

# Getting Fire Ready in 2021



Mansfield Shire



Barwite, Mansfield



## This year's fire conditions

The Fire Danger Period usually runs from November to April, the dates changing yearly. With a forecast wet spring leading into a long, dry summer, this year's fire conditions are again expected to be bad, *although possibly with a delayed start to the season*. Increased rain normally leads to increased grass growth. Information about the Fire Danger Period and declaration dates can be found on the CFA website: [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au)



## Property preparation



Cut grass near buildings - keep under 100mm high.



Remove weeds, leaf litter, green waste piles and flammable items near buildings. Minimise trees and shrubs near and over buildings. Clear or prune shrubs below tree branches.

For rural and rural residential allotments:



25m slashed or grazed area near buildings, including those on your neighbour's side of the boundary.



6m reduced fuel loading along property boundaries - as this might slow the fire or aid the fire response.



Early November

Property inspections start.



3 weeks after issue

Fire Prevention Notice works deadline.



Late November

Property re-inspections commence and ongoing.

## COVID-19 IMPACTS 2021

This flyer contains information about preparing your property ahead of the 2021-22 summer fire season. Council acknowledges the unusual challenges for landowners as they deal with COVID-19 restrictions.

Landowners who live outside the shire or are facing difficult circumstances may have limited ability to undertake normal maintenance on their property. Visit Council's website for a list of mowing and property contractors.

To discuss your situation, contact Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Officer on 5775 8555.



For more information: [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au) | [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au) | [mansfield.vic.gov.au](http://mansfield.vic.gov.au)

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## Property inspections

When the environment begins to dry out, usually early November, Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Officers inspect properties across Mansfield Shire for fire hazards.

Rural areas are the most likely to be threatened by bushfire and grass fires, however, residential and industrial landowners also have a responsibility to protect their property and adjoining property assets.

A **Fire Prevention Notice** is issued if a fire hazard is identified on your property. The Notice will detail works that are designed to reduce fire intensity and minimise ember or direct flame impact on your property or your neighbour's. After the due date on the Notice has expired, the property is re-inspected to ensure works are completed.

Non-compliance with a Fire Prevention Notice will routinely result in Council arranging for the works to be done, with costs recovered and an infringement notice issued (cost of notice \$1,817).

## Unable to carry out these works?

Contact Council on 5775 8555 to request an extension of time or visit the Council website for a list of garden and property maintenance contractors.



Contact Council if you see a fire hazard on a property that you consider requires attention.

Please consider all other options before removing native vegetation. It may be protected and usually requires a permit for removal or lopping.

You cannot clear vegetation from a property you do not own without consent from the owner. You do not require permission to mow along your roadside.

## Burning off

Until the Fire Danger Period commences it is permissible to burn off vegetation in areas outside of Mansfield Township Residential, Business or Industrial Zones. It must be safe to do so, properly managed and must not cause a nuisance.

To prevent unnecessary CFA Brigade call-outs, register your burn-off with CFA 1800 668 511 or visit [cfa.vic.gov.au/contact/register-your-burn-off](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/contact/register-your-burn-off)

Alternatively, green waste may be taken to the Mansfield Resource Recovery Centre for disposal (at a cost). See Council's website for operating days and hours.



Please also consider how you can help others in your local community with their planning and preparations.