

# FIRE SEASON READINESS 2019-20



MANSFIELD SHIRE

**Will you be ready?  
Preparing is everyone's responsibility.**



The Country Fire Authority (CFA) introduces fire restrictions for 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](http://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.

We routinely commence the inspections immediately after the Melbourne Cup long weekend

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

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

## **October:**

Prepare. Inspect and plan for your safety. Rain and spring weather bring ideal growing conditions for grass. Remove all grass, stubble, and weeds to a height of less than 100 mm.

## **November:**

Review your Fire Plans. Re-inspect your property. Finalise your fuel reduction works if necessary.

## **December – March:**

Monitor your property during these critical months and continue to maintain your property. Discuss your Fire Plan. 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/](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/)

## **Property preparation**

- Grass and undergrowth near buildings to be kept under 100 mm high at all times.
- 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.
- Clear or Prune shrubs away from tree branches.

For rural and rural residential allotments:

- 25m slashed or grazed area near buildings including those on your neighbour's land
- 6m fuel reduced area along property boundaries where possible as this will aid any necessary fire response.

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

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 your property 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 also an infringement notice of 10 Penalty Units (currently \$1616) being issued.

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

## Will you be sufficiently fire ready this summer?

- 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.
- Decide now** and practice as a family how you will respond to the different 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 (before any fire starts)? What will you do if you cannot leave because of the fire, a fallen tree or some other obstacle?
- Educate yourself and family** about fire risks.
- Know where to get information such as Emergency Radio Broadcasts
- Prepare your personal emergency kit.** Include water, protective clothing, first aid, prescription medications, toiletries and sanitary needs, important documents and identification such as a rates notice. 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.** If you need to leave, will you take them with you or have you prepared a safe holding paddock?  
[www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/care-and-welfare/pets-and-emergencies](http://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 create your plan, share your intentions, support each other before, during and after events. Update contact details or consider creating a local 'phone tree' to share information.
- Prepare for **power outages** as they often occur. Remember to keep your **mobile phone** well charged.
- Fire trucks are high, wide and longer than a car.** Is there sufficient clearance along your driveway if they are needed to attend?

**Until the Fire Danger Period commences,** areas outside of Residential, Business or Industrial Zones can generally burn off vegetation to remove a fire hazard without the need for a permit, but **only if it is safe** and if properly managed. Check with Council **5775 8555**.

If planning a **burn off**, to prevent unnecessary CFA Brigade call-outs, be sure to register it with CFA on **1800 668 511** or use their website.

Green waste may be taken to the **Mansfield Resource Recovery Centre for disposal** at the rate of \$13 / m<sup>3</sup> phone **0436 933 120**

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## Native Vegetation

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

You cannot clear vegetation from a property you do not own without consent from the owner



## VicEmergency

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

**Web:** [www.vicemergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicemergency.vic.gov.au)

**Hot line:** 1800 226 226

## More information

**CFA:**  
[www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

**Council:**  
**Phone:** 5775 8555  
**Email:** [council@mansfield.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@mansfield.vic.gov.au)  
**Web:** [www.mansfield.vic.gov.au](http://www.mansfield.vic.gov.au)

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