



# Bush Fire Notice 2023/24

*The Shire is committed to your safety; please take note of the instructions contained within this notice. There are changes to the conditions of what actions must be taken by 31 October 2023, these changes will be enforceable for the 2023/24 fire season.*

*If you require any further information, please call a Fire Control Officer direct.*

*Graham Treasure*  
Chief Fire Control Officer – Shire of Wandering



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# Dates You Must Remember

Due to unseasonal weather conditions these dates may be extended or shortened. You must check with the Shire of Wandering for details

## RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD - PERMITS REQUIRED

1 October 2023 to 31 October 2023 inclusive

### CAMPFIRES AND BONFIRES PROHIBITED

Contact your Local Fire Control Officer for a permit

## BURNING PROHIBITED

1 November 2023 to 21 February 2024 inclusive

### NO BURNING AND NO FIRES

## RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD - PERMITS REQUIRED

22 February 2024 to 19 April 2024 inclusive

**NO BURNING WITHOUT A PERMIT  
CAMPFIRES AND BONFIRES PROHIBITED**  
Contact your Local Fire Control Officer for a permit

## BURN WITH CARE

20 April 2024 to 30 September 2024

### NO PERMIT REQUIRED

Note :Fire Danger Rating for a particular day can overrule permits

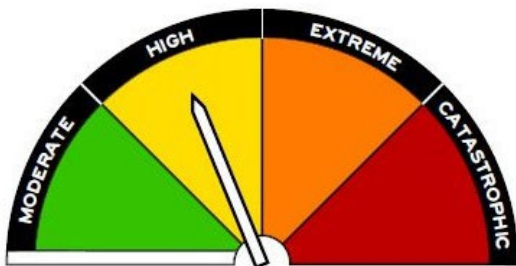
**BURNING PERMITS** can be obtained from your local Fire Control Officer. Please remember the Fire Control Officers are volunteers

– you may have to leave a message and they will get back to you.

**PLEASE PLAN AHEAD**, do not ring a Fire Control Officer on the day you want to burn and expect a permit, as it may not be granted. You must give notice to your neighbours and the Shire once the permit is granted.

**FIREBREAKS** must be installed before 31 October 2023 and maintained clear of flammable material.

**FOR ALL FIRES CALL 000**



Name/Colour	Fire Behaviour Index Range	Suppression difficulty
<b>MODERATE</b> (Green)	12-23	Most bushfires in this category. Fires typically suppressed with direct, parallel or indirect attack.
<b>HIGH</b> (Yellow)	24-49	Initial attack success critical to prevent large fire development. Defensive suppression strategies.
<b>EXTREME</b> (Orange)	50-99	Defensive suppression strategies. High levels of threat to life/property. Safety of firefighters and community paramount.
<b>CATASTROPHIC</b> (Red)	100+	Unsafe for firefighters and community. Without initial attack success, likelihood of very large fire development is very high. High probability of loss of life and property.

## During a Total Fire Ban

You must not light a fire in the open air or use any equipment in the open air that is likely to emit sparks.

This includes lighting wood fuel barbeques, pizza ovens or candles, and using angle grinders, welders or lawnmowers.

# Bush Fires Act 1954

## Shire of Wandering – Firebreak Notice

### Notice to all Owners and Occupiers of land within the Shire of Wandering

A firebreak is a strip of land that has been cleared of all trees, bushes and grasses (e.g. sprayed, ploughed, cultivated, scarified) and any other flammable material, leaving clear bare earth. This includes the trimming back of all overhanging trees, bushes, shrubs and other objects over the fire break area.

Firebreaks must be maintained clear of all inflammable materials during the restricted and prohibited burning periods

This notice advises what action you must take by 31 October 2023 and maintain through the restricted and prohibited burning periods. If you do not meet your responsibilities, you may be fined a minimum of \$250 and be required to meet the cost of Council's effort to make you comply with this notice.

#### 1. Properties in Blackboy Springs, Wandering Downs Estate and Properties Less Than 10 hectares:

Bare mineral earth firebreaks, not less than 3 metres wide, inside and within 20 metres of the road reserve.

Bare mineral earth 3 metre firebreaks around all buildings. It is recommended that all flammable material be removed for a distance of 3 metres immediately adjacent to all buildings.

**Are to have all flammable matter slashed, mowed or trimmed down by other means to a height of no greater than 150mm across the entire property (living trees, shrubs, plants and agricultural crops under cultivation are excepted) or approved stock management of pasture by Local Brigade Fire Control Officer**

#### 2. All other Small Rural Holdings with an area of 10 - 80 hectares or less:

Bare mineral earth firebreaks, not less than 3 metres wide, inside and within 20 metres of the entire boundary.

Bare mineral earth 3 metre firebreaks around all buildings. It is recommended that all flammable material be removed for a distance of 3 metres immediately adjacent to all buildings.

### **3. Combined Rural Holdings in the Shire of Wandering greater than 80 hectares:**

*Satisfy at least one of the following conditions:*

- i. **Have on stand-by an operational mobile fire-fighting unit of minimum 450 litre\* capacity. If you own more than one land holding in the Shire of Wandering, a minimum of one unit is required for the total land holding; or**
- ii. Bare mineral earth firebreaks, not less than 3 metres wide, inside and within 20 metres of the road boundary of all rural land held.

#### **You must also have:**

- i. Bare mineral earth firebreaks, not less than 3 metres wide, within 20 metres of the perimeter of all buildings on the land. It is recommended that all flammable material be removed for a distance of 3 metres immediately adjacent to all buildings; and
- ii. Bare mineral earth firebreaks, not less than 20 metres wide, around the perimeter of any bush exceeding 10 hectares in area prior to carrying out a clearing burn.

### **4. Town site land:**

- i. Clear, by burning, all flammable material likely to be conducive to the outbreak, spread or extension of a fire from the whole of the land; and/or
- ii. Maintain grass to a height not greater than 100mms.

### **5. Plantations (A clump of planted trees greater than 10 hectares in area):**

- i. Bare mineral earth firebreaks, not less than 10 metres wide, immediately inside all external boundaries of land.
- ii. Bare mineral earth firebreaks internal, not less than 10 metres wide, surrounding compartments of maximum area of 100 hectares.

**All properties will be inspected from 31 October 2023 to ensure they comply with these requirements. Failure to comply will result in an infringement being issued.**

# HARVEST, BALING & CHAFF CUTTING

- During harvest, baling and chaff cutting operations an operational mobile firefighting unit of minimum 600 litre capacity, must be near and an operational fire extinguisher must also be at hand.
- Rural property owners are urged to fit a 38mm male camlock coupling and check valve to their water storage tanks to allow easy access to water by fire fighters.

## HARVEST AND VEHICLE MOVEMENT BAN

Imposed by the Shire of Wandering

**HARVEST BAN LINE 6828 1802**

- A ban on harvesting and the movement of vehicles in paddocks (except for the watering, feeding and management of stock), is likely to be imposed by Fire Control Officers when the Shire's actual conditions dictate.
- The Shire of Wandering offers a free program that allows you to be notified by SMS message when Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans are imposed. Contact the Shire Office during business hours on 6828 1800 for details.
- Phone the Wandering Harvest Ban line on 6828 1802 for details and updates.

# TOTAL FIRE BANS

IMPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES (DFES)

Refer to [www.dfes.wa.gov.au](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au) for full conditions and restrictions for Total Fire Ban days.

## What does a Total Fire Ban mean?

It means a person **must not**:

- Light, maintain or use a fire in the open air, or carry out an activity in the open air that causes or is likely to cause a fire.
- The ban includes; hot works (welding, grinding, soldering, gas cutting), all open solid fuel fires for the purpose of cooking or camping, use of incinerators and other activities.

## When will a Total Fire Ban be declared?

Total fire bans are declared on days when fires will be difficult to control, are most likely to threaten lives and property, or when widespread fires are impacting the availability of resources.

The decision to put a ban in place is based on the weather forecast. DFES consults with the Bureau of Meteorology to determine when dangerous fire weather conditions are likely. DFES also consults with local governments that will be affected.

## How will I know when one has been declared?

You can check:

- The DFES website at [www.dfes.wa.gov.au](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au)
- By calling 1800 709 355
- By listening to ABC local radio and other media outlets.



# Hazard Reduction Program

To reduce fire hazards around your property:

- Chemical spraying of firebreaks and low fuel zones – final applications and maintenance.
- Prune Trees – prune well around buildings, remove lower branches and check that power lines are clear. Use a professional contractor if required.
- Reduce fuel levels around the house – clear long grass, leaves, twigs and flammable shrubs.
- Ensure petrol and other flammables are safely stored, away from the main dwelling.
- Make sure your fire-fighting equipment is in good working order and serviced where required.
- Make sure all residents of your property are aware of your emergency plan, including evacuation routes.
- Move woodpiles and stacked timber away from the main dwelling.
- Keep grass short.
- Clean gutters and roof debris.
- Install firebreaks in accordance with the Firebreak Notice.
- Water lawns, trees and shrubs near the buildings to keep them green.
- Re-check firefighting equipment, screens, water supplies, and that gutters remain clear.



- Make sure that the buildings are safe—fit wire fly screens and shutters, fill gaps in roof/wall spaces, fit fire screens to evaporative air conditioners and have them operable to provide a water only supply.
- Consider installing external building sprinkler systems and backup power for emergencies.
- Ensure the access to emergency water supplies has the correct fittings, is unobstructed and the route trafficable.
- Get basic training in firefighting from your local Bush Fire Brigade or even join your local Brigade.

### **Firebreak Contractors**

Land owners particularly absentee owners should not assume the contractor has undertaken all the work that is required to achieve compliance with the Firebreak Notice.

Regardless of any contractual relationship between the parties, the landowner remains legally responsible to ensure full compliance with the Firebreak Notice is achieved.

#### **Acceptable Firebreak**



#### **Non-Acceptable Firebreak**



## Prepare. Act. Survive.

Bush fires happen every summer; they can start suddenly and without warning. People have been killed or seriously injured, and homes destroyed in recent events in WA. If you live in or near bush, fire is a real risk to you and your family.

You need to understand the bush fire risk to your family and home, so you can make decisions now on what you will do if a bush fire starts. Fire fighters are preparing for the bush fire season and will do everything they can to make your community safe. Many fire fighters are volunteers and take time away from their families putting themselves at risk to support you and your family.

You need to help them by developing your bush fire survival plan and preparing your home to make it as safe as possible. Whether you choose to leave for a safer place or you choose to actively defend, preparation is the key to your survival.

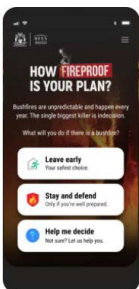
Information in this brochure will help you prepare your home, family and business develop a plan to act to make sure you survive. Before summer starts you need to decide what you will do if a bush fire threatens.

**PREPARE** your family, home or business – know your bush fire risk and have a bush fire survival plan.

**ACT** on the fire danger ratings – put your preparations into action, do not wait and see.

**SURVIVE** by monitoring conditions if a fire starts – know the bush fire warning alert levels and what you will do if you are caught in a fire.

For further information contact DFES on 1300657 209 or visit [www.dfes.wa.gov.au](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au).



## Download My Bushfire Plan App

Access your bushfire plan anytime - even without an internet connection.



# Council Recommendations

Council recommends that landowners consider these initiatives in addition to those that are mandatory.

- Perimeter Firebreaks be installed at Blackboy Springs and Wandering Downs
- Fit a 38mm male camlock coupling and check valve to water storage tanks
- All trees should be pruned away from buildings
- Ensure petrol and other flammables are stored safely away from buildings
- Keep grass short
- Keep gutters and roof clean and free from debris
- Fit external building sprinklers
- Consider back up power supplies
- Organise to have Shire SMS service to receive all fire announcements
- Keep emergency phone numbers in an accessible place



# Emergency Numbers

**FIRE, AMBULANCE, POLICE 000  
HARVEST BAN 6828 1802**

	Home	Mobile	VHF
<b>CHIEF FIRE CONTROL OFFICER</b>			
Graham Treasure*		0427841083	Wandering Town 2
<b>DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE CONTROL OFFICER</b>			
Tim Treasure*	98841569	0458653521	Wandering 5
<b>CODJATOTINE</b>			
<b>C</b> Dean Warburton*	98841063	0429884106	Codji 1
Brendon Hardie*		0428225350	Codji 2
Cameron Hardie		0428249799	Codji 3
Mark Browne*		0428877086	Codji 4
<b>HASTINGS</b>			
<b>C</b> Anthony Turton*	98877142	0428876042	Hastings 5
Brendon Hardie*		0428225350	Codji 2
Richard Bostock	98877004	0428280268	Hastings 1
Chad Ferguson	98841041	0427841041	Hastings 3
David Parsons		0429958932	Hastings 2
Adam Watts	98876023	0419949223	Hastings 4
<b>WANDERING TOWN</b>			
<b>C</b> Shaun Brand*		0429433452	Wandering Town 1
Graham Treasure*		0427841083	Wandering Town 2
Brad Hunt		0403110833	Wandering Town 3
Darren Hatton		0439993727	Wandering Town4
<b>WANDERING</b>			
<b>C</b> Tim Treasure*	98841569	0458653521	Wandering 5
Jon Hardie		0466662615	Wandering 4
Steve Watts*	98841051	0429887001	Wandering 2
Brook White		0409790367	Wandering 3
<b>SHIRE OF WANDERING CONTACTS</b>			
Chief Executive Officer		0448792049	Shire Base
Operations Manager		0429684217	Shire Base
*Indicates "Permit to Burn" Issuing Officer			
<b>C</b> indicates Brigade Captain			