

Burning of Garden Refuse

It is important to note under Section 24G (2) of the Bush Fires Act 1954, the burning of rubbish, refuse, vegetation or offensive matter is prohibited within the City of Melville, except where written approval has been issued by Health Services for the use of an approved incinerator unit.



For further information on keeping your family and property safe this fire season please contact the City of Melville on 9364 0666.

Or visit: www.melvillecity.com.au/firebreaks

Additional information can also be located by visiting Department of Fire and Emergency Services site at:

dfes.wa.gov.au

Bush Fires Act 1954



Fire Notice 2021 / 2022

Notice to all property owners and occupiers within the City of Melville.

Pursuant Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, you are required on or before the **15 November 2021**, or within fourteen (14) days of the date you become the owner or occupier of land situated in the City of Melville should this be after the 15 November 2021 and thereafter up to and including **30 day of April 2022**, to clear all flammable material, on land owned and/or occupied by you in accordance with the requirements of this Notice.

Failure to comply may result in a penalty of up to \$5,000

Correct preparation and planning is critical to keeping your family home and community safe this bush fire season.

In a bushfire, houses often catch fire from embers. Embers are small bits of burning bark and leaves that can be carried long distances by strong wind. They get into your house through gaps in the roof, walls, evaporative air conditioners, windows and doors.

Be prepared this summer and protect yourself and your family!

Here are some ways you can minimise potential fire hazards around your home and garden:

- Maintain a minimum of a two (2) metre gap between trees and buildings
 - Do not let trees overhang your house or shed
- Keep grass short and prune your shrubs and trees
- Remove bark and rake up leaf litter and twigs under trees
 - Keep your gutters free of leaf litter



All land which is 1,500 sqm or less in area;

- Whipper snip / mow / slash all long grass and weeds etc to a height no greater than 5 cm and ensure all slashed flammable materials are removed from the land. (Living trees and shrubs, plants under cultivation and green lawn are exempt)
- Remove all flammable material from any rooftops or gutters of buildings/sheds located on vacant properties.



All land which is greater than 1,501sqm in area;

- Construct a firebreak of a minimum width of 3 metres and height of 4 metres inside all external boundaries of the land, ensuring the firebreak is trafficable for heavy duty fire vehicle and contains no dead ends which may cause the spread of fire.
- Construct / Clear firebreaks of a minimum width of 5 metres and a minimum height of 3 metres around all buildings situated on the land.
- Construct / Clear firebreaks of a minimum width of 5 metres and minimum height of 3 metres in any place where flammable liquids and gas products are kept.
- Where that area of land exceeds 10 hectares, clear firebreaks of a minimum width of 5 metres so as to ensure that no area of land within the firebreak exceeds 10 hectares.
- Remove all flammable materials from all rooftops and gutters of buildings/sheds.



If for any reason an owner and/or occupier considers it impractical to clear firebreaks or comply with other fire protection measures in accordance with the Notice, the owner and/or occupier may apply in writing to the City of Melville no later than **31 October** for a variation. If permission is not granted in writing by the City or its authorised officer, the owner and/or occupier must comply with the requirements of this Notice. Any variation granted by the City will apply only for a **single firebreak period**. A variation granted by the City shall only remain in force until 30 April in the following year. Penalty for failing to comply with this Notice is a fine of not more than \$5,000 as well as the costs of performing the work directed in this Notice.



Definitions

“**Bush**” includes trees, bushes, plants, stubble, scrub and undergrowth of all kinds whatsoever whether alive or dead and whether standing or not standing and also a part of a tree, bush, plant or undergrowth, and whether severed therefrom or not so severed.

“**Bush fire**” means a fire or potential fire, however caused, and includes a fire in a building.

“**Bush Fire Control Officer**” means an Officer appointed by the City of Melville to exercise the powers and duties of a Bush Fire Control Officer appointed under Section 38(1) of the Bush Fires Act 1954.

“**City**” means City of Melville.

“**Owner or Occupier of land**” includes a prescribed department of the Public Service that occupies land or a prescribed State agency or instrumentality that owns or occupies land.

“**Dead end**” means a track, firebreak, road or access way that terminates without any means of escape or ability to turn around safely.

“**Firebreak**” means a strip of land 3 metres wide of mineral earth with a height clearance of 4 metres. This also includes the trimming back of all overhanging trees, bushes, shrubs and any other objects on or over the firebreak area.

“**Flammable material**” means any bush, plant, tree, grass, vegetation, object, thing or material (such as dried prunings / clippings, cardboard, wood, paper, general rubbish and any other combustible material) that may or is likely to catch fire and burn. Living trees and shrubs, living plants under cultivation and green lawn are exempt from being classified as flammable material.

“**Mineral earth**” means land clear of flammable material, consisting of ploughed or cleared soil, stone, hardstand or any mixture of these.

“**Trafficable**” means to be able to travel from one point to another in a fire vehicle on a firm and stable surface, unhindered without any obstruction that may endanger resources. The firebreak must not terminate without provision for egress to a safe place or a cleared turn around area of not less than a 21 metre radius. All corners around the firebreak must be radiused.