

# FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION NOTICE 2023/2024

**First and Final Notice** has been served to all landowner/occupiers within the Shire of Esperance, who have the legal responsibilities to prepare their properties to reduce the risk of outbreak and spread of fires.

**These are your legal requirements - Please read carefully and retain for future reference.**

Pursuant to Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, this Notice sets out the actions that you must take to prepare your property for the fire season. As a measure for preventing the spread or extension of a bush fire which may occur, all owners and occupiers of the land within the Shire's district are required before **9 October 2023** to clear firebreaks or to take measures in accordance with this Notice and **maintain those firebreaks and measures in accordance with this Notice up to and including the 31 March 2024.**

## REQUEST FOR VARIATION

Request for variation to this Notice is to be considered if any of the listed requirements to reduce your fire hazard is impractical on your property due to site specific topography, environmental sensitive area's and/or specific development conditions. Landowner/Occupiers can apply in writing to the Shire for a variation **before 24 September** of each year for permission to provide firebreaks in alternative locations or take alternative measures to prevent the outbreak or spread of a bush fire. The Shire may approve variations for either a 1 year or a 3 year period. Variation forms can be found via the Shire website.

To view your requirements to prepare your property.



## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!

ZONE	RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD	PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD	RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD
<b>RURAL ZONE</b> <i>Includes Fire Zones: West 1, West Coast 1, West 2, West Coast 2, North 1, North 2, East 2, East Coast 2, East 1 &amp; East Coast 1</i>	18 September - 12 November 2023	13 November - 31 January	1 February - 31 March 2024
<b>URBAN-RURAL ZONE</b> <i>Includes Fire Zone: Urban-Rural (Esperance town site &amp; surrounding rural residential)</i>	18 September - 12 November 2023	13 November - 29 February	1 March - 30 April 2024

**Note:** Pending on seasonal conditions, above timeframes can be changed or extended as permitted under the *Bush Fires Act 1954*. Any changes will be published either by local newsletter, public notice board, SMS, Shire's social media and/or website.

## TOTAL FIRE BAN

A Total Fire Ban is declared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) on a days of extreme weather where a fire is most likely to spread rapidly or if there are already widespread fires and fire fighting resources are too stretched to fight any more. The lighting of open-air-fires or any other activity in the open air that is likely to cause a fire is banned.

### Penalties:

Ignoring conditions of a Total Fire Ban, you may receive an infringement of \$1,000.00. WA Police, Shire Rangers, DBCA Rangers, DFES Staff and Fire Control Officers are permitted to enforce Total Fire Ban requirements.

### What is and is not permitted during a Total Fire Ban:

- ✗
  - Light, maintain or use a fire i.e. Camp Fires, Fire Pits.
  - Wood fired and Charcoal BBQ's, Webbers and Ovens
  - Burning of garden/green waste.
  - Incinerators
  - Hot works in the open air or near bush, crops and stubble i.e. Grinding, welding, gas cutting, etc.
  - The use of Motor Bikes, Quad Bikes, Dune Buggy's and 4WD Vehicles on overgrown/4WD tracks.
  - The use of earthmoving equipment, slashers, mowers near bush, crops, pasture & stubble. (Unless exempt)
- ✓
  - The use of Electric or Gas BBQ's and Webbers
  - Harvest and Agricultural activities are permitted, until a Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban is declared by the Shire of Esperance

## PERMITS TO BURN



### FIRE PERMITS

The new **FIRE DANGER RATING** system now means Fire Permits are automatically deemed invalid on the days of a **HIGH** Fire Danger Rating.



### To check the FDR:

- [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)
- [www.emergency.wa.gov.au](http://www.emergency.wa.gov.au)

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE

Permits to Burn are required during the Restricted Burning Times and can only be obtained from your nearest Fire Control Officer. A list of Fire Control Officers is available page on the Shire's website

A Permit to Burn must be obtained before any burning takes place and the permit holder must comply with all conditions of the permit and be in possession of the permit throughout the duration of the burn

*Please note: Restricted Burning Times maybe extended due to seasonal conditions - refer to the Shires webpage prior to your planned burn.*

DFES Communications Centre (9395 9209) are to be advised whenever the holder of a permit commences burning; and/or whenever a person is carrying out burning activities during of the Restricted and Unrestricted Burning Times.

### 1. TOWN SITE: RESIDENTIAL, INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL AREAS

Applies to all land zoned within the town sites of Bandy Creek, Cascade, Castletown, Chadwick, Condingup, Coomalbidgup, Esperance, Gibson, Grass Patch, Nulsen, Salmon Gums, Scaddan, Sinclair and West Beach you must;

- a. Where the area of land is 2,000m<sup>2</sup> or less,
  - i. Reduce **fire fuel\*** from the whole of land such that fuel loads are maintained to a maximum of 2 tonnes per hectare. Isolated trees and managed shrubs may generally be retained.
- b. Where the area of land exceeds 2,000m<sup>2</sup>,
  - i. Establish and maintain an **Asset Protection Zone\*** around all habitable buildings;
  - ii. Grassed areas (dry or reticulated) to be maintained to a maximum height of 100mm; and
  - iii. A 4 metre wide **bare earth firebreak\*** or a 4 metre wide mulched/slash firebreak shall be constructed and maintained inside all external boundaries where practicable. 4 metre wide bare earth firebreak is required to be located around fuel storage tanks, sheds, and gas cylinders.
- c. Where a **Bushfire Management Plan\*** which relates to the property that has been approved by Council, clear firebreaks and take measures in accordance with that **Bushfire Management Plan\***
- d. Where the land has been cleared for the purpose of development and the land remains vacant, the land must be maintained in either a cleared, slashed or mulched state.



### 2. RURAL RESIDENTIAL & RURAL SMALLHOLDINGS:

Applies to all land zoned Rural Residential & Rural Smallholdings situated within the localities of Bandy Creek, Chadwick, Gibson, Monjingup, Myrup, Pink Lake, Shark Lake and Windabout you must;

- a. Clear either a 4 metre wide **bare earth firebreak\*** or a 4 metre wide mulched/slashed firebreak immediately inside all external boundaries. Firebreaks shall have a 5 metre vertical clearance so it provides unrestricted access to emergency service vehicles; or,
- b. Where established trees are located along fence lines, clear either a 4 metre wide **bare earth firebreak\*** or a 4 metre wide mulched/slashed firebreak within 5 metres of the external fence line and reduce the **fire fuel\*** between the firebreak and external fence line; and,
- c. Parkland clearing must be carried out in all open paddocks and along the boundary of the property. Clearing means the removal of all dead vegetation and **flammable material\*** (excluding approved crops, pasture areas and living tress/shrubs);
- d. Unmanaged pasture and grasslands must be maintained to height no greater than 100 millimetres, except for when a paddock is being utilised for feed or agistment maintain a 2 metre slashed break inside all fence lines.;
- e. A 4 metre wide **bare earth firebreak\*** shall be located around fuel storage tanks, sheds, gas cylinders and within 6 metres of haystacks. Haystacks cannot be situated on the external boundary;
- f. Establish and maintain a Low Fuel Zone (parkland cleared) 1 metre wide, around Power infrastructure e.g. Metre Box, and Underground Power Domes;
- g. Driveways must be cleared to a minimum of 4 metres wide and 5 metres in height, that can provide unrestricted access to emergency service vehicles;
- h. Properties to establish & maintain a **Asset Protection Zone\*** around all habitable buildings and,
- i. Where a **Bushfire Management Plan\*** which relates to the property has been adopted by Council, clear firebreaks and take measures in accordance with that Bushfire Management Plan as an alternative to the standard requirement listed in this Notice.

### 3. RURAL AREAS

Applies to all land zoned as Rural, you must;

- a. Except for areas set aside for conservation purposes, All uncleared land must install and maintain a 6 metre wide and 5 metre vertical clearance **bare earth firebreak\*** immediately inside all external boundaries. Firebreaks are to provide unrestricted access to emergency service vehicles; and,
- b. Where the property is partially cleared, 6 metre wide and 5 metre vertical clearance **bare earth firebreak\*** are required where the uncleared land abuts the external boundary.

### 4. REGULATED ACTIVITIES

The Shire's Fire Control Officer is of the opinion that harvesting machines, headers, stubble mulchers, hay bailers and track raking/chaining, other than clover harvesters, are likely to cause a bushfire, or would be conducive to the spread of a bush fire, during the prohibited and restricted burning times.

Pursuant to *Regulation 38A(1) Bush Fires Regulation 1954*, the Shire of Esperance hereby prohibits the following:

- a. The use of harvesting machines, headers, stubble mulchers hay bailers and track raking/chaining, other than clover harvesters, in the paddock being harvested/ mulched/raked or adjacent to the entrance of the paddock being harvested/mulched/raked, there are sufficient mobile fire fighting units, or;
- b. A minimum of 1000lt mobile fire fighting water must be available per harvest operations or minimum 400lt per other operations in same the paddock, and;
- c. The use of harvesting machinery or headers on Christmas Day and New Years Day every year, and;
- d. The use of Stubble Slashing/Mulching between 23 December and 2 January (inclusive) every year.

Use the QR Code, to be referred to the Shire's "Bushfire Information" webpage for:

- More details, examples and definitions.
- Application for Variation to this Notice.
- Fire Zones, Fire Weather & Brigade Maps.
- Registration to the Shires SMS service.