Ranger & Emergency Services

FIRE SEASON INFORMATION SHEET

SAFE SLASHING AND MOWING

Bushfire risk reduction works

Slashing and mowing can start a bushfire when blades strike rocks, wire or metal, or when dry vegetation contacts hot machinery. Please take the following precautions when completing the required works.

Choose suitable conditions

- Plan work for a cooler day, preferably completing slashing or mowing before 9 am, provided conditions are suitable.
- Avoid operating in hot, dry or windy conditions, even early in the morning.
- Check the forecast, **Fire Danger Rating**, **Total Fire Bans** and **City of Busselton Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans** before starting.
- Do not start or continue work where a ban or restriction prohibits the activity. A City work order does not authorise work contrary to these restrictions.

  Fire & Vehicle Movement Bans
  A **Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban (HVMB)** may be imposed by Local Government and it prohibits the use of engines, vehicles, plant or machinery to avoid the start or spread of a bush fire. When a HVMB is declared, it will be published on the City of Busselton website and Facebook page and will be broadcast on local ABC radio.

  A **Total Fire Ban (TFB)** is declared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) on days when fires are most likely to threaten lives and property. When a TFB is declared, it is published on the DFES website www.dfes.wa.gov.au, Emergency WA website www.emergency.wa.gov.au, broadcast on local ABC radio and is also published on the City of Busselton website and Facebook page if declared in our district.

  Fire Danger Ratings
  For the current fire danger rating visit Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES) website www.emergency.wa.gov.au or Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website www.bom.gov.au.

Equipment

- Keep machinery maintained and remove dry grass and debris from around engines, exhausts and moving parts.
- Keep vehicles and hot machinery off dry grass when parked.

Have water ready

- If possible, have a suitable, working firefighting water supply immediately available, such as a connected hose that reaches the work area or a mobile water cart/tank with an operational pump and hose.
- Check that the equipment works before starting.

Monitor and stop if necessary

- Watch for sparks, smoke and changes in conditions throughout the work.
- Check the worked area and machinery for smoke, heat or smouldering vegetation before leaving.

If a fire starts: stop work, move to safety and call **000** immediately. Only attempt to extinguish the fire if it is safe and you have a clear escape route.