

Fire Prevention on Private and Public Land

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) issue a range of warnings to inform and keep the community safe during significant incidents that may threaten lives and property.

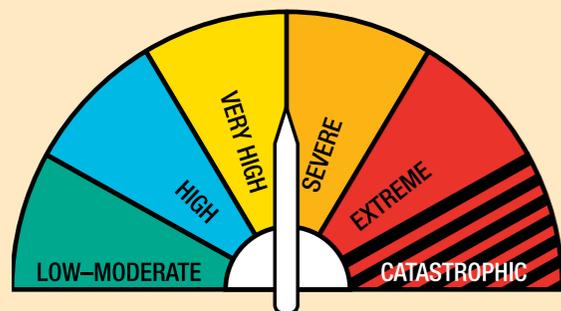
Total Fire Ban (TFB)

A Total Fire Ban (TFB) is declared by DFES because of extreme weather conditions or when widespread fires are seriously stretching firefighting resources. When a TFB is declared it prohibits the lighting of any fires in the open air (including solid fuel barbecues and outdoor heaters) and any other activities that may start a fire.

Fire Danger Rating (FDR)

The FDR is based on the forecast weather conditions and gives advice about the level of bushfire threat on a particular day. When the rating is high, the threat of a bushfire increases.

For further information visit DFES at dfes.wa.gov.au or the Bureau of Meteorology at bom.wa.gov.au



Smoke Nuisance

Where a smoke nuisance complaint is received, the City may request the activity causing the smoke nuisance to cease in accordance with the provisions of Section 182 of the *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911*. A maximum penalty of \$5,000 is provided by the Act upon conviction of causing a smoke nuisance.

Cigarette and Mulch Fires

Most mulch fires are caused by discarded cigarettes under hot, dry conditions – smouldering for extended periods along roadsides, particularly at traffic lights. Mulch is used for landscaping, and on verges and median strips. The type used affects how easily a fire can start. Coarse woodchip mulches are recommended as they are harder to ignite.

Penalties for careless cigarette disposal and littering	
Offence	Fine
Cigarette butt littering – individual	\$200.00
Cigarette butt littering – corporation	\$500.00
Littering that creates a public risk – individuals (includes lit cigarettes)	\$500.00
Littering that creates a public risk – corporations (includes lit cigarettes)	\$2,000
During a TFB, disposing of burning tobacco, cigarette, cigar or match in circumstances likely to set fire to the bush; including throwing it from a vehicle	\$25,000 and/or 12 months imprisonment

Need Advice?

For further information visit the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) website dfes.wa.gov.au

The website includes links in regard to:

- Total Fire Bans (TFB)
- Fire Danger Ratings (FDR)
- Bushfires
- Evaporative Air Conditioners
- Home Safety and more.

Home Fire Safety

For further information on home fire safety, please refer to the City's Community Safety brochure or visit joondalup.wa.gov.au

Useful Numbers in an Emergency	
Fire Emergencies	000
Fire Emergency Information	133 337
SES Assistance	132 500
Total Fire Ban Information	133 337
City Rangers	1300 655 860

Remember

Garden Refuse and Rubbish	Burning of garden refuse and rubbish, by any person, at any time, on private or public land is prohibited
Barbecues and Outdoor Heaters	The use of solid fuel barbecues and outdoor heaters, such as a chimenea, is not permitted on private property when a TFB has been declared by DFES, at which time only gas or electric barbecues and outdoor heaters are permitted
Outdoor Cooking	The use of outdoor cooking appliances, other than City installed and managed gas and electric barbecues, is not permitted within City parks and reserves
Camping	Camping is not permitted within City parks and reserves
Off-Road Vehicles	Off-road vehicles are not permitted within City parks and reserves

Bushfire Prevention and Firebreaks



Fire – Overview

Fire is an important natural feature of the Western Australian landscape. Human activities, including arson, have resulted in increased incidences of fire within many urban bushland reserves potentially posing a safety risk to residents and property. The City's aim is to increase community education and awareness of the risks and responsibilities associated with bushfire.

The objectives of bushfire management within the City of Joondalup include:

- Protecting life, critical infrastructure, property and the environment
- Fulfilling obligations under fire related legislation and undertaking best-practice fire management
- Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity values within natural areas
- Ensuring long term survival of native wildlife populations
- Minimising adverse impacts on regional air quality
- Providing consistency within the City's operations regarding fire management.

Many factors influence fire behaviour, such as fuel, air and heat, but none is more significant than fuel. Vegetation around a building like dry grass, leaves, twigs and bark provide fuel for a fire. This fuel plays a part in how hot a fire can be and how fast it can spread. If fuel is removed, the fire will starve.

In order to reduce the risk of a fire occurrence within the City of Joondalup a number of bushfire risk management actions are currently implemented by the City under the *Bush Fires Act 1954*:

- Weed control (mechanical and chemical)
- Installation and maintenance of firebreaks and fire access ways on City owned or managed land
- Annual firebreak inspections on all vacant land and bushland within the City
- Annual fuel load assessments on bushland greater than 2,000m²/0.2ha
- Controlled access to sites
- Community education.

Firebreak Installation and Maintenance on Vacant Land and Bushland

Under Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, all owners and occupiers of vacant land and bushland in Western Australia must establish and maintain firebreaks.

A firebreak is an area where flammable material, such as wood, leaves and grass has been cleared to minimise the spread of fire and to allow safe access for firefighting vehicles.

The City undertakes an annual assessment of fuel loads and firebreaks within vegetated areas of the City that are owned and managed by the City, State Government and private land owners, in accordance with Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

Under the provisions of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, Section 33, the City of Joondalup sets out the following specifications:

Buildings on land with an area of 2000m²/0.2ha or more:

- A firebreak, not less than 3m wide, must be cleared around all structures.
- All tree branches that over-hang a firebreak must be trimmed back to a minimum height of 4m above ground level.
- After mowing or slashing is carried out, the height of the vegetation must not exceed, as far as reasonably practicable, 50mm over the entire area of the firebreak.
- All buildings, including roofs, gutters and walls on the land must be free of flammable material.

Land with an area of less than 2,000m²/0.2ha

- A firebreak, not less than 2m wide must be cleared immediately inside and around all external boundaries of the land.
- All tree branches that over-hang a firebreak must be trimmed back to a minimum height of 3m above ground level.
- After mowing or slashing is carried out, the height of the vegetation must not exceed, as far as reasonably practicable, 50mm over the entire area of the firebreak.



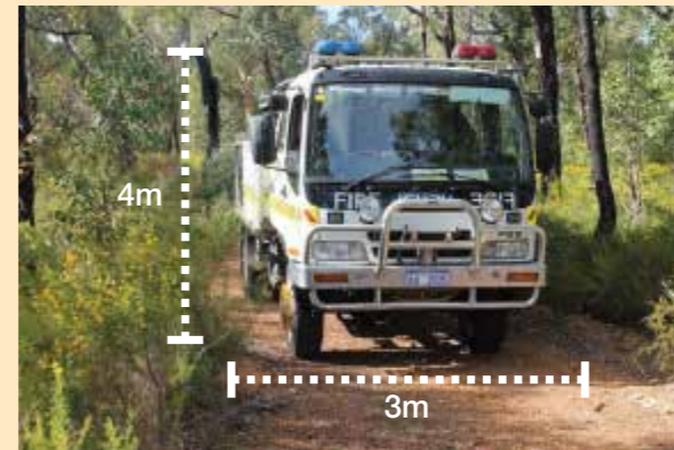
Firebreaks can:

- Allow safe access for firefighting vehicles
- Minimise the spread of fire
- Be used to isolate hazards and protect assets.

All vacant land in the City of Joondalup must have a firebreak installed by 31 October each year and maintained until 31 May the following year. Failure to comply with these requirements may incur fines and further action by the City.

Land with an area of 2,000m²/0.2ha or more

- A firebreak, not less than 3m wide, must be cleared immediately inside and around all external boundaries of the land.
- All tree branches that over-hang a firebreak must be trimmed back to a minimum height of 4m above ground level.
- After mowing or slashing is carried out, the height of the vegetation must not exceed, as far as reasonably practicable, 50mm over the entire area of the firebreak.



Compliant: 3m wide firebreak installed with 4m vertical clearance for firefighting vehicles

Application to vary Firebreak Requirements

If a firebreak is impractical along your boundary for environmental or other reasons, please notify the City by 15 October to obtain permission for firebreaks in alternative positions or of a different nature.

Additional Works to Reduce Hazards

Regardless of land size and location, the City of Joondalup's City Ranger Bush Fire Control Officers may require you to undertake additional works on your property to improve access and/or undertake further works where in the opinion of the City Ranger Bush Fire Control Officer, these works would be conducive to preventing the outbreak and/or spread or extension of a bushfire.

Penalties

Under the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, failure to comply with regulations can result in a fine ranging from \$250.00 to \$25,000 or imprisonment for up to 12 months.

Offence	Fine
Failure to maintain firebreak as per firebreak order	\$250.00
Offences relating to lighting a fire in the open air	\$250.00
Setting fire to bush during prohibited burning times	\$250.00
Failure of occupier to extinguish bush fire	\$250.00
Refusal to provide name and address	\$100.00

City Rangers

- Send out firebreak notices to all owners/occupiers of vacant land
- Carry out fuel load assessments each year
- Conduct firebreak inspections from 1 November each year
- Send out work orders for non-compliant firebreaks and re-inspect as required
- Issue fines under the *Bush Fires Act 1954* as required
- Investigate bushfire related enquiries.

For further information and advice, call City Rangers on 1300 655 860 or visit joondalup.wa.gov.au