

## DFES - Total Fire Ban and Fire Danger Rating

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)

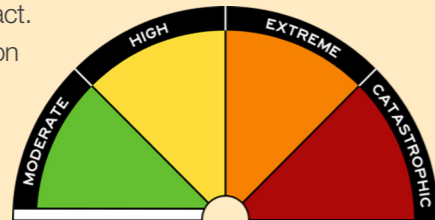
A Total Fire Ban (TFB) is declared by DFES on days when fires are most likely to threaten lives and property, because of predicted extreme fire weather or when there are already widespread fires and firefighting resources are stretched. Occasionally TFBs may be declared outside of a fire season (such as in May or June) due to other weather factors.

On a Total Fire Ban day, it is illegal to light an open-air fire or conduct any activity that could start a fire. For a full list of prohibited activities visit DFES at [dfes.wa.gov.au](http://dfes.wa.gov.au)

### Fire Danger Rating (FDR)

The FDR provides people with information so they can take action to protect themselves and others from the potentially dangerous impacts of bushfires. Ratings are calculated using a combination of weather forecasting and vegetation information. They do not indicate the chance of a fire occurring. There are four levels of fire danger:

1. **Moderate:** Plan and prepare.
2. **High:** Be ready to act.
3. **Extreme:** Take action now to protect your life and property.
4. **Catastrophic:** For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas.



For further information visit DFES at [dfes.wa.gov.au](http://dfes.wa.gov.au)

## Smoke Nuisance

The location and operation of solid fuel apparatus used for the purpose of cooking and heating is important so as not to create a smoke nuisance to neighbours. If you are having an issue with smoke that is being emitted from a neighbour's chimney resulting from the incorrect use of a wood heater, pizza oven or similar device, an Environmental Health Officer may be able to assist. For more information visit the City's website [joondalup.wa.gov.au](http://joondalup.wa.gov.au)

## 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

## Remember

<b>Garden Refuse and Rubbish</b>	Burning of garden refuse and rubbish, by any person, at any time, on private or public land is prohibited
<b>Barbecues and Outdoor Heaters</b>	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
<b>Outdoor Cooking</b>	The use of outdoor cooking appliances, other than City installed and managed gas and electric barbecues, is not permitted within City parks and reserves
<b>Camping</b>	Camping is not permitted within City parks and reserves
<b>Off-Road Vehicles</b>	Off-road vehicles are not permitted within City parks and reserves

## Need Advice?

For further information visit the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) website [dfes.wa.gov.au](http://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](http://joondalup.wa.gov.au)

### Useful Numbers in an Emergency

Fire Emergencies	<b>000</b>
Fire Emergency Information	<b>133 337</b>
SES Assistance	<b>132 500</b>
Total Fire Ban Information	<b>133 337</b>
City of Joondalup	<b>(08) 9400 4000</b>



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 F: 08 9300 1383  
 90 Boas Avenue Joondalup WA 6027  
 PO Box 21 Joondalup WA 6919  
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# Bushfire Risk Management

(Firebreaks and Hazard Reduction)



## 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 risk management within the City of Joondalup include:

- Protecting life, critical infrastructure, property and the environment
- Fulfilling obligations under bushfire related legislation and undertaking best-practice bushfire 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 bushfire risk 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 bushfire occurrence within the City of Joondalup, a number of bushfire risk management actions are currently implemented by the City:

- Weed control (mechanical and chemical)
- Manual fuel reduction
- Hazard reduction grass tree burns
- Installation and maintenance of firebreaks and fire access ways on City owned or managed land
- Annual firebreak inspections on all applicable vacant land and bushland within the City
- Fuel assessments on bushland greater than 2,000m<sup>2</sup>/0.2ha
- Controlled access to sites
- Community education.

## Firebreaks and Hazard Reduction

To assist in the control of bushfires, and/or prevent the spread, or extension of a bushfire, all owners and/or occupiers of land within the City of Joondalup are required by **31 October each year** to remove from the land all flammable material and/or clear firebreaks as per the specifications set out below.

Flammable material includes any plant, tree, grass, substance, object, thing or material that may or is likely

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 2000m<sup>2</sup>/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.

### Vacant land with an area of 2,000m<sup>2</sup>/0.2ha or less

- Remove all flammable material from the whole of the land, except living trees, shrubs and plants under cultivation, and lawns, by means of slashing, mowing or by other means (other than burning) to a height no greater than 50mm across the entire property and maintain in this state to **31 May each year**.
- Any living trees, shrubs and plants under cultivation that overhang the property boundary, including overhanging footpaths and verges, must be trimmed back to the property boundary line and have a minimum vertical height clearance of 4m above ground level.




to catch fire and burn or any other thing deemed by an authorised officer to be capable of combustion.

A firebreak is an area constructed to a trafficable surface (to be able to travel from one point to another in a four-wheel drive fire appliance on a clear surface, unhindered without any obstruction that may endanger such fire appliances) that is kept and maintained totally clear of all flammable material.

### Land with an area of 2,000m<sup>2</sup>/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 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 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 bushfire	\$250.00
Refusal to provide name and address	\$100.00

## City Officers

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

For further information and advice, call the City on **(08) 9400 4000** or visit [joondalup.wa.gov.au](http://joondalup.wa.gov.au)