



# Bushfire Information



2011-2012

# CEO's Message



In the past year, the residents of Armadale have experienced one of the most devastating bushfires in the State's history. It has been through community spirit and working together that we have pulled through this traumatic ordeal. And still, the road to recovery continues for many in our community.

Living in a bushland setting is a lifestyle choice for many in our community. The benefits are enormous, but so are the risks. That is why we need to be vigilant and continue to work together to ensure we are a living in a safe and secure environment.

Because bushfire safety is everyone's responsibility. We all need to share that responsibility and work together to make sure that our property and our community is safe.

Please take the time to read through this booklet, it is a guide to help protect your home and the lives of your family. It explains ways of making your property less vulnerable to bushfire attack and will help you make the correct choices if a bushfire threatens.

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# DATES YOU MUST REMEMBER

## BURNING 1

PERMITS REQUIRED  
OCTOBER 1st TO NOVEMBER 30th INCLUSIVE

## BURNING PROHIBITED

DECEMBER 1st TO MARCH 31st INCLUSIVE

## BURNING 2

PERMITS REQUIRED  
APRIL 1st TO May 31st INCLUSIVE

IMPORTANT DATES	RUBBISH ON GROUND	BBQ	BUSH/GRASS
Oct 1st – Nov 30th	6 –11 pm	Yes	Permit Required
Dec 1st – Mar 31st	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited
April 1st – May 31st	6 – 11 pm	Yes	Permit Required
FIRE DANGER			
HIGH	Yes	Yes	Yes
VERY HIGH	No	Gas/Electric Only	No
SEVERE	No	Gas/Electric Only	No
EXTREME	No	Gas/Electric Only	No
CATASTROPHIC	No	Gas/Electric Only	No

DUE TO UNSEASONAL WEATHER CONDITIONS THESE DAYS MAY BE EXTENDED OR SHORTENED. YOU **MUST** CHECK WITH THE CITY OF ARMADALE RANGER SERVICES FOR DETAILS

FIREBREAKS **MUST BE INSTALLED BEFORE DECEMBER 1st 2011** AND MAINTAINED CLEAR OF FLAMMABLE MATERIAL UP TO AND INCLUDING MARCH 14th 2012

**FOR ALL FIRES RING 000**

# FIRE DANGER INDEX



- CATASTROPHIC** Total Fire Bans will be declared. Some fires will be unpredictable, difficult to control and move very fast.
- EXTREME** Total Fire Bans will be declared. Some fires will be unpredictable, difficult to control and move very fast.
- SEVERE** Total Fire Bans are likely. Some fires will be unpredictable, difficult to control and move very fast.
- VERY HIGH** Total Fire Bans may be declared. Some fires may be unpredictable, difficult to control and may be fast moving.
- HIGH** Fires can be controlled but there is still a potential threat.
- LOW** Fires can be easily controlled and are slow moving.

## During a total fire ban

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

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

**FOR ALL FIRES RING 000**



## BUSHFIRE READY GROUPS

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Bushfire Ready is a community driven program established by FESA in collaboration with local government to increase the resilience of the community to bushfire risk.

Bushfire Ready aims to build the community resilience by providing an opportunity for neighbours to network, share ideas and information and develop and implement strategies to reduce their bushfire risk.

In a dangerous bushfire, a fire truck may not be available to protect every home. This means residents and homeowners need to be responsible for their own safety.

The program is coordinated by a trained volunteer Bushfire Ready facilitator and supported by local Fire Services personnel. All Bushfire ready group facilitators are required to be a member of a Bushfire Brigade, Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service or Volunteer Emergency Service.

Local government in collaboration with FESA play a vital role in facilitating activities to reduce bushfire risk throughout the community. Engaging with the community helps people to prepare, act and survive during bushfire season.

**For further information about Bushfire Ready or to form a group in your area call 9323 9300 or free call 1800 199 084.**

# HAZARD REDUCTION PROGRAM

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## Autumn to Winter

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- Tree pruning – remove lower branches; check that power lines are clear. Use a professional contractor.
- 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 are aware of your emergency plan including evacuation routes.

## Spring

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- Move woodpiles and stacked timber away from the main dwelling.
- Keep grass short.
- Clean gutters and roof debris.
- Install firebreaks in accordance with this Firebreak Notice, your Variation to Firebreak Order or your Firebreak Management Plan.
- Chemical spraying of firebreaks and low fuel zones – final applications and maintenance

## Early summer

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- Water lawns, trees and shrubs near the buildings to keep them green.
- Re-check fire fighting equipment, screens, water supplies and that gutters remain clear.



## Long term precautions

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- Ensure firebreaks are prepared in accordance with the latest Firebreak Notice or any Variation to Firebreak Order or Fire Management Plan issued by council.
- Make sure that the buildings are safe – fit wire fly screens and shutters, fill gaps into roof/wall spaces, fit fire screens to evaporative air conditioners and have them operable to provide a water only supply.
- Give consideration to installing external building sprinkler systems and back up power for emergencies.
- Ensure the access to emergency water supplies has the correct fittings, is unobstructed and the route trafficable.
- Get basic training in fire fighting from your local Bush Fire Brigade or even join your local Brigade.
- Join or start a local Bush Fire Ready Group.

## FIREBREAK CONTRACTORS

As a service to Owners and Occupiers of land, within the district of the City of Armadale, Ranger Services maintains a list of contractors who may be willing to assist landowners comply with the Firebreak Notice. The City is not recommending any contractor, the list is made available simply as a resource to the owner/occupier of land.

The engagement of a contractor is an agreement between the owner/occupier and the contractor. Therefore it is for the owner/occupier to consider whether a contractor is suitable or otherwise and to satisfy themselves that the contractor has in place appropriate insurances applicable to the work they are requested to perform.

Landowners, particularly absentee owners should not assume the contractor has undertaken all the work that might be 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.

**FOR ALL FIRES RING 000**

## EVAPORATIVE AIR CONDITIONERS

Your evaporative air conditioning unit can catch fire from embers coming from bushfires or even small backyard fires that can happen in your neighbourhood. If a fire starts in your air conditioner, it can spread quickly throughout your home.

For further information on how to keep your property safe, contact FESA on 9323 9300 or visit [www.fesa.wa.gov.au](http://www.fesa.wa.gov.au)

## PREPARE ACT SURVIVE

**Bushfires happen every summer, they can start suddenly and without warning. People have been killed or seriously injured, and homes destroyed during bushfires. If you live in or near bush, fire is a real risk to you and your family.**

You need to understand the bushfire risk to your family and home so you can make decisions now on what you will do if a bushfire starts.

Firefighters are preparing for the bushfire season and will do everything they can to make your community safe. Many firefighters are volunteers and take time away from their families during bushfires.

You need to help them by developing your bushfire 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 kit will help you prepare your home, family and business and develop a plan so you can act to make sure you survive.

Before summer starts you need to decide what you will do if a bushfire threatens.

**PREPARE** your family, home or business – know your bushfire risk and have a bushfire 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 bushfire warning alert levels and what you will do if you are caught in a fire.

**For further information contact FESA on 9323 9300 or visit [www.fesa.wa.gov.au](http://www.fesa.wa.gov.au)**

**FOR ALL FIRES RING 000**

## BURNING PERMITS

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Residents are encouraged to remove and dispose of potential flammable material from their properties before the onset of summer. Where you must resort to controlled burning, then a permit is required.

### HOW TO OBTAIN PERMITS

Burning permits can be obtained from the City's Rangers Services between the hours of **3pm** and **4pm** on **Monday, Wednesday** and **Friday, or by arrangement on 9399 0111**. You may also make arrangement to obtain a permit from a Fire Control Officer (see telephone numbers on back page).

When applying for a permit you need to provide the lot number and street name of the property for which the permit is to apply.

### PERMITS ARE REQUIRED FOR:

- For burning of bush and grass at anytime between October 1st and November 30th inclusive and April 1st to May 31st inclusive.
- For burning small heaps of garden refuse outside the hours of 6pm and 11pm during the same dates as above.
- No permits are issued during the Prohibited Burning Period
- Permit holders are required to adhere to all conditions on the permit. Special conditions may apply.
- For permits (in residential areas) at all other times contact Health Services on 9399 0111.
- Even when a Burning Permit has been issued, no fire is to be lit when the fire danger rating is "VERY HIGH or above"

### PENALTIES

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|---|--------------|
| ■ Failure to maintain 3 metre firebreak.                | <b>\$250</b> |
| ■ Offences relating to lighting a fire in the open air. | <b>\$250</b> |
| ■ Setting fire to bush during prohibited burning time.  | <b>\$250</b> |
| ■ Failure of occupier to extinguish bush fire.          | <b>\$250</b> |
| ■ Refusal to provide name and address.                  | <b>\$100</b> |
| ■ Failure to produce permit to burn                     | <b>\$100</b> |

Major offences result in Court action with fines ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000 or imprisonment for fourteen (14) years or both.

## WHEN AND HOW TO BURN

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### FIRE DANGER

NO BURNING of any type is permitted, including incinerators, on days of VERY HIGH, SEVERE, EXTREME or CATASTROPHIC FIRE DANGER RATING.

**PLEASE CHECK WITH WEATHER  
INFORMATION SERVICE TELEPHONE 1196**

### DON'T FUEL FIRES

- Don't have thick vegetation right up to the walls of your home.
- Clear all flammable material from around houses sheds and fences.
- Store firewood, timber, petrol and kerosene well away from the house.
- Don't have flammable trees such as conifers near buildings.
- Clear all dead leaves out of gutters regularly.
- Remove dead trees and branches which, when burning, could drop on your roof.
- Remove rubbish regularly.
- Rake up leaves, twigs and dead material regularly.
- Burn off dry grass and vegetation at the approved times and in the approved manner.

### ADVICE IS AVAILABLE

Further advice on how to protect your home, also when and how to burn off is available from your local Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade or the City of Armadale Ranger Services.



## BUSH & GRASS ON ANY LAND

Burning of bush and grass is totally prohibited between December 1st and March 31st inclusive. For all other fires, permits are required between October 1st and November 30th inclusive and between April 1st and May 31st inclusive.

## HINTS FOR BURNING

- Don't light a fire on a hot and windy day.
- Don't try to burn more than you can control.
- Inform your neighbours
- Make sure smoke and sparks will not affect neighbour's washing or open windows.
- Cut or rake long grass around trees, building and fences before burning.
- Burn against the wind.
- On a sloping block, burn from the top down.
- Have a hose or spray pack to dampen down fierce fires.

## GARDEN REFUSE AND RUBBISH

Between October 1 and November 30 and April 1 and May 30 inclusive, small heaps (up to one cubic metre) of garden refuse may be burnt on the ground between 6.00pm and 11.00pm BUT ONLY AFTER a 5 metre wide fire break has been cleared around the fire and at least one able bodied person is in attendance at all times. Burning is PROHIBITED ON DAYS OF VERY HIGH, SEVERE, EXTREME or CATASTROPHIC FIRE DANGER RATING.

## HEALTH LOCAL LAW

The City of Armadale Health Local Law prohibits the burning of any rubber, plastic food scraps, green garden materials which cause the generation of smoke or odour in such quantities as to cause a nuisance to other persons.

## BARBEQUES & INCINERATORS

Gas and electric barbeques are permitted at any time in approved locations. NO garden refuse, wood, solid fuel barbecues or Webers are permitted to be used under any circumstance. ON VERY HIGH, SEVERE, EXTREME or CATASTROPHIC FIRE DANGER DAYS.

**FOR ALL FIRES RING 000**

# BUSH FIRES ACT 1954

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## City of Armadale

### NOTICE TO ALL OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS OF LAND WITHIN THE CITY OF ARMADALE

All property owners are required to have mineral earth trafficable firebreaks constructed in accordance with this notice by 30 November 2011 and maintained until 14 March 2012

Pursuant to the powers contained in Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, you are hereby required on or before the 30th day of November 2011 or within fourteen days of you becoming the owner or occupier of land should this be after the 30th day of November 2011 to install firebreaks and remove flammable materials from the land owned or occupied by you as specified hereunder and to maintain the specified land and firebreaks clear of all flammable materials up to and including the 14th day of March 2012.

### DEFINITIONS

“**FIREBREAK**” means a strip of land that has been cleared of all trees, bushes, grasses and any other object or thing or flammable material leaving clear bare mineral earth. This includes the trimming back of all overhanging trees, bushes, shrubs and any other object or thing over the fire break area.

“**FLAMMABLE**” means any bush, plant, tree, grass, mineral, vegetable, substance, object thing or material that may or is likely to catch fire and burn.

“**TRAFFICABLE**” means to be able to travel from one point to another in a 4X4 fire vehicle on a firm and stable surface, unhindered without any obstruction or getting stuck bogged or trapped.

“**VERTICAL AXIS**” means a continuous vertical uninterrupted line at a right angle to the horizontal line of the firebreak

### ALL AREAS OF LAND (within the City of Armadale) LESS THAN 5000 m<sup>2</sup>

Have the entire land clear of all flammable material by mowing, slashing or other means. All grasses are to be maintained below 5 centimetres in height and all trees, bushes, shrubs are to be trimmed back over driveways and access ways to all buildings to three (3) metres wide with a clear vertical axis over it to afford access for emergency services to all structures and points of the property

On any lot having an area of less than 5,000m<sup>2</sup>, the keeping of grass on the lot at all times covered by this notice to a height less than 5 centimetres will be accepted in lieu of clearing a firebreak.

### **ALL AREAS OF LAND (within the City of Armadale) OVER 5000 m<sup>2</sup>**

Install bare mineral earth trafficable firebreaks clear of all flammable material to a minimum of three (3) metres wide immediately inside all external boundaries of the land with all overhanging branches, trees, limbs etc. to be trimmed back to four (4) metres wide with a clear vertical axis over the firebreak area. Install bare mineral earth trafficable firebreaks to a minimum of three (3) metres wide immediately surrounding all buildings, sheds and haystacks or groups of buildings situated on the land, with all overhanging branches, trees, limbs etc. to be trimmed back to three (3) metres wide with a clear vertical axis over the firebreak area. This includes driveways and access to all buildings on the land

Installation methods may vary to suit your property environment, these may include, but not limited to ploughing, cultivating, scarifying, burning, grading, chemical spraying

If the requirements of this notice are carried out by burning, such burning must be in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Bush Fires Act.

### **MOWED FIREBREAKS ARE NOT PERMITTED**

### **HAZARD REDUCTION**

In addition to the provisions of this notice you may be required to carry out further works which are considered necessary by Council or an Authorised Officer of the City and specified by way of a separate written notice forwarded to the address as shown on the City of Armadale rates record for the relevant land.

### **APPLICATION TO VARY FIREBREAK REQUIREMENTS**

If it is considered impracticable for any reason whatsoever to clear firebreaks or establish other arrangements as required by this notice, you may apply in writing to the Council of the City of Armadale, or its duly Authorised Officers no later than the 1st day of November 2011 for permission to provide firebreaks in alternative positions on the land. If permission is not granted by the Council or its duly Authorised Officers you must comply with the requirements of this notice.

In some instances naturally occurring features such as rocky outcrops, natural watercourses or landscaping such as reticulated gardens, lawns or driveways may be an acceptable substitute for cleared firebreaks. This option must first be discussed with an Authorised Officer of the City, and approved by the Authorised Officer in writing

All firebreaks and other alternative arrangements allowed by the preceding parts of this notice must be established on or before the 30th day of November 2011 (or within 14 days of you becoming the owner or occupier should this occur after that date) and remain clear of flammable material up to and including the 14th day of March 2012.

## **COUNCIL DOES NOT ISSUE EXEMPTIONS TO THE FIREBREAK NOTICE**

### **DOES YOUR PROPERTY HAVE A FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

All properties with a Fire Management Plan approved as part of subdivision consent shall comply with the plan in its entirety.

**PENALTY: \$5000**

### **FUEL STORAGE**

On all land where fuel drum ramps are located and where fuel dumps, whether contained fuel or not, are stored, clear maintained firebreaks three (3) metres wide with a clear vertical axis over it, around any drum, ramp or stack of drums.

### **NO BURNING ON SUNDAY OR PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

Except when specifically authorised to do so for purpose of fuel reduction by a Bush Fire Control Officer (BFCO) appointed by Council under the provisions of the Bush Fires Act 1954, an owner or occupier of land shall not set fire to, or cause or allow to be set on fire, any bush, rubbish or refuse whatsoever on a Sunday or a day that is a Public Holiday.

### **PENALTIES**

The penalty for failing to comply with this notice is a fine not exceeding \$5,000 and a person in default is also liable whether prosecuted or not to pay the costs of performing the work directed by this notice if it is not carried out by the owner and/or occupier by the date required by this notice.

By order of the Council.

**R S Tame – Chief Executive Officer**

# EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**FIRE • AMBULANCE • POLICE 000**

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## FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS

### CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER

Mr. Brian L Watkins City of Armadale 9399 0111  
0419 912 515

### DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE CONTROL OFFICER

Mr. Robbie Van Uden 9397 5406  
0409 685 625

### ROLEYSTONE FIRE CONTROL OFFICER

Mr. Robbie Van Uden  
– Fire Station, Jarrah Road Roleystone 9397 5406

### BEDFORDALE FIRE CONTROL OFFICER

Mr. Gavin Fancote 9498 1836  
– Fire Station, Waterwheel Road Bedforddale 0448 083 871

### FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

Permanent Staff 9497 9046  
Volunteer 9399 5611

### RANGER SERVICES

9399 0111

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## BURNING PERMIT ISSUING OFFICERS

### ROLEYSTONE

Mr. Robbie Van Uden 9397 6095  
0409 685 625

### BEDFORDALE

Mr. Gavin Fancote 0448 087 871

### ARMADALE

Fire & Rescue Permanent Staff 9497 9046  
Fire & Rescue Volunteer 9399 5611  
Ranger Services 9399 0111

**City of Armadale**  
7 Orchard Avenue  
Armadale WA 6112

**Tel: 9399 0111**  
**Fax: 9399 0184**

**Web: [www.armadale.wa.gov.au](http://www.armadale.wa.gov.au)**

