

FUEL REDUCTION AND FIREBREAK REQUIREMENTS

Town Site Land

Land Area of less than 2024m²

All hazardous material is to be removed from the whole of the land except living trees, shrubs and plants. The remaining vegetation is to be maintained to a height of no greater than 7.5cm. Maintain fuel loadings in natural bush areas at less than 8 tonnes per hectare across the land.

Land Area greater than 2024m² and less than 5 Hectares

Bare earth Firebreaks of not less than three (3) metres in width must be constructed inside the boundary or 3 metres outside the boundary. Where there is a road free of flammable material, applications can be made annually to the Chief Fire Control Officer for exemption.

Rural Land

(Surrounding Buildings/Haystacks/Fuel Dumps)

At least 20 metres wide and not more than 100 metres from the perimeter of all buildings and/or haystacks or groups of buildings and/or haystacks and/or fuel dumps so as to completely surround the buildings, haystacks and/or fuel dumps or so as to effectively surround the buildings, haystacks and/or fuel dumps which may be combined with strategic breaks e.g. roads, clear ground etc, with an effective cleared width of 20 metres.

Fuel Dumps

In respect of land owned or occupied by you, on which is situated any fuel dump, in addition to the requirements in previous paragraphs you shall remove all flammable materials or material likely to become flammable during summer from land occupied by bulk storage tanks and/or drums used for storage of liquid fuel whether the bulk storage tanks and/or drums contain liquid fuel or not. This includes the land on which ramps for holding the drums are constructed.

The flammable material free ground must be maintained to a distance of at least 3 metres outside the perimeter of any drum, stack of drums or drum ramp or bulk storage tank.

Burning of Chaff Heaps

The burning of chaff heaps must be conducted from 12:00am Monday with no further ignitions to take place after 11:59pm Wednesday. This is to ensure that all chaff heaps that have been ignited have been burnt down before Saturday reducing the risk of reignition over a weekend.

PERMIT INFORMATION

What do you require a Permit for during the Restricted Period?

- Campfires
- Burning green waste
- Paddock burning
- Burning chaff heaps

WHERE CAN YOU BURN?

You are able to burn within the boundaries of property that you own or lease. Burning is prohibited outside of the property boundary (including the road verge). Exemptions are available upon application to the Shire - for further information please call 9635 2700.

INCINERATORS

Incinerators can be used during periods of restricted burning although must have the correct spark and ember arrester installed and must meet a Compliancy Check. For further information, contact the Community Emergency Services Manager.

NON COMPLIANCE

The Penalty for failing to comply with this Notice is a fine not exceeding \$5000 or a prescribed penalty of \$250 on service of an infringement. Furthermore the person at fault is liable whether prosecuted or not to pay the costs of performing the work directed by this Notice.

HOW TO GET A PERMIT

Permits are available from:

Shire Administration Office – (08) 9635 2700

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer:

Ashley Burges – 0428 251 236

Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer:

David Beard – 0428 362 065

Please give adequate notice to issuing officers to ensure a permit is approved prior to your burning requirements.

The background of the right side of the page is a photograph of a large fire. A person wearing a hat is silhouetted against the bright orange and yellow flames. To the left of the person is a black diamond-shaped road sign on a post. The top of the image is partially obscured by a curved orange and yellow graphic element.

FIREBREAK NOTICE 2022/23

HARVEST VEHICLE MOVEMENT AND HOT WORKS BANS

The Harvest, Vehicle Movement & Hot Works Ban, once declared by the Shire, prohibits all harvesting operations, all vehicle movements on a property (some exceptions apply as below) and all hot works such as welding, grinding and abrasive tools within the Shire of Cunderdin and are issued under Bush Fires Regulations 1954 38A, 38B and 38C and where a Total Fire Ban is in effect, Bush Fires Regulations 1954 24C.

When a ban is declared, it is advertised on the Shire of Cunderdin Website, Facebook page and via the Shire's WhatsApp Harvest Ban List.

A ban may be called for the following reasons:

- Unfavourable fire weather conditions
- Depletion of firefighting resources due to existing firefighting commitments
- Public Holidays (Christmas, Boxing Day, New Year's Day, Easter Friday, Easter Sunday)

During a Harvest Vehicle Movement and Hot Works Ban the Shire permits:

- Vehicle movement on a road or driveway that provides the most direct safe access to or a parking facility at, any residential, farming or business premises, if the area has been sufficiently cleared of inflammable material to prevent the escape of fire.
- Vehicle movement for the purpose of prevention or attendance of an immediate and serious risk to the health or safety of a person or livestock where all reasonable precautions have been taken to prevent the use or operation from causing a bush fire – this includes, but not limited to, the presence of sufficient firefighting resources and use of diesel powered vehicles only.
- Vehicle movement involved in direct firefighting operations.

Restricted Burning Periods

The below dates may change due to seasonal fire conditions, in which case the details of the changes will be published locally and on Council's website.

Open Burning

No Permit Required

1st April 2022 - 19th September 2022

1st April 2023 - 19th September 2023

Restricted Burning

Permit Required

20th September 2022 - 1st November 2022

Prohibited Burning

Burning Prohibited

2nd November 2022 - 14th February 2023

Restricted Burning

Permit Required

15th February 2023 - 31st March 2023

Fire Break Requirements

As a measure for preventing the outbreak of a bush fire, or for preventing the spread or extension of a bush fire which may occur, all owners and occupiers of land within the district of the Shire are required, unless otherwise specified in this notice, before the 20th day of September in any year, to clear firebreaks or to take measures in accordance with this notice and maintain those firebreaks and measures up to and including the 30th day of April in the following year.

Simon Bell (CESM): 0448 008 653

TOTAL FIRE BAN

A Total Fire Ban (TFB) is declared on days when fires are most likely to threaten lives and property. This is because of predicted extreme fire weather or when there are already widespread fires and firefighting resources are stretched.

Occasionally TFBs may be declared outside of a fire season (such as in May or June) due to other factors such as higher temperatures and expected strong winds preceding a storm front.

On a Total Fire Ban day, it is illegal to light an open-air fire or conduct any activity that could start a fire. You can find the full list of prohibited activities on the DFES website. Some of these activities are prescribed in the Bush Fires Regulations 1954 meaning they can be carried out during a TFB, providing you comply with the conditions.

Businesses, public authorities or industries may be given an exemption for activities not prescribed in the Regulations, as long as conditions are met to ensure the activity does not start a fire. You can find more information about exemptions at www.dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans

What are the penalties for breaching a Total Fire Ban?

You could receive a fine of \$1,000 by police, local government or DFES for breaching a Total Fire Ban. Upon conviction, you could receive a fine of \$25,000 and/or be jailed for 12 months.

If you see someone acting in a manner that breaches a TFB, contact the relevant local government directly or via the Total Fire Ban Hotline (1800 709 355). If the behaviour is related to arson, report this to police immediately.

