

FIRE SEASON READINESS 2018-19



MANSFIELD SHIRE

Preparing for bushfire is everyone's responsibility.



The Country Fire Authority (CFA) introduces fire restrictions or the **Fire Danger Period** for all private land in Victoria over the summer period each year. The **Fire Danger Period** start and end dates change yearly, but usually runs from November to April.

Information about the **Fire Danger Period** and declaration dates can be found on the CFA website: www.cfa.vic.gov.au

When the environment begins to dry out (usually late Spring), Municipal Fire Prevention Officers inspect properties across Mansfield Shire for fire hazards.

Rural areas are the most likely to be threatened by wild fire, however, residential and industrial landowners also have a responsibility to protect their property from the threat of fire.

The following timetable can be used as a guide for fire prevention preparations:

October:

Inspect your property. Winter rains and spring growth bring ideal growing conditions for grass. Remove all grass, stubble, and weeds to a height of not more than 10cm.

November:

Re-inspect your property. Conduct further fuel reduction works if necessary.

December – March:

Monitor your property during these critical months and continue to maintain your property.

Clearing and maintaining your property is easier and less time consuming if it is done on a regular basis.

For information on property preparation visit the CFA website:

www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/

Property preparation

- Grass and undergrowth near buildings to be kept under 10cm high
- Grass/weeds, leaf litter, green waste piles and flammable items near buildings must be removed.
- Trees and shrubs should be minimised near buildings and not overhang roofs.
- Prune shrubs away from tree branches

For rural and rural residential allotments:

- 25m slashed or grazed area near buildings including those of your neighbour
- 6m fuel reduced zone along property boundaries with no nearby infrastructure

Please consider all options before removing native vegetation which is protected in Victoria and usually requires a permit for removal.

If you need assistance with identifying native vegetation or understanding if your property has habitat for rare or endangered species, please contact Council's Environment Officer on (03) 5775 8555.

A **Fire Prevention Notice** will be issued if a fire hazard is identified on your property. The works required on the **Fire Prevention Notice** are designed to reduce radiant heat, fire intensity and ember attack and minimise direct flame impact on you or your neighbour's assets.

Non-compliance with a **Fire Prevention Notice** results in Council arranging for the works to be done at your expense and an infringement notice of 10 Penalty Units (currently \$1612) being issued.

Contact **Council** on **5775 8555** if you see a fire hazard on a property that requires treatment.

What else can you do to be fire ready?

- Educate yourself and family** about fire risks. Know where to get information.
- Decide now** and practice as a family how you will respond to high fire danger ratings and warnings. Are you equipped and fit enough to stay and do the work required or should you be planning to leave early? What will you do if you cannot leave?
- Prepare your personal emergency kit.** Include water, protective clothing, first aid, prescription medications, toiletries and sanitary needs, important documents and identification. You should have water and at least 1 woollen blanket for protection in each of your vehicles all summer.
- Prepare for your pets and stock too.** Will you take them and what do you need for them? Visit www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/care-and-welfare/pets-and-emergencies
- Know your neighbours** and their contacts. Work with them and your local community to plan, share your intentions, support each other before, during and after events. Update contact details for a local 'phone tree'.
- Display your street address number at your entry gate.** Contact Council for free numbering decals. The address numbers should be clearly visible as you approach along the roadside.
- Prepare for **power outages** as they often occur. Keep your **mobile phone** fully charged.
- Fire trucks are long, wide and high.** Is there enough clearance along your driveway if they are able to attend?

Properly managed burning of vegetation without a permit is generally allowed outside of Residential, Business or Industrial Zones **except** during the **Fire Danger Period** – check with Council **5775 8555**.

Planning a **burn off?** Be sure to register it on **1800 668 511**. or the CFA website. to prevent unnecessary CFA Brigade call-outs.

Green waste may be taken to the **Resource Recovery Centre** rate \$13 per m³ phone **0407 500 711**

The **10/30 rule** allows for vegetation removal without a permit **only** if your dwelling was constructed prior to September 2009.

It allows you to:

- * Remove all vegetation (including trees) from within 10 metres of your home.
- * Remove all vegetation (except trees) within 30 metres of your home.

You cannot clear vegetation from a property you do not own. Council can assist with negotiations.



VicEmergency

App: Download the free app and set up watch zones to receive official warnings for the areas that affect or interest you.

Web: www.vicemergency.vic.gov.au

Hot line: 1800 226 226

More information

CFA:

www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Council:

Phone: 5775 8555

Email: council@mansfield.vic.gov.au

Web: www.mansfield.vic.gov.au

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