

Firebreak notice

In accordance with Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, all owners and/or occupiers of land situated within the Shire of Exmouth are required to carry out fire prevention work **on or before the first (1st) day of October and thereafter up to and including the thirtieth (30th) day of April the following year** in accordance with the following requirements:

- Where the *land is 0.2 hectares (2024m²) or less*, all flammable material on the land, except living standing trees, shall be removed from the whole of the land by mowing or slashing to a height not exceeding 7.5 cm, chemical spraying (followed by slashing to a height not exceeding 7.5 cm) or other approved method by an officer of Council authorised for this purpose.
- If a property is *greater than 0.2 hectares (2024m²)*, *excluding the Wilderness Estate*, firebreaks of not less than 3 metres in width are to be constructed around and within 20 metres of the perimeter of each building, and on such lands so to completely enclose thereof with such a firebreak.
- If a property is located within the *Wilderness Estate*, firebreaks of not less than 3 metres in width are to be constructed around and within 20m of the perimeter of each building, and on such lands so to completely

enclose the building envelope with such a firebreak.

- In addition to the above firebreaks, you shall clear all flammable material from the whole of the land occupied by drums used for the storage of flammable liquid, whether the drums contain flammable liquid or not, including any land on which ramps for holding the drums are constructed, and an area outside the land so occupied to a distance of not less than (3) metres.

It is also recommended that the fuel loading throughout the property be reduced or removed completely so that a building protection zone is installed to provide a 'circle of safety' around your building, by pruning trees overhanging your building, removing leaf litter and, cutting long grass and dense scrub/bush.

Application to vary these requirements

Should it be impractical to comply with the above firebreak requirements, application may be made to Council, in writing, on or before next **Tuesday 15 September 2015**, to provide firebreaks in alternative positions or to take alternative action to abate fire hazards on the land. If permission is not granted by the Shire you must comply with the requirements of this notice.



THE PENALTY FOR FAILING TO COMPLY with this notice is \$250 (\$1000 being the maximum penalty). It should also be noted that if you fail comply with this notice, Council may, in accordance with Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, carry out the requirements of this notice and any costs associated will be forwarded to you.





Is my property at risk of bush fire?

9 September 2015

Firebreaks are just one way in which you can prepare your property from the risks of bush fires. However, it is important to understand the bushfire risk to your home, even if you are renting.

Fire fighting resources may not be there to defend your home during a bushfire incident. It is your responsibility to reduce the risks and take actions to survive a bushfire. You should prepare your home to survive the passage of a bushfire, even if your plan is to leave. A well prepared and constructed house is more likely to survive a bushfire than an unprepared one.

In a bushfire, houses often catch on fire from burning embers. Embers are small bits of burning bark and leaves that can be carried long distances by strong winds. Embers can enter your house through gaps in the roof, walls, evaporative air conditioners, windows and doors, and start spot fires in your garden. Embers can travel many kilometres ahead of a fire, so even if you are not directly threatened by a bushfire you may be impacted by embers.



Building Protection Zones

One way you can help protect your property is to create a circle of safety (building protection zone) around the building. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services offers the following tips when creating a circle of safety which can apply to every property:

- Create a 20 metre circle of safety around your home and other buildings by clearing all rubbish, long dry grass, bark and material that may catch fire.

Newsletter delivery information This newsletter is distributed to all PO Boxes in Exmouth, and is available for pick-up at the post office, shire offices and the Public Library. This newsletter and other information (for example grant information, upcoming events etc) can also be emailed electronically and via Exmouth Info. Send an email to cdo@exmouth.wa.gov.au to register your interest and let your friends know about this opportunity.

- Prune lower branches (up to two metres off the ground) to stop a ground fire spreading into the canopy of the trees.
- Clear vegetation along the boundary of your property to create a firebreak. Make sure you meet your local government's firebreak requirements.
- Cut long grass and dense scrub.



Reduced fuel in the building protection zone contributed to the survival of this home in a bushfire.

Camping and camp fires

A favourite pastime for many residents in Exmouth is to go camping and this activity traditionally includes the building of camp fires. It is important to note that from 1 October, a restricted burning period applies to the Shire of Exmouth district which means **camp fires are prohibited** in accordance with Council's policy. Keep this in mind as you plan your next camping trip as conditions for camp fires are not safe and lighting a fire could put yourself and others at risk.

For More Information

Please contact the Shire's Ranger Services on 9949 3000 or cesc@exmouth.wa.gov.au

