



Shire of  
**Katanning**  
Heart of the Great Southern

# **FIRE MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS 2023 – 2024**

**Please retain this document for your reference  
FIRST AND FINAL NOTICE**

To all owners and occupiers of land in the Shire of Katanning. This document constitutes the Shire of Katanning Fire Management Requirements (Bush Fire Notice) pursuant to Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 you are hereby required, on all land owned or occupied by you, as a measure for preventing the spread and extension of a bush fire, to plough, cultivate, scarify, burn, chemically spray or otherwise clear upon the lands Fire Access tracks (fire breaks) in such manner as set out in this notice.



**HELP STOP ARSON**  
Report suspicious  
activity to Crime  
Stoppers on  
**1800 333 000**

By order of the Council  
Julian Murphy  
Chief Executive Officer

# DEFINITIONS

**For the purpose of this Notice  
the following definitions apply:**

**Flammable Material:** Material that can be easily ignited, (i.e. - dead or dry grass and crops, leaves, timber, boxes, cartons, paper, plastic and other material or things deemed by an authorised officer to be capable of combustion) but does not include green growing trees, growing bushes or garden plants.

**CBFCO:** Shall mean the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer as appointed by the Shire of Katanning.

**DCBFCO:** Shall mean the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer as appointed by the Shire of Katanning.

**BFCO:** Shall mean the Bush Fire Control Officer as appointed by the Shire of Katanning.

**DBFCO:** Shall mean the Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer as appointed by the Shire of Katanning.

**CESM:** Shall mean the Community Emergency Services Manager Authorised Officer as appointed by the Shire of Katanning.

**RANGER SERVICES:** Shall mean the Authorised Officer appointed by the Shire of Katanning.

**Total Fire Bans (TFB):** Total Fire Bans are the bans imposed by the Minister for Emergency Services or his/her representative on days of severe or catastrophic fire hazards.

**Burning of Garden Refuse:** Means lighting or use of a fire in the open air for the purpose of destroying garden refuse. One cubic metre or less, is referred to as a garden refuse.

**Fire & Rescue District:** The area covering the Katanning town site. Fire & Rescue Services are responsible for all fires within this gazette district. The Shire of Katanning is directly responsible for the issuing of Fire Permits.

**Fire Break:** Where referred to anywhere in this notice means an area of land which must be kept and maintained void of all trees, bushes and grasses (living or dead) for the whole of the compliance period.

**Risk Mitigation Measures:** Efforts taken to reduce either the probability or consequence of a threat.

**Shire Officer:** As appointed by Council under Section 38 of the Bushfires Act 1954 being the CESM, CBFCO, DCBFCO, BFCO and Ranger.

**PPC:** Personal Protective Clothing.

**PPE:** Personal Protective Equipment e.g. gloves and goggles.

## SUBURBAN AND RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS

### **RESIDENTIAL LOT CLEARING:**

If the area of the land is 2023m<sup>2</sup> (approximately ½ acre) or less, remove flammable material on the land except living standing trees from the whole of the land by **1 November 2023** by one of the following methods and with all other associated conditions mentioned above to apply:

ploughing, cultivating, scarifying, chemical spraying, mowing, burning or any other approved method. Mowed grass to be no higher than 100mm.

Where residential zoned land exceeds 2023m<sup>2</sup> (approximately ½ acre), in addition to the grass height above, a 2.5 metre wide firebreak immediately inside and along all external boundaries is required.

## RURAL RESIDENTIAL, RURAL LAND, RURAL SMALL HOLDINGS, OUTSIDE THE TOWN BOUNDARY

**Firebreaks shall** be installed on Rural Land at least 10 metres wide around the perimeter of any homestead building (excluding isolated non-flammable buildings), haystacks (within 100 metres of any building) or group of structures or installations and are to be cleared to the satisfaction of the Shire Officer. In addition, you may be required to carry out further works which may be deemed necessary by the Shire Officer and specified by way of a separate written notice forwarded to the address as shown on the Shire of Katanning rate records for the land. In some instances naturally occurring features such as rocky outcrops, natural water courses or landscaping such as reticulated gardens, lawns or driveways may be an acceptable substitute for cleared firebreaks. This option must first be discussed with and approved by the Shire Officer.

All properties within the **Moojebing Heights** subdivision are to ensure compliance with the additional requirements of the Fire Management Plan dated April 2008.

Council will establish fire breaks at strategic points at its discretion or on a Risk Base Assessment on land it manages.

## RURAL RESIDENTIAL AND RURAL LAND AND RURAL SMALL HOLDINGS WITHIN KATANNING AND PINWERENING TOWNSITES

Must have a 2.5 metre wide firebreak immediately inside along all external boundaries. Grass to be no higher than 100mm. Living standing trees, remnant vegetation, maintained gardens and natural bush are exempt. Where multiple blocks of land are grouped together, a perimeter 2.5 metre firebreak encompassing all land will be considered subject to an application for variation.

All properties within the **Illareen Subdivision** are to comply with this standard and the additional requirements of the Illareen Fire Management Plan dated 2019 Version 1.1.

All firebreaks as designated above must be prepared on or before **1 November 2023** or within 14 days of becoming the owner or occupier should this be after that date and maintained clear of flammable material up to and including 30 April 2024.

# DEFINITIONS

# SUBURBAN AND RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS

## **Application to Vary the Above Requirements**

If it is considered to be impracticable for any reason whatsoever to meet requirements as required by this notice, you may apply to the Shire of Katanning no later than **1 October 2023**, for permission to provide alternative risk mitigation measures on the land. If permission is not granted by the Shire you must comply with the requirements of this notice.

**If the requirements** of this notice are carried out by burning, such burning must be in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Bush Fires Act.

**The Penalty for failing to comply** with this notice will be in accordance with the Bushfires Act 1954, and a person in default is also liable, whether prosecuted or not, to pay the costs of performing the work directed in this notice if it is not carried out by the owner and/or occupier by the date required by this notice.

## **NUISANCE SMOKE**

It is an offence under the Health Act 1911 to create nuisance smoke. If planning to burn, please consider your neighbours, other properties that may be affected and the condition and type of materials to be burnt. It is important to ensure that smoke does not disrupt traffic on roads.

## **BURNING OF BUSH AND GRASS ON ANY LAND**

Burning of bush and grass is totally prohibited between 1 November and 14 February inclusive (Prohibited Burning Period). Permits are required between 1 October inclusive and 31 October inclusive and between 15 February and 30 April inclusive (Restricted Burning Periods).

## **PERMITS TO BURN**

Under the Bush Fires Act 1954, it is an offence to light fires during the Prohibited and Restricted Burning Times, except in certain circumstances. All burning during the Restricted Burning Period requires a Permit.

# **HAZARD REDUCTION PROGRAM**

## **Autumn to Winter (May-August)**

- Tree pruning – remove lower branches, check that power lines are clear. Use a professional contractor.

- Reduce fuel levels around the house, clear long grass, leaves, twigs and flammable shrubs.
- Ensure petrol and other flammables are safely stored away from the main dwelling.
- Accommodation providers must make sure all guests are aware of emergency plan, including evacuation routes.

### **Spring (September – November)**

- Move wood piles and stack timber away from the main dwelling.
- Keep grass short.
- Install firebreaks in accordance with this Fire Management Requirements.

### **Summer (November – May)**

- Water lawns, trees and shrubs near buildings to keep green.
- Recheck fire-fighting equipment, screens, water supplies and that gutters remain clear.

### **Long Term precautions**

- Make sure that buildings are safe – fit wire screens and shutters, fill gaps into roof/wall spaces, fit fire screens to evaporative air conditioners and have them operable to provide a water supply.
- Give consideration to installing external building sprinkler systems and backup power for emergencies.
- Ensure that access to emergency water supplies has the correct fittings, is unobstructed and trafficable.
- Get basic training in fire-fighting by contacting the Shire of Katanning.

### **Hints for Burning:**

- Don't light a fire on a hot or windy day.
- Don't try to burn more than you can control.
- Inform your neighbours.
- Make sure smoke and sparks will not affect neighbour's washing or open windows.
- Cut or rake long grass around trees, buildings and fences before burning.
- Burn against wind.
- On a sloping block, burn from the top down.
- Have a hose or spray pack to dampen down fire intensity.
- Extinguish fire by midnight.

### **PRIVATE PROPERTY**

Wood and solid fuel barbecues shall only be used where they are enclosed and all flammable material in a 5m radius is cleared. Check the Fire Danger Rating for the day as this will determine if you can light a fire.

### **BBQs and Incinerators**

Gas and electric barbecues are permitted at any time. Solid fuel barbecues and incinerators are **prohibited on set days, please check.**

**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS NOTICE IS REQUIRED  
BY 1 NOVEMBER EACH YEAR AND IS TO BE  
MAINTAINED UNTIL 30 APRIL EACH YEAR OR  
AS OTHERWISE GAZETTED**



**Non – compliance**



**Complying**



**Compliant**

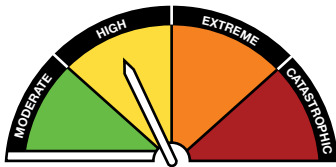
Take notice, that pursuant to section 33(4) of the Bush Fires Act, where the owner or occupier of land who has received this Notice fails or neglects to comply with the requisitions of the Notice within the time specified, the Shire of Katanning may, by its officers, vehicles and machinery as the officers deem fit, enter upon the land and carry out the requisitions of the Notice which have not been complied with and pursuant to section 33(5) of the Bush Fires Act, the amount of costs and expenses incurred may be recovered from you as the owner or occupier of the land. The penalty for failing to comply with this notice is a fine not exceeding \$5000 and the person in default is also liable, whether prosecuted or not, to pay the costs of performing the work directed in this Notice if it is not carried out by the owner or occupier by the date required by this Notice. If the requirements of this Notice are carried out by burning, such burning must be in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Bush Fires Act.

It is not necessary for council to notify property owners or give prior warning that legal action may proceed for failing to comply with the requirements of this notice.

**Please contact the Shire Office for a list of Contractors  
for the area who have registered their business with  
the Shire.**

# FIRE DANGER RATING

The Australian Fire Danger Ratings (AFDRS) levels are:



**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

Name/Colour	Fire Behaviour Index Range	Suppression difficulty
<b>MODERATE (Green)</b>	12-23	Most bushfires in this category. Fires typically suppressed with direct, parallel or indirect attack.
<b>HIGH (Yellow)</b>	24-49	Initial attack success critical to prevent large fire development. Defensive suppression strategies.
<b>EXTREME (Orange)</b>	50-99	Defensive suppression strategies. High levels of threat to life/property. Safety of firefighters and community paramount.
<b>CATASTROPHIC (Red)</b>	100+	Unsafe for firefighters and community. Without initial attack success, likelihood of very large fire development is very high. High probability of loss of life and property.

- The Fire Danger Rating gives you advice about the level of bushfire threat on any given day. It is based on the forecast weather conditions.
- The higher the rating, the more likely people may die or be injured during a fire.
- Consider in your bushfire survival plan if your actions will change at different Fire Danger Rating categories.

## TOTAL FIRE BAN:

When a TFB is declared the lighting of any fire in the open air is prohibited. The ban includes all open fires for the purpose of cooking and camping.

A Total Fire Ban prohibits other activities for further information please refer to the DFES Website.

## TOTAL FIRE BAN PENALTY:

A fine of up to \$25,000 or imprisonment for 12 months or both.

# FIRE DANGER RATING

## **HARVEST AND VEHICLE MOVEMENT BANS**

The Shire of Katanning may impose a Vehicle Movement and/or Harvest Ban due to dangerous fire weather conditions or if there are bush fires already burning. When imposed, any operation of machinery involved in harvesting crops, or other produce **MUST** come to a stop.

### **ANY BAN WILL BE COMMUNICATED VIA ABC LOCAL RADIO, SMS AND THE BUSH FIRE BRIGADES RADIO NETWORK**

Farmers and personnel from relevant industries may subscribe to the Shire of Katanning SMS Service for the communication of Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban information. Some activities may continue during a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban at sites approved by and registered with the Shire. For more information, please contact the Shire of Katanning or your local FCO.

## **REGISTRATION FOR SMS NOTIFICATION OF HARVEST & MOVEMENT BANS**

Telephone your name, organisation and mobile number to the Shire of Katanning, 08 9821 9999.

**Listen to ABC Radio on 558 or 630AM. At the time of printing, broadcasting times are: 10:05am, 12:35pm and 14:05pm. These times are subject to change.**

## **Regulation 38A – Harvesting, Swathing/Baling of Stubble, Track Chaining and any works to do with the Stubble Pasture Management during the Restricted and Prohibited Burning Period:**

**Conditions:** A person shall not operate or suffer the operation of a grain harvesting machine, or any machine used for swathing, baling or slashing of stubble, track chaining, and any works to do with the Stubble Pasture Management during the Restricted Burning Period and Prohibited Burning Period on any land within the Shire of Katanning except in accordance with the following specified condition:

**Specified condition:** No person shall operate grain harvesting machinery as stated above on any land unless a mobile and operational firefighting unit, having a water capacity of at least **500 litres**, is situated in or immediately adjacent to the paddock where harvesting operations are being conducted.

**Penalties: An infringement of \$250.00. A penalty of up to \$5000.00.**

The recommended minimum standards for fire unit requirements are based on property size as follows:

- (i) 50-1000ha - Light Duty Unit. One tonne utility either 2WD or 4WD. 500 litre water capacity.
- (ii) 1000 to 2500ha - Medium Duty Unit. Light truck either 2WD or 4WD. 2500 litre water capacity.
- (iii) 2500 + ha - Heavy Duty Unit. 6 tonne capacity truck, preferably diesel. 4000 litre water capacity.
- (iv) All units are to be fully operational and ready to go at all times during the Prohibited Burning Period.

# **BURNING INFORMATION**

## **Agricultural Burning**

**The following dates are when selected burning may commence under a Permit:**

Canola Windrows from 1 March

Cereal Windrows from 15 March

Chaff Heaps from 15 March

Stubble from 1 April

No timber to be burnt during the October restricted burning period.

Timber Heaps burnt over Winter are to be pushed out before the Prohibited Burning Period.



Before obtaining a **Permit** the following points need to be addressed:

What size is the burn area?

What is the location of the burn?

What are you burning?

Are there breaks in place around the burn area?

Notification to neighbours before burn commences.

## **TRAILER MOUNTED FIRE UNITS AND CHASER BINS WITH FIRE UNITS**

For safety reasons they are not acceptable as your only or primary fire unit.

**Therefore are not to be taken to a fire incident.**

## **PERMITS TO BURN**

Under the Bush Fires Act 1954, it is an offence to light fires during the Prohibited Time.

**During the Restricted Burning Time, permits to burn are required.** These may be obtained from the Local Volunteer Fire Control Officer for your area or the Shire of Katanning if the property is within the Fire & Rescue District.

<b>RESTRICTED</b>	<b>PROHIBITED</b>	<b>RESTRICTED</b>
PERMIT REQUIRED		PERMIT REQUIRED
1 October to 31 October	1 November to 14 February	15 February to 30 April

## **WHEN TO OBTAIN A PERMIT**

1. For burning of bush, grass and garden waste at any time between 1 October and 31 October inclusive and 15 February and 30 April inclusive.
2. For carrying out **protective burning** around dwellings and buildings pursuant to Section 23 of the Bush Fires Act to the 15 November inclusive.
3. Sunday burning is discouraged.

**These times may be varied by the Shire of Katanning depending on seasonal conditions. Changes will be publicised in local papers and on the Shire of Katanning Facebook Page and Website.**

 ABC Emergency



## **MAJOR INCIDENTS**

**Information to the community from the Incident Controller will be broadcast regularly on the ABC Radio on 558AM or available on [emergency.wa.gov.au](http://emergency.wa.gov.au)**

**\*Remember this Ratio = 1 metre of flame height requires 4 metres of distance to escape radiant heat**

# **BURNING INFORMATION**

# BUSH FIRE BRIGADE CONTACT DETAILS

**COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICE MANAGER #**  
**CINDY PEARCE: Mobile 0417 071 567**

**RANGER SERVICES: Mobile 0409 891 645**

**# Highlights Officers that are able to issue Permits to Burn**

## VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADES

### Katanning Fire & Rescue (Town)

<b>Captain</b>	Chris Brooks	0409 873 797
<b>First Lieutenant</b>	Steve Brooks	0408 760 486

## RURAL VOLUNTEER BUSHFIRE BRIGADES

### Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Matthew Kitchen #	0427 976 960
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### Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer

Norm Flugge #	0427 984 446
Tim Harris #	0428 580 678

### Chief Fire Weather Officer

Richard Marshall #	0429 904 130
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### Deputy Fire Weather Officers

Ben Kowald	0424 528 520
Tim Harris #	0428 580 678

### **Carrolup FCO**

Steve Conning #	0428 141 565
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### **DFCOs**

Ian Coleman #	0429 955 778
Alan Wilson	0427 772 142
Chris Quartermaine	9821 4937
Barry Kowald #	0427 214 553
Ben Kowald	0407 384 097
Ben Kowald	0424 528 520
Geoff Stade #	0428 211 551

### **Central FCO**

Kim Kowald #	0438 337 708
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### **DFCO**

Alistair Dusting	0417 185 147
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### **Badgebup FCO**

Tim Harris #	0428 580 678
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### **DFCOs**

Peter Caldwell	0428 235 006
Norman Flugge	0427 984 446
Tim Clegg #	0427 771 938
Richard Marshall #	0429 904 130

### **Merrebin FCOs**

Greg Garlick #	0428 211 851
Ian Knapp #	9822 7037
	0427 215 635

### **DFCOs**

Matthew Kerin #	0429 376 593
Jeff Baxter	0428 528 840
Mark Sullivan	0427 227 094

**A FIRE CONTROL OFFICER HAS THE AUTHORITY UNDER THE BUSH FIRES ACT 1954 TO HALT ANY ACTIVITY OR OPERATION THAT THEY DEEM AS HAZARDOUS AND LIKELY TO START A FIRE.**

## **Fire Attendance**

All Brigade members attending a fire must check the following:

- CH5 UHF
- That adequate PPC and PPE is worn
- That any slip-on unit is bolted securely to the tray of the vehicle
- That the Incident Controller for the fire is aware of your presence at the fire
- That All Work Health and Safety procedures are followed.

**You are responsible for your own  
FIRE PROTECTION**

## **The Biggest Penalty Of All**

Standing in the wreckage of your home knowing the smouldering mess is **your** fault because **you** didn't take proper precautions.

**For additional bush fire safety  
information, please visit**

**[www.emergency.wa.gov.au](http://www.emergency.wa.gov.au)**

**BUSH FIRE BRIGADE  
CONTACT DETAILS**

MAGNET



Shire of  
**Katanning**  
Heart of the Great Southern

**SHIRE OF KATANNING**  
52 Austral Tce  
**KATANNING WA 6317**  
Phone: 9821 9999

Web: [www.katanning.wa.gov.au](http://www.katanning.wa.gov.au)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ShireOfKatanning>

For incident information and bush fire safety information, please visit: [emergency.wa.gov.au](http://emergency.wa.gov.au)

Volunteers make up the Bush Fire Brigades in the Shire of Katanning. Help to provide a safer community by becoming an active member of your brigade. For more information, call your local brigade or the Shire of Katanning. Emergency Services in the Shire are also seeking volunteers for a range of support roles and we welcome your inquiry.