

## PERMITS TO BURN

**Permits to Burn** are required for the whole of the Restricted Burning Times and can only be obtained from the Fire Control Officer for your area

A list of Fire Control Officers is available on the City's website on the Fire and Emergency Services Information page

Most of our Fire Control Officers are volunteers, make sure you plan ahead if you intend to apply for a permit

A permit must be obtained before any burning takes place and the permit holder must be in possession of the permit throughout the duration of the burn.

The Fire Control Officer will require the following information prior to issuing a permit:

- The address of the property where it is proposed to conduct the burn
- Details of three able bodied persons who will be in attendance at the fire at all times whilst it is alight, including a contact phone number
- What fire-fighting equipment will be on-hand during the burn and confirmation it is in good working order
- Are there firebreaks installed at the property and can a fire appliance get access to the site of the burn
- What are the materials to be burned, are they dry, and what is the size of the proposed burn

The permit holder shall ensure all conditions of the permit, as shown on the permit, are fully complied with

Failure to obtain a permit or failure to fully comply with the conditions of a permit may result in a fine or prosecution

*The hardest aspect of fire prevention is explaining to your family why you didn't undertake any!*



*Actions speak louder than words and actions save lives*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Burning of Garden Refuse:** pursuant to Section 24G(2) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, the burning of garden refuse is prohibited throughout the District during Prohibited Burning Times, and prohibited in Urban areas of the District during Restricted Burning Times

During Restricted Burning Times, a Permit to Burn is required for the burning of garden refuse in Rural Residential or Rural areas

**Camping and/or Cooking Fires:** pursuant to Section 25(1a) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, the lighting of fires in the open for the purpose of camping and/or cooking is prohibited throughout the District during Prohibited Burning Times

Pursuant to Section 25(1)(a) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, the lighting of fires in the open for the purpose of camping and/or cooking is prohibited when the Fire Danger Rating for the District is Very High or above without the written approval of the City

**Fire Pits, Chimineas, and/or Braziers:** pursuant to Section 25 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, the lighting of fire pits, Chimineas and/or braziers is prohibited during Prohibited Burning Times, and otherwise prohibited if the Fire Danger Rating for the District is Very High or above

**Conditions for the Lighting and Extinguishing of Fires in the Open:** when burning garden refuse; or lighting camping and/or cooking fires; or when lighting fire pits, Chimineas and/or braziers the space of ground around the site of the fire, having a radius of at least 3 metres from the site at the centre, is clear of all vegetation and other flammable materials

The person who lit the fire, or a person left in attendance at the fire as the case may be, shall completely extinguish the fire by the application of water and/or earth before that person leaves the site unattended

**Further Information:** for further fire safety information and resources, including current Fire Danger Ratings visit the Department of Fire and Emergency Services website [www.dfes.wa.gov.au](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au)

## KEY DATES

Dates may change due to seasonal fire conditions in which case details will be published in local newspapers and on the City's website

### PROHIBITED BURNING TIME

**1 December 2021 to 28 February 2022**  
(BURNING IN THE OPEN PROHIBITED)

### RESTRICTED BURNING TIMES

**15 October 2021 to 30 November 2021**  
**and 1 March 2022 to 30 April 2022**  
(BURNING PERMITS REQUIRED)  
(Burning on Public Holidays Prohibited)

### COMPLIANCE DATES

**Rural Residential / Urban / Industrial Land**  
Compliance with this Notice must be achieved no later than **15 November 2021** and maintained until **30 April 2022**

**Rural Land**  
Compliance with this Notice must be achieved no later than **15 December 2021** and maintained until **30 April 2022**

### FIREBREAK INSPECTIONS AND RIGHT OF ENTRY

The City will commence its annual firebreak inspection program on **15 November 2021**

Rangers are appointed as Bush Fire Control Officers under the provisions of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* (the Act) and carry out annual inspections.

Under the provisions of the Act, Bush Fire Control Officers may in the performance of their duties, enter any land or building including private property

### FIREBREAK VARIATIONS

Where there are valid environmental and/or on-ground considerations which prevent full compliance with this Notice, landowners may apply to the City for a variation. A variation must be lodged in writing on a Firebreak and Fuel Hazard Reduction Variation Form which is available on the City's website. Applications for a variation must be submitted by **31 October 2021**



# FIREBREAK AND FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION NOTICE

## 2021/2022 BUSH FIRE SEASON

### FIRST AND FINAL NOTICE

#### ***Bush Fires Act 1954***

Take notice that pursuant to Part 3 Division 6 Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, landowner(s) or occupier(s) of land shall construct firebreaks and carry out fire prevention work in accordance with this Notice

Failure to comply with this Notice may result in a fine of up to

**\$5,000**

Should you require assistance or clarification of the requirements of this Notice, please contact the City's Ranger and Emergency Services on 9781 0444

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CATEGORY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>It is the land owner's responsibility to identify the category that relates to their property and to ensure the necessary fire prevention works are completed on time. Please contact the City if you are unsure of your category.</i></p>	A	B	C	D	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FIREBREAK CATEGORY CODE AND SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ALL REQUIREMENTS IN THIS NOTICE ARE TO BE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE DURATION OF THE FIRE SEASON</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY RESULT IN A \$5,000 FINE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT YOUR PROPERTY MUST COMPLY WITH CATEGORY REQUIREMENTS AS NOTED BY A TICK IN COLUMN A, B, C OR D</p>
<p><b>CATEGORY 1</b> RURAL</p> <p>Except plantations and vineyards (for tourist chalets, refer to Estate Fire Management Plan or Individual Fire Management Plan) Sections A, C and D apply to this category.</p>	✓		✓	✓	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;">   </div> <p><b>A - Firebreak</b> – The term firebreak includes a mineral earth firebreak. A mineral earth firebreak means a 3 metre wide area of the owner(s)/occupiers(s) land, cleared and maintained totally clear of all vegetation material (living or dead) so there is only mineral earth left. Any overhanging trees and other vegetation must be pruned to a height of 5 metres above the ground level of a mineral earth firebreak.</p> <p><b>Category 1 – Rural:</b> A mineral earth FIREBREAK shall be constructed 3 metres wide, except in pasture or crop areas where a FIREBREAK shall be 2 metres wide. FIREBREAKS shall be located adjacent to all external boundaries of the land. Where the land area exceeds 120 hectares, an additional FIREBREAK must divide the land into areas of not more than 120 hectares with each part completely surrounded by a FIREBREAK.</p> <p><b>Category 2 - Urban Residential and Industrial-Commercial:</b> Where the area of land exceeds 2024m<sup>2</sup> (½ acre) a mineral earth FIREBREAK shall be constructed and maintained at least 3 metres wide and within 6 metres of the inside of all external boundaries of the land. Where the area of land is 2024m<sup>2</sup> (½ acre) or less, hazardous material must be removed in accordance with section B - Fuel Reduction (refer to B1).</p> <p><b>Category 5 - Protea Plantations/Vineyards:</b> A mineral earth FIREBREAK shall be 3 metres wide. A low fuel area is to be maintained in accordance with section B - Fuel Reduction (refer to B2).</p> <p><b>Category 6 and 7 - Rural Residential:</b> A mineral earth FIREBREAK shall be constructed 3 metres wide. On Category 6 Rural Residential land with pasture or crop, a FIREBREAK shall be 2 metres wide and located within 6 metres of all external boundaries of the land. For Category 7 Rural Residential land, free access along a Strategic FIREBREAK is to be maintained at all times and including across the boundary of a lot, by means of a 3.5 metres wide field gate in the adjoining lot boundary fence.</p>
<p><b>CATEGORY 2</b> URBAN RESIDENTIAL &amp; INDUSTRIAL - COMMERCIAL</p> <p>Sections A, B, D and E1 Trees, apply to this category. Refer to section E - Interpretation and Additional Requirements (E1 Trees).</p>	✓	✓		✓	<p><b>B - Fuel Reduction</b></p> <p>1) <b>Category 2 - Urban Residential and Industrial-Commercial:</b> Where the area of land is 2024m<sup>2</sup> (½ acre) or less, ALL HAZARDOUS MATERIAL must be removed from the whole of the land except living trees. In the area remaining, vegetation is to be maintained to a height of no greater than 10 centimetres; this includes piles of timber, branches and other vegetation. Trees shall be pruned in accordance with section E – Interpretation and Additional Requirements (refer to E1).</p> <p>2) <b>Category 5 - Protea Plantations/Vineyards:</b> A 5 metre low fuel area is to be maintained between the 3 metre FIREBREAK and the plantation/vineyard area. In this area, vegetation is to be maintained to a height of no greater than 10 centimetres; this includes piles of timber, branches and other vegetation.</p> <p>3) <b>Category 6, 7 and 8 - Rural Residential:</b> Parkland clearing must be carried out in all open paddocks and along the boundary of the property. Clearing means that all dead vegetation and dry grasses (excluding approved crops, pasture areas and living trees/shrubs) including piles of timber and disused materials must be maintained to a height of no greater than 10 centimetres.</p>
<p><b>CATEGORY 3 &amp; 4</b> PLANTATIONS</p> <p>Fire Management Plan applies</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	<p><b>C - Building Protection Zones (BPZ)</b> – This is a modified area of reduced fuel immediately surrounding a building</p> <p>BPZ's starve the fire by reducing the fuel levels around your house. These requirements are designed to reduce the fire's intensity and minimise the likelihood of flame contact with buildings. The BPZ gives more protection to families should a fire threaten suddenly and they cannot leave. It also provides extra protection for fire fighters and property owners who may decide to stay with their property.</p> <p>A BPZ shall be provided for buildings in bush fire prone areas. The surroundings of buildings must comply with the following requirements:</p>
<p><b>CATEGORY 5</b> PROTEA PLANTATIONS / VINEYARDS</p> <p>(For tourist chalets, refer to Estate Fire Management Plan or Individual Fire Management Plan) Sections A, B, C and D apply to this category.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	<p>1) The BPZ for existing buildings must be at least 20 metres from any external wall of the building unless varied under an approved Fire Management Plan (FMP) in accordance with section E - Interpretation and Additional Requirements (refer to E4).</p> <p>2) The minimum BPZ for buildings constructed after 1 November 2011, in all cases shall be 25 metres.</p> <p>3) The BPZ must be located within the boundary of the lot that the building is situated on.</p> <p>4) Hazardous/flammable materials must not exceed the maximum fuel load specified in Point 5 below with grass areas not exceeding a height greater than 10 cm.</p> <p>5) Fuel loads must be reduced and maintained at 2 tonne per hectare.</p> <p>6) Isolated trees and shrubs may be retained, however, the first 5 metres around all buildings is to be clear of all hazardous/flammable materials.</p> <p>7) Reticulated gardens in the BPZ shall be maintained to a height of no greater than 500 millimetres.</p> <p>8) Wood piles must be at least 10 metres away from habitable dwellings.</p> <p>9) Trees in the BPZ must comply with section E - Interpretation and Additional Requirements (refer to E1).</p> <p>10) Where the land has an approved FMP, compliance must be achieved in accordance with the FMP. The FMP may vary the above BPZ requirements.</p> <p>11) A Hazard Separation Zone (HSZ) is also recommended in the absence of a Fire Management Plan. Section E - Interpretation and Additional Requirements (refer to E3).</p>
<p><b>CATEGORY 6</b> RURAL RESIDENTIAL - LOTS WITH INDIVIDUAL (MINERAL EARTH) BOUNDARY BREAKS</p> <p>Sections A, B, C and D apply to this category unless the property is subject to Estate Fire Management Plan or Individual Fire Management Plan</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	<p><b>D – Fuel Storage &amp; Haystack Protection Zones</b></p> <p>A 3 metre mineral earth FIREBREAK shall be located within 6 metres of fuel storage tanks, sheds, gas cylinders and haystacks. The mineral earth firebreak shall be maintained so that it is totally clear of all material (living or dead).</p>
<p><b>CATEGORY 7</b> RURAL RESIDENTIAL - LOTS WITH A STRATEGIC FIREBREAK ON ONE OR MORE BOUNDARIES</p> <p>Sections A, B, C and D apply to this category unless the property is subject to Estate Fire Management Plan or Individual Fire Management Plan</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	<p><b>E – Interpretation and Additional Requirements</b></p> <p>1) <b>Trees</b> On Urban, Industrial, Rural, and Rural Residential land, all tree branches must be removed or pruned to ensure a clear separation of at least 3 metres back from the eaves of all buildings and 5 metres above the top of the roof. Branches that may fall on the house must also be removed. In the BPZ the following is 'recommended'; the spacing of individual or groups of trees should be 15 metres apart to provide for a 5 metres separation between tree crowns. There is also a requirement of 2.5 metres between trees and power lines so they do not come into contact and start a fire or bring down a power line.</p> <p>2) <b>Hazardous and Flammable Materials</b> means the accumulation of fuel including burn piles (living or dead) such as leaf litter, twigs, trash, bush, dead trees and scrub capable of carrying a running fire, but excludes standing living trees and isolated shrubs. <b>NOTE:</b> All remaining vegetation, piles of timber, branches and other living vegetation must be maintained to a height of no greater than 10 centimetres. To measure and determine fuel loads use DFES's <i>Visual Fuel Load Guide</i> at <a href="http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/safety/information/fire/bushfire/pages/publications.aspx#5">http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/safety/information/fire/bushfire/pages/publications.aspx#5</a> and select <i>Visual Fuel Load Guide Swan Coastal (Part 1 &amp; 2)</i>. Surface bush fire fuels should be kept low to the ground.</p>
<p><b>CATEGORY 8</b> RURAL RESIDENTIAL - LOTS WITHIN A STRATEGIC FIREBREAK AREA WITH NO STRATEGIC FIREBREAKS ON THE LOT BOUNDARIES</p> <p>Sections B, C and D apply to this category unless the property is subject to Estate Fire Management Plan or Individual Fire Management Plan</p>		✓	✓	✓	<p>3) <b>Hazard Separation Zones (HSZ)</b> A HSZ is a modified area of reduced fuel load outside of the BPZ and is recommended to assist in reducing the fires intensity when flames are approaching buildings. Both the BPZ and the HSZ are essential strategies for the protection of buildings. A HSZ covers the area 75 metres outside the BPZ. The HSZ should be modified to have a maximum fuel load of 6-8 tonne per hectare. This can be implemented by fuel reduction methods such as burning, mowing and slashing to remove the hazard. This should not require the removal of living trees or shrubs. <b>REMEMBER:</b> reduce the fuel level of the fire to lower the intensity of the blaze. Further information on fuel loading can be found in the <i>Visual Fuel Load Guide</i> available by calling DFES or via their website at <a href="http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au">www.dfes.wa.gov.au</a></p> <p>4) <b>Fire Management Plan (FMP)</b> A FMP is a comprehensive plan for the prevention and control of bushfires which may apply to individual land holdings. A notification, pursuant to the Transfer of Land Act 1893 (as amended) may be placed on the Certificate(s) of Title of the land for medium to long term fire management to reduce the occurrence and minimise the impact of uncontrolled bush fires, thereby reducing the threat to life, property and the environment. The land owner must comply with the FMP. <b>Building in bush fire prone areas</b>, new dwellings and other forms of accommodation, as well as additions to existing buildings are to be constructed in accordance with <i>Australian Standard 3959-2009</i>. In designated bush fire prone areas, the minimum BPZ in all cases shall be 25 metres. Further information on this and other information relating to fire safety issues can be found on the City's website <a href="http://www.busselton.wa.gov.au">www.busselton.wa.gov.au</a></p>

