

Getting Fire Ready in 2022/23



Mansfield Shire



This year's fire conditions

The Fire Danger Period usually runs from November to April. The Fire Danger Period and annual declaration dates can be found at www.cfa.vic.gov.au

The forecast for a wet spring leading into summer is likely to result in a delayed start to the fire season. High levels of grass growth are expected, causing an anticipated increase in grassfire conditions. Bushfires still remain a risk into the summer period.

It's time to prepare, or update, your fire plan. www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare

Stay informed during emergencies by visiting www.emergency.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 properties:



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 and fire prevention notices issued.



3 weeks after issue

Fire Prevention Notice works deadline.



Late November

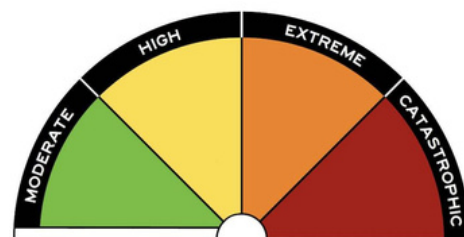
Property re-inspections commence and continue over the fire danger period.

New Australian Fire Danger Rating System is now in place

Fire Danger Ratings tell you how dangerous a fire could be if one started.

Ratings are important as they provide people with information so that they can take action to protect themselves and others from the potentially dangerous impacts of bushfires and grassfires.

The new Fire Danger Rating System will be used across Australia, so regardless of whether you're at home or travelling, you will see the same system being used.



MODERATE

Plan and prepare

HIGH

Be ready to act

EXTREME

Take action now to protect life and property

CATASTROPHIC

For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas



For more information: cfa.vic.gov.au | emergency.vic.gov.au | mansfield.vic.gov.au

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Property inspections

When local conditions begin 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 required to reduce fire intensity and minimise ember or direct flame impact on your property or your neighbour's property. 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 most often results in Council arranging for the works to be done, with costs recovered and an infringement notice issued (cost of notice \$1,849) to the property owner.

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 local garden and property maintenance contractors.



Photo courtesy of CFA

Cleaning up your property

Due to current protections, a permit is usually required to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation. Before removing any native vegetation, please seek advice from Council.

Consent must be obtained from the property owner before any vegetation is removed.

Permission is not required to mow along your roadside.

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

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

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.

Planned burns are conducted during autumn by Forest Fire Management Victoria, for information visit www.plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au