during the Prohibited Burning Period.

Are NOT permitted when the Fire Danger rating is Very High or above.

Are NOT permitted where the campground prohibits campfires at any time.

Are NOT permitted on public land that is not a designated area.

Are permitted on private property during the restricted burning periods between 6:00pm and 11:00pm and with consent of the landowner and/or occupier.

# What is a Total Fire Ban?

**TOTAL FIRE BAN** means a person must not undertake any activity which may cause a fire.

At times this ban may include a harvest vehicle movement ban.

You must check with the Shire of Augusta Margaret River, **amrshire.wa.gov.au** or the DFES website for more information, **dfes.wa.gov.au**

Fire danger rating	Burning garden refuse	Wood fuelled appliance	Burning bush / grass
High	No	No, gas/electric only	No
Very high	No	No, gas/electric only	No
Severe	No	No, gas/electric only	No
Extreme	No	No, gas/electric only	No
Catastrophic	No	No, gas/electric only	No



## When should I start to prepare my property?

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### **AUTUMN TO WINTER (MAY TO AUGUST)**

- Undertake tree pruning, remove lower branches and check that your power lines are clear
- Start to reduce fuel levels around your house, clear long grasses, leaves, twigs
- Make sure your fire fighting equipment is in good working order
- Keep grass short on farms, keep grazing levels high

### **SPRING (SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER)**

- Keep reducing fuel levels around your house, keep grass short
- Install firebreaks and undertake fuel reduction measures as required by this notice
- Clean out gutters
- Prepare an emergency kit and plan

### **SUMMER (NOVEMBER TO MAY)**

- Keep grass and shrubs near to buildings watered and green
- Keep maintaining firebreaks and reducing fuel levels around your house
- Check gutters and roof-tops and keep them clear of twigs and leaves
- Keep checking fire fighting equipment is in good working order

## Other Information

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### **FIRE MANAGEMENT PLANS**

If your property has an approved Fire Management Plan (FMP) in place then you are to comply with the requirements of that plan in full.

### **SHIRE ROAD VERGES / RESERVES**

You are not permitted to burn a Shire road verge or reserve unless a permit has first been obtained from the Shire of Augusta Margaret River.

### **VOLUNTEER BUSH FIRE BRIGADES**

Your local volunteer Bush Fire Brigade or Fire and Rescue Service may be able to assist you in preparing your property.

For more information or to discuss further contact your local Fire Control Officer (FCO) listed on page 27.

### **HELPFUL INFORMATION**

See [dfes.wa.gov.au](https://dfes.wa.gov.au) for further information relating to fires and property.

## Fuel Load Reduction

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Reduction of fuels within your property is an important fire mitigation measure. Fine fuels such as leaves, twigs and sticks influence the intensity of a fire. By actively reducing the level of these fuels you will lower the intensity and the potential impact a fire may have on your property.

Below are some acceptable methods of reducing fuel loads:

**RAKING OR MANUAL CLEARING:** If done on a regular basis will reduce the fine fuels such as leaves, twigs and sticks.

**CHEMICAL SPRAYING:** If done during June to September can be an effective way to manage weeds and grass.

**PLOUGHING OR GRADING:** An effective way to produce firebreak, but requires on-going attention to remain effective.

**SLASHING AND MULCHING:** An economical method of fuel reduction, however left over materials need to be cleared to be an effective measure.

**BURNING OFF:** Is an effective way to manage fuel loads on your property, this should be conducted when the conditions are favourable and in consultation with your local volunteer Bush Fire Brigade or Fire and Rescue Service and local Fire Control Officer (FCO) listed on page 27.

## Environmental Considerations

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Whilst clearing land and reducing fuel undertaken in accordance with the Notice is generally exempt from the need to obtain further approvals the following is also relevant:

Clearing to reduce fuel loads reduces risk and lessens construction standards for new dwellings. Planning approval may be required when clearing is greater than what is stated in the Notice.

The Shire should be contacted to discuss clearing associated with a new dwelling or when clearing is greater than what is required by the Notice.

Environmental Protections (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 are not required for fuel modification that is directed by the Notice, unless the clearing is within an environmentally sensitive area, prescribed under that legislation.

More details regarding exemptions can be obtained from [www.der.wa.gov.au](http://www.der.wa.gov.au) or by contacting the Department of Environmental Regulation on **6467 5000**.



## Fire Danger Rating

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On days when the Fire Danger Rating is VERY HIGH OR ABOVE garden refuse and wood/solid fuelled BBQs are NOT PERMITTED to be burnt or used under any circumstances. Fire permits are automatically cancelled on these days.

YOU MUST check the local newspaper, contact the Shire on 9780 5255 or visit [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au) for further information.

The Fire Danger Rating can be found by visiting the Emergency WA website at [www.emergency.wa.gov.au](http://www.emergency.wa.gov.au)

## Fire Permits

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Fire permits can be obtained from your local Fire Control Officer (FCO) listed on page 27 or from the Local Government. Before requesting a permit please have the following information:

- What is the size of the proposed burn?
- What material are you burning?
- What is the location of the burn?
- Have you notified your neighbours?
- Do you have appropriate resources to control or suppress the fire?

Residents and landowners are advised that they must obtain a permit from the local FCO in the first instance, if the FCO is unavailable then you must contact the Shire Rangers on 9780 5255 for assistance.

**Please Note: Permit holders must give notice of their intention to burn to:**

- **Adjoining landowners;**
- **Shire Office not later than on the day when during is taking place 9780 5255; and**
- **To the nearest office of DBCA if situated within 3km of State Forest, Kirup - 9731 6232.**

## What penalties can be applied if I don't comply?

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Property not compliant on first inspection	<b>Penalty of \$250</b>
Property not compliant on further subsequent inspections	<b>Further penalty of \$250 + cost of works should a contractor be engaged to undertake works</b>
Burning during prohibited times	<b>Penalty of \$250</b>
Burning during restricted times	<b>Penalty of \$250</b>
Failure to extinguish a bush fire	<b>Penalty of \$250</b>
Failure to obtain a permit to burn	<b>Penalty of \$250</b>
Failure to state name and address	<b>Penalty of \$100</b>

The above are modified penalties issued by the Local Government and are 10% of the maximum that may apply should the matter proceed to court.

## YOUR LOCAL FIRE CONTROL OFFICER (FCO)

### Alexandra Bridge Area

Alexandra Bridge	Tony Mostert	0428 461 388
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### Augusta Townsite Area

Augusta Townsite	Brendan Jordan	0477 970 415
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### Cowaramup Area

Burnside	Tim Garstone	0428 555 292
Cowaramup	Ian Earl	0418 932 847
Miamup	Billy Pascoe	0405 965 447
Treeton	Geoff Jenkins	0407 776 920
Wurring	Shane Ablett	0438 931 613

### East Augusta Area

East Augusta	Peter Brindley	0439 869 680
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### Gracetown Area

Gracetown	Peter Delfs	0427 555 491
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### Karridale Area

Hamelin Bay	Simon Hanson	0428 147 001
Karridale	John Teahan	0409 082 769

### Kudardup Area

Kudardup	Matt Nield	0427 772 719
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### Margaret River Townsite Area

Margaret River	Leith Jones	0417 960 514
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### Molloy Island Area

Molloy Island	John Matten	0427 440 620
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### Rosa Brook Area

Osmington	Keith Scott	0407 880 877
Rosa Glen	Andrew Newnham	0448 150 237
Rosa Brook	Mark Ridge	0408 945 684

### Wallcliffe Area

Kilcarnup	Ian Dowling	0419 969 642
Prevelly	Bob Baker	0438 669 701
Rapids	David Kelly	0428 387 286

### Witchcliffe Area

Forest Grove	Larry Brennan	0419 938 923
Witchcliffe	Diane Holland	0427 930 735
Redgate	Richard Nash	0419 951 511

## Key Contacts

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### **General Enquiries—Shire Offices**

(08) 9780 5255

### **Shire Rangers**

0419 902 540

### **Chief Bush Fire Control Officer**

0419 525 843

### **Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer**

0419 628 465

### **DFES Emergency Info Line**

1300 657 209

**TO REPORT ANY FIRE**  
**DIAL 000**  
**DON'T DELAY**



41 Wallcliffe Rd, Margaret River WA 6285

T (08) 9780 5255 | F (08) 9757 2512

E [amrshire@amrshire.wa.gov.au](mailto:amrshire@amrshire.wa.gov.au) | [amrshire.wa.gov.au](http://amrshire.wa.gov.au)

