

Fire Control Notice 2020/21

Firebreak and Fuel Hazard
Reduction requirements



Shire of
Serpentine
Jarrahdale

Firebreak Notice

Please read carefully as these are your legal requirements.

This notice applies to all owners and/or occupiers of land within the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale.

Pursuant to Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* you are required to take action in accordance with this notice for the duration indicated in your category.

The following categories detail what you must do to comply, with no exemptions. Failure to comply may result in you being fined and/or Council entering your land to complete works at the owners expense.

This notice and information has effect **1 October 2020**. All previous Firebreak Notices are hereby cancelled.

By order of the Chief Executive Officer.

Definitions

Acre – 4047m² area of land.

Agricultural buildings – Any sheds or groups of buildings on agricultural zoned land.

Asset Protection Zone (APZ) – An area required to achieve a BAL-29 or less, measured from the outer edge of the building or as stated in your approved BAL assessment (within the boundaries of your land). Fuel loads in this zone may not exceed 2 tonnes per hectare.

Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) Assessment – A measurement of the buildings potential exposure to a bushfire, in accordance with Australian Standard 3959 – Construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas.

Firebreak – A strip of land that has been cleared of all flammable material, leaving bare mineral earth. This includes the trimming back of anything overhanging the fire break area. Mowed firebreaks are not acceptable.

Flammable material – Any vegetation (bushes, grasses, trees, mulch and green waste), object or material that is likely to catch fire.

Fire Management Plan (FMP) – A document forming part of a building, development or subdivision approval that sets out short, medium and long-term bushfire risk management strategies for the life of the development.

Fuel and vegetation storage – Storage of hydrocarbons and/or fuel dumps (containing fuel or not) including drums, piles or stacks and any other flammable material.

Trafficable – The ability for 4x4 vehicles to access your land on a firm surface without obstruction. No firebreak is to terminate without provision for departure to a safe place or a cleared turnaround area of not less than a 21m radius (prior written approval from the Shire is required).

You – Owner or occupier of any land within the Shire.

Vertical axis – An uninterrupted vertical line at a right angle to the horizontal line of the firebreak.

Your legal requirements

If you live on 1 acre or less

On your land:

- Cut all grass to less than 25mm in height and maintain until 31 May, 2021
- Trim all trees and bushes that overhang driveways, access ways and firebreaks to leave a 4 metre wide clearance and a clear vertical axis.

OR

Install firebreaks that are:

- Immediately inside all external boundaries.
- Immediately surrounding all agricultural buildings, sheds or group of buildings.
- A minimum of 3 metres wide, but not wider than 5 metres.
- Trim all trees and bushes that overhang driveways, access ways and firebreaks to leave a 4 metre wide clearance and a clear vertical axis

For your dwellings

- Maintain 20 metre asset protection zones or as per your approved BAL/FMP assessment.
- Trim back all trees overhanging buildings.

Compliance is required by 30 November and must be maintained until 31 May each and every year.



If you live on more than 1 acre

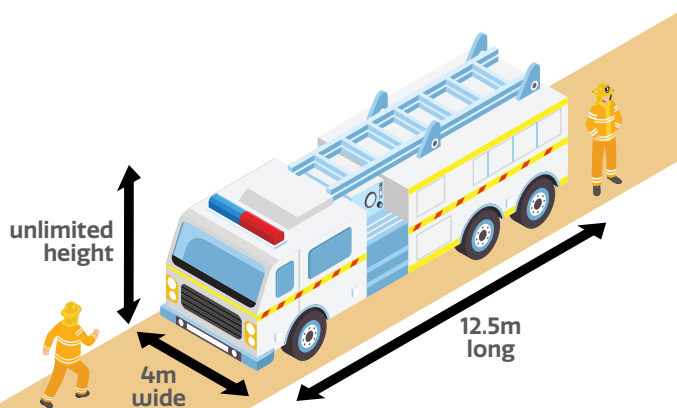
On your land:

- Keep grasses below 150mm or if used for grazing ensure rotation of grazed and un-grazed to prevent large fire run.
- Trim all trees and bushes that overhang driveways, access ways and firebreaks to leave a 4 metre wide clearance and a clear vertical axis.

Install firebreaks that are:

- Immediately inside all external boundaries.
- Immediately surrounding all agricultural buildings, sheds or group of buildings.
- A minimum of 3 metres wide, but not wider than 5 metres.
- For your dwellings
- Maintain 20 metre asset protection zones or as per your approved BAL/FMP assessment.
- Trim back all trees overhanging buildings

Compliance is required by 30 November and must be maintained until 31 May each and every year.



Can we fit?

To vary your firebreak

Apply in writing to the Shire from 1 June to 31 October requesting your variation and the reasons for your application. If approved all firebreak conditions will be as per your variation with a new notice being issued for your property..

If your variation is not approved or your previous variation is cancelled, you must comply with the Firebreak Notice requirements for your land.

You don't need to apply for a variation every year. Remember, variations are provided to the property owner, not the land.

To apply for a variation call **9526 1111** and request a Firebreak Variation Application Form. Further information, including key dates, is available at **www.sjshire.wa.gov.au/firebreaks**

Compliance is required by 15 November and must be maintained until 31 May each and every year.



For further information on firebreaks, including properties with plantations, storing fuel and haystacks and other flammable materials, hazard reduction, as well as FAQs, visit the Shire's website at www.sjshire.wa.gov.au/firebreaks



Bushfire prone areas

The Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner has identified Bushfire Prone Areas as being subject, or likely to be subject, to bushfire attack.

Around **97% of our Shire is declared bushfire prone.**

This means that additional planning and building requirements may apply to developments on your land. A Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) assessment and/or a Bushfire Management Plan may be required.

You can check if your land is bushfire prone on the Map of Bush Fire Prone Areas website maps.slip.wa.gov.au/landgate/bushfireprone

Contractors who can help

The Shire maintains a list of contractors that can assist you with:

- Firebreak works.
- Fuel hazard reduction works.

Visit www.sjshire.wa.gov.au/firebreaks

For assistance with:

- Bushfire Attack Level Assessments
- Fire management planning.

Visit www.fpaa.com.au/bpad

Before you burn

Before you commence the burn, you need to notify the Department of Fire and Emergency Services Communications Centre on **9395 9209** and the Shire on **9526 1111**.

Go to www.sjshire.wa.gov.au/burning to find out what you need to do while burning or if you're being paid to burn.

Burning

Fire Danger Rating (FDR)

The FDR tells us what the level of bushfire threat could be on any given day. The FDR is supplied daily by the Bureau of Meteorology.

You can find it at www.bom.wa.gov.au or www.emergency.wa.gov.au or by calling the Perth Weather Service on **9263 2222**.

When the fire rating is Very High, Severe, Extreme or Catastrophic:

- Campfires aren't allowed.
- Permits are automatically cancelled.
- No burning (including garden refuse) is allowed.
- You can't use any BBQ or cooker in the open air that requires solid fuel (wood or charcoal). This includes wood-fired ovens or stoves.



Burning periods

We have burning periods because risks vary depending on the time of the year. Burning periods define what is allowed during these periods of risk.

We may vary burning periods depending on weather and other conditions, so it is essential that you stay up to date.

You can find the latest on burning periods on our website www.sjshire.wa.gov.au/burning and Facebook page @shireofsj.

| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG |
| SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |

Prohibited burning period

All burning and fires are prohibited during this time.

Restricted burning period

No burning on Sundays and Public Holidays.
You can burn one 1m x 1m pile of garden waste without a permit under the conditions on the website.
You need a permit to burn grass, paddocks and bush.

Unrestricted burning period

Burning is allowed on any day.



Total Fire Ban (TFB)

TFBs are declared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services on days of extreme weather or when widespread fires are seriously stretching firefighting resources. TFBs are generally declared the evening before they take effect. To find out if a TFB has been declared visit www.emergency.wa.gov.au or tune in to 720AM on your radio.

When a TFB is declared it prohibits the lighting of any fires in the open air and any other activities that may start a fire.

The ban includes all open air fires for cooking or camping. It also includes incinerators, welding, grinding, soldering or gas cutting. For more information including exemptions visit www.dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans.

Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans (HVMB)

A HVMB, once declared by the Shire, prohibits all harvesting operations and all vehicle movements on a property (except for the essential watering of stock using a diesel powered vehicle).

HVMBs remain in place until midnight on the day called or until lifted (revoked) by the Shire.

A ban may be called on the basis of:

- Unfavourable fire weather conditions.
- Lack of firefighting resources due to existing commitments.
- Public holidays.

You can find out if a HVMB has been declared on the Shire's website www.sjshire.wa.gov.au and Facebook page or by tuning into 720AM on your radio.

Burning permits

If you want to burn grass, paddocks and bush during the Restricted Burning Period, you will need a burning permit. To apply for a permit call your local Fire Control Officer **at least 1 week before your burn**. They will assess your burn and issue a written permit (if approved).

Burning permits are only valid for the day or days written on the permit. If you have been refused a permit, you can't reapply for the same burn. Appeals to a refusal can only be lodged to the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer by emailing info@sjshire.wa.gov.au.

If you want to burn a Council road reserve or verge you need written approval from the Shire, as well as an approved permit from a Fire Control Officer. Contact us on **9526 1111** for more information.

Who to call for a permit

| Name | Contact |
|--|--------------|
| Byford, Darling Downs, Karrakup and Cardup (East of Hopkinson Rd) | |
| Frank Rankin | 9525 1146 |
| David Gibson | 0425 250 100 |
| Oakford, Oldbury (North of the rail line) and Cardup (West of Hopkinson Rd) | |
| Paul Williamson | 0439 994 803 |
| Mundijong, Whitby, Mardella (North of Lowlands Rd and Oldbury, South of the rail line) | |
| Steve Chadwick | 0419 983 838 |
| Jarrahdale | |
| Belinda Briscoe | 0427 474 809 |
| Serpentine (West of the rail line), Hopeland (North or Utley Rd, Punrak Rd and Wigg Rd) | |
| Ray Elliott | 0409 106 610 |
| Serpentine (East of the rail line) | |
| Don Downey | 0400 252 352 |
| Keysbrook (East of Westcott Rd) | |
| Scott Hambley | 0417 173 410 |
| Keysbrook and Hopeland (West of Westcott Rd and South of Utley Rd) | |
| Ken Elliott | 0419 860 010 |

Please only contact Fire Control Officers between the hours of 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday.

Remember you can only call the Fire Control Officer appointed to your area or call us on **9526 1111**.

For further information on burning permits, including tips, fines and penalties, visit the Shire's website at www.sjshire.wa.gov.au/permits

Be Bushfire Ready

Bushfire and Emergency Management Plans Assessments

Some properties need to comply with approved:

- Bushfire Management Plans.
- Emergency Management Plans.

These requirements are in addition to the requirements of this Notice.

Compliance is required throughout the whole year.
Find out more on our website.

Be prepared

Bushfires are unpredictable and happen every year with the single biggest killer being indecision.

To survive a bushfire you must be prepared to make your own decision, every minute counts.



When will you know to leave?



Where will you go?



Which way will you go?

More information on being prepared can be found at www.emergency.wa.gov.au and www.redcross.org.au/prepare

Alerts and warnings

During emergencies, alerts and warnings may be issued by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. You can get these warnings by visiting www.emergency.wa.gov.au or calling **13 DFES (13 33 37)**.



Bushfire Emergency Warning

Authorities have confirmed that you are in danger and need to take immediate action to protect yourself and your family. Leave now if the way is clear, or prepare to actively defend your home.



Bushfire Watch and Act

Authorities have confirmed that there is a threat or possible threat to life and/or property. Take action now to stay safe.



Bushfire Advice/Other Fires

An incident has been reported near this location. You need to be aware and keep up to date – act for your safety. Get prepared.



Prescribed Burn/Bushfire All Clear

An incident has been reported near this location. You need to be aware and keep up to date – act for your safety. Get prepared.

Do not wait to take action. If you see fire activity or smoke put your plan in place straight away.

Alerts, warnings, and fire ban information is broadcast on ABC radio (720 AM).

Prescribed burns

The Parks and Wildlife Service at the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions conduct prescribed burns throughout the year. Find out where these are occurring at www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/management/fire/prescribed-burning/burns or by calling **9219 8000**.

Important contacts

In emergencies call 000

Other important numbers

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| State Emergency Service | 132 500 |
| DFES Public Information | 13 33 37 |
| Main Roads WA | 138 138 |
| Western Power | 13 13 51 |
| ATCO Gas | 13 13 52 |
| Water Corporation | 13 13 75 |
| Telstra | 13 22 03 |
| RSPCA WA | 9209 9300 |
| Wildcare Helpline | 9474 9055 |
| DBCA Perth Hills District | 9290 6100 |



Shire of
Serpentine
Jarrahdale

- 🏠 6 Paterson Street
Mundijong WA 6123
- ☎ 9526 1111
- 📠 9525 5441
- @ info@sjshire.wa.gov.au
- 🖱 www.sjshire.wa.gov.au
- 📘 facebook.com/shireofsj
- 📷 instagram.com/shireofsj

Disclaimer: Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale does not accept any liability for loss, damages, or inconvenience caused due to any errors in the information provided.

This program is available in an alternative format on request by phoning 9526 1111.