Fire Break Notice and Bushfire Information 2015/16

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Our community prides itself on the area’s lush bushland and natural beauty. It is one of the things our community tells us they love the most about living in the district. In order to protect this natural beauty and bushland property owners and residents must be vigilant against the threat of fire. Bushfires are a real risk in WA and we must ensure our community is always prepared against the potential threat.

Every household, whether in the hills surrounded by bushland or in the new and developed suburbs, needs to be prepared for the possibility of fire. We all have a responsibility to help reduce the risk of fire and increase safety for everyone.

This booklet is a guide to help you maintain your house and property to protect your home, family, neighbours and community in the event of a fire. It also outlines your legal requirements for maintaining your property against bushfire risk. Please take the time to read it as it will help you reduce the vulnerability of your neighbourhood to bushfire. It will also help you to make the right decisions should a bushfire approach.

R S Tame
Chief Executive Officer
Dates You Must Remember

Due to unseasonal weather conditions these dates may be extended or shortened. You must check with the City of Armadale Ranger Services for details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restricted Burning Period - Permits Required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 October to 30 November inclusive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burning Garden Refuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBQ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bush/Grass</td>
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**BURNING PROHIBITED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 December to 31 March inclusive</th>
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<td>1 April to 31 May inclusive</td>
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<td>Bush/Grass</td>
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**Note:** Fire Danger Rating for a particular day can overrule Permits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fire Danger</th>
<th>Burning Garden Refuse</th>
<th>BBQ</th>
<th>Burning Bush/Grass</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIGH</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VERY HIGH</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Gas/Electric only</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEVERE</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Gas/Electric only</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXTREME</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Gas/Electric only</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CATASTROPHIC</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Gas/Electric only</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Firebreaks must be installed before 1 December 2015 and maintained clear of flammable material up to and including 14 March 2016.

**FOR ALL FIRES CALL 000**
Fire Danger Index

**CATASTROPHIC**  Total Fire Bans will be declared. Some fires will be unpredictable, difficult to control and move very fast.

**EXTREME**  Total Fire Bans will be declared. Some fires will be unpredictable, difficult to control and move very fast.

**SEVERE**  Total Fire Bans are likely. Some fires will be unpredictable, difficult to control and move very fast.

**VERY HIGH**  Total Fire Bans may be declared. Some fires may be unpredictable, difficult to control and may be fast moving.

**HIGH**  Fires can be controlled but there is still a potential threat.

**LOW**  Fires can be easily controlled and are slow moving.

**During a Total Fire Ban**

You must not light a fire in the open air or use any equipment in the open air that is likely to emit sparks.

This includes lighting wood fuel barbeques, pizza ovens or candles, and using angle grinders, welders or lawnmowers.
To reduce fire hazards around your property:

**Autumn to Winter**
- Tree pruning – remove lower branches and check that power lines are clear. Use a professional contractor.
- Reduce fuel levels around the house – clear long grass, leaves, twigs and flammable shrubs.
- Ensure petrol and other flammables are safely stored, away from the main dwelling.
- Make sure your fire-fighting equipment is in good working order and serviced where required.
- Make sure all residents of your property are aware of your emergency plan including evacuation routes.

**Spring**
- Move woodpiles and stacked timber away from the main dwelling.
- Keep grass short.
- Clean gutters and roof debris.
- Install firebreaks in accordance with the Firebreak Notice (see page 13), your Variation to Firebreak Order or your Firebreak Management Plan.
- Chemical spraying of firebreaks and low fuel zones – final applications and maintenance.

**Early Summer**
- Water lawns, trees and shrubs near the buildings to keep them green.
- Re-check fire fighting equipment, screens, water supplies, and that gutters remain clear.
Long Term Precautions

• Ensure firebreaks are prepared in accordance with the latest Firebreak Notice or any Variation to Firebreak Order or Fire Management Plan issued by Council.

• Make sure that the buildings are safe – fit wire fly screens and shutters, fill gaps in roof/wall spaces, fit fire screens to evaporative air conditioners and have them operable to provide a water only supply.

• Give consideration to installing external building sprinkler systems and back up power for emergencies.

• Ensure the access to emergency water supplies has the correct fittings, is unobstructed and the route trafficable.

• Get basic training in fire fighting from your local Bushfire Brigade or even join your local Brigade.

• Join or start a local Bushfire Ready Group.

Firebreak Contractors

As a service to owners and occupiers of land within the district, the City maintains a list of contractors who may be willing to assist landowners to comply with the Firebreak Notice. The City is not recommending any contractor, the list is made available simply as a resource to the owner/occupier of land.

The engagement of a contractor is an agreement between the owner/occupier and the contractor. Therefore it is for the owner/occupier to consider whether a contractor is suitable or otherwise, and to satisfy themselves that the contractor has in place appropriate insurances applicable to the work they are requested to perform.

Landowners, particularly absentee owners should not assume the contractor has undertaken all the work that might be required to achieve compliance with the Firebreak Notice. Regardless of any contractual relationship between the parties the landowner remains legally responsible to ensure full compliance with the Firebreak Notice is achieved.

Evaporative Air Conditioners

Your evaporative air conditioning unit can catch fire from embers coming from bushfires, or even small backyard fires, that can happen in your neighbourhood.

If a fire starts in your air conditioner, it can spread quickly throughout your home. For further information on how to keep your property safe, contact DFES on 1300 657 209 or visit www.dfes.wa.gov.au.
Prepare. Act. Survive

Bushfires happen every summer, they can start suddenly and without warning. People have been killed or seriously injured, and homes destroyed during bushfires. If you live in or near bush, fire is a real risk to you and your family.

You need to understand the bushfire risk to your family and home so you can make decisions now on what you will do if a bushfire starts. Firefighters are preparing for the bushfire season and will do everything they can to make your community safe. Many firefighters are volunteers and take time away from their families during bushfires.

You need to help them by developing your bushfire survival plan and preparing your home to make it as safe as possible. Whether you choose to leave for a safer place or you choose to actively defend, preparation is the key to your survival.

Information in this brochure will help you prepare your home, family and business and develop a plan so you can act to make sure you survive. Before summer starts you need to decide what you will do if a bushfire threatens.

PREPARE your family, home or business – know your bushfire risk and have a bushfire survival plan.

ACT on the fire danger ratings – put your preparations into action, do not wait and see.

SURVIVE by monitoring conditions if a fire starts – know the bushfire warning alert levels and what you will do if you are caught in a fire.

For further information contact DFES on 1300 657 209 or visit www.dfes.wa.gov.au.
Burning Permits

Residents are encouraged to remove and dispose of potential flammable material from their properties before the onset of summer. If you must resort to controlled burning, a permit is required.

When and Where to Obtain a Permit to Burn

A Permit to Burn is required for the burning of any bush, garden rubbish or refuse between 1 October and 30 November, and 1 April and 31 May.

Burning permits can be obtained from the City’s Ranger Services between the hours of 3pm and 4pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. If you are unable to attend during these hours contact Ranger Services on 9394 5000 for alternative arrangements.

Burning permits may also be issued at the City’s Pound on Kilburn Lane, Kelmscott between the hours of 9am and 10am on Saturdays and Sundays, however burning is prohibited on Sundays and public holidays. You may also make arrangements to obtain a permit from a Bush Fire Brigade Fire Control Officer (see telephone numbers on back cover).

Anyone who applies for a Permit to Burn may be required to complete a declaration to ensure that the issuing of a permit will not result in any contravention of the Bush Fires Act 1954, or any Local Law.

Even when a Burning Permit has been issued, no fire is to be lit when the fire danger rating is VERY HIGH or above.
Fire Danger Rating information is broadcast on ABC local radio, and displayed on Fire Danger Rating Today sign boards located on Brookton Highway Kelmscott, Roleystone Fire Station and Bedfordale Fire Station.

No permits are issued during the Prohibited Burning Period. Permit holders are required to adhere to all conditions on the permit. Special conditions may apply. For permits (in residential areas) at all other times, contact Ranger Services on 9394 5000.

Please Note: Permits to Burn will not be issued in relation to properties under 1200sqm in size.

Penalties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offence</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Failure to maintain 3 metre firebreak</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offences relating to lighting a fire in open air</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setting fire to bush during prohibited burning time</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure of occupier to extinguish bushfire</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refusal to provide name and address</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to produce permit to burn</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Major offences result in Court action with fines ranging from $1000 to $25,000, imprisonment for fourteen (14) years, or both.
### When and How to Burn

#### Fire Danger

No burning of any type is permitted, including incinerators, on days of **VERY HIGH, SEVERE, EXTREME** or **CATASTROPHIC** fire danger rating.

Please check the Weather Information Service. Call 1196.

#### Don’t Fuel Fires

- Don’t have thick vegetation right up to the walls of your home.
- Clear all flammable material from around houses, sheds and fences.
- Store firewood, timber, petrol and kerosene well away from the house.
- Don’t have flammable trees such as conifers near buildings.
- Clear all dead leaves out of gutters regularly.
- Remove dead trees and branches which, when burning, could drop onto your roof.
- Remove rubbish regularly.
- Rake up leaves, twigs and dead material regularly.
- Burn off dry grass and vegetation at the approved times and in the approved manner.

#### Advice is Available

Further advice on how to protect your home, and when and how to burn-off is available from your local Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade or the City of Armadale’s Ranger Services.
Bush and Grass on any Land
Burning of bush and grass is totally prohibited between 1 December and 31 March inclusive. For all other fires, permits are required between 1 October and 30 November inclusive and between 1 April and 31 May inclusive.

Hints for Burning
• Don’t light a fire on a hot and windy day.
• Don’t try to burn more than you can control.
• Inform your neighbours.
• Make sure smoke and sparks will not affect neighbour’s washing or open windows.
• Cut or rake long grass around trees, buildings and fences before burning.
• Burn against the wind.
• On a sloping block, burn from the top down.
• Have a hose or spray pack to dampen down fierce fires.

Garden Refuse and Rubbish
Between 1 October and 30 November and 1 April and 31 May inclusive, small heaps (up to one cubic metre) of garden refuse may be burnt on the ground between 6pm and 11pm, but only after a 5 metre wide fire break has been cleared around the fire and at least one able bodied person must be in attendance at all times.

Burning is PROHIBITED ON DAYS OF VERY HIGH, SEVERE, EXTREME or CATASTROPHIC fire danger rating.

Health Local Law
The City of Armadale Health Local Laws prohibit the burning of any rubber, plastic, food scraps or green garden materials which can cause the generation of smoke or odour in such quantities as to cause a nuisance to other persons.

Barbeques and Incinerators
Gas and electric barbeques are permitted at any time in approved locations.

NO garden refuse, wood, solid fuel barbecues or Webers are permitted to be used under any circumstance ON VERY HIGH, SEVERE, EXTREME or CATASTROPHIC fire danger days.
Bushfire Ready Groups

Bushfire Ready is a community driven program established by DFES in collaboration with local government to increase the resilience of the community to bushfire risk.

Bushfire Ready aims to build community resilience by providing an opportunity for neighbours to network, share ideas and information and develop and implement strategies to reduce their bushfire risk.

In a dangerous bushfire, a fire truck may not be available to protect every home. This means residents and homeowners need to be responsible for their own safety.

The program is coordinated by a trained volunteer Bushfire Ready facilitator and supported by local Fire Services personnel. All Bushfire Ready Group Facilitators are required to be a member of a Bushfire Brigade, Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service or Volunteer Emergency Service.

Local government in collaboration with DFES play a vital role in facilitating activities to reduce bushfire risk throughout the community. Engaging with the community helps people to prepare, act and survive during bushfire season.

For further information about Bushfire Ready or to form a group in your area call 1300 657 209 or free call 1800 199 084.
Bush Fires Act 1954
City of Armadale – Firebreak Notice

Notice to all Owners and Occupiers of land within the City of Armadale

All property owners are required to have mineral earth trafficable firebreaks constructed in accordance with this notice by 30 November 2015 and maintained until 14 March 2016.

Pursuant to the powers contained in Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, you are hereby required on or before the 30th day of November 2015 or within fourteen days of you becoming the owner or occupier of land should this be after the 30th day of November 2015 to install firebreaks and remove flammable materials from the land owned or occupied by you as specified hereunder and to maintain the specified land and firebreaks clear of all flammable materials up to and including the 14th day of March 2016.

Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIREBREAK</td>
<td>means a strip of land that has been cleared of all trees, bushes, grasses and any other object or thing or flammable material, leaving clear bare mineral earth. This includes the trimming back of all overhanging trees, bushes, shrubs and any other object or thing over the firebreak area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLAMMABLE</td>
<td>means any bush, plant, tree, grass, mineral, vegetable, substance, object, thing or material that may, or is likely to, catch fire and burn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAFFICABLE</td>
<td>means to be able to travel from one point to another in a 4x4 fire vehicle on a firm and stable surface, unhindered without any obstruction or getting stuck bogged or trapped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VERTICAL AXIS</td>
<td>means a continuous vertical uninterrupted line at a right angle to the horizontal line of the firebreak.</td>
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All Areas of Land less than 5000m²
(within the City of Armadale)

Have the entire land clear of all flammable material by mowing, slashing or other means. All grasses are to be maintained below five (5) centimetres in height and all trees, bushes, shrubs are to be trimmed back over driveways and access ways to all buildings to three (3) metres wide with a clear vertical axis over it to afford access for emergency services to all structures and points of the property.

On any lot having an area of less than 5000m², the keeping of grass on the lot at all times covered by this notice to a height less than five (5) centimetres may be accepted in lieu of clearing a firebreak.

All Areas of Land over 5000m²
(within the City of Armadale)

Install bare mineral earth trafficable firebreaks clear of all flammable material to a minimum of three (3) metres wide immediately inside all external boundaries of the land with all overhanging branches, trees, limbs etc. to be trimmed back to four (4) metres wide with a clear vertical axis over the firebreak area. Install bare mineral earth trafficable firebreaks to a minimum of three (3) metres wide immediately surrounding all buildings, sheds and haystacks or groups of buildings situated on the land, with all overhanging branches, trees, limbs etc. to be trimmed back to three (3) metres wide with a clear vertical axis over the firebreak area. This includes driveways and access to all buildings on the land.

Installation methods may vary to suit your property environment, these may include, but are not limited to ploughing, cultivating, scarifying, burning, grading, and chemical spraying.

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.

Mowed firebreaks are Not Permitted.

Hazard Reduction

In addition to the provisions of this notice you may be required to carry out further works which are considered necessary by Council or an Authorised Officer of the City and specified by way of a separate written notice forwarded to the address as shown on the City of Armadale rates record for the relevant land.
Application to Vary Firebreak Requirements
If it is considered impracticable for any reason whatsoever to clear firebreaks or establish other arrangements as required by this notice, you may apply in writing to the City of Armadale, or its duly Authorised Officers no later than the 1st day of November 2015 for permission to provide firebreaks in alternative positions on the land. If permission is not granted by the City or its duly Authorised Officers you must comply with the requirements of this notice.

In some instances naturally occurring features such as rocky outcrops, natural watercourses or landscaping such as reticulated gardens, lawns or driveways may be an acceptable substitute for cleared firebreaks.

This option must first be discussed with an Authorised Officer of the City, and approved in writing. All firebreaks and other alternative arrangements allowed by the preceding parts of this notice must be established on or before the 30th day of November 2015 (or within 14 days of you becoming the owner or occupier should this occur after that date) and remain clear of flammable material up to and including the 14th day of March 2016.

Council does not issue exemptions to the Firebreak Notice.

Does your property have a Fire Management Plan?
All properties with a Fire Management Plan approved as part of subdivision consent shall comply with the plan in its entirety. Penalty: $5000

Fuel Storage
On all land where fuel drum ramps are located and where fuel dumps (whether containing fuel or not) are stored, clear maintained firebreaks three (3) metres wide are required with a clear vertical axis over it, around any drum, ramp or stack of drums.

No Burning on Sundays or Public Holidays
Except when specifically authorised to do so for purpose of fuel reduction by a Bush Fire Control Officer (BFCO) appointed by the City under the provisions of the Bush Fires Act 1954, an owner or occupier of land shall not set fire to, or cause or allow to be set on fire, any bush, rubbish or refuse whatsoever on a Sunday or a day that is a Public Holiday.

Penalties
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 City of Armadale
### Emergency Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIRE • AMBULANCE • POLICE • 000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fire Control Officers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chief Bush Fire Control Officer</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Armadale</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Plowman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Roleystone Fire Control Officer</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Plowman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire Station</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bedfordale Fire Control Officer</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire Station</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fire and Rescue Service</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanent Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ranger Services</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Burning Permit Issuing Officers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Roleystone</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew Plowman</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bedfordale</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Armadale</strong></td>
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<td>Fire and Rescue Permanent Staff</td>
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