



# Fire preparedness and firebreak requirements



# What are your firebreak requirements?

Land owners and residents in the City of Stirling are required to ensure their property meets the City's requirements from 1 November until 31 March annually to reduce the risk of fire in the community.

## 1. Where the area of the land is less than 2,000 square metres

- Prune trees and shrubs and remove all flammable matter from the whole land (except living trees).
- Slash/mow all grass to a height no greater than five (5) centimetres.
- Ensure the roofs, gutters, and walls of all buildings on the land are free of flammable material.

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## 2. Where the area of the land is greater than 2,000 square metres

- Install a continuous firebreak of four (4) metres wide and a minimum of four (4) metres vertical from ground level around all structures and along all external boundaries of the land.
- Firebreak to be clear of all bush and flammable material.
- Ensure the roofs, gutters, and walls of all buildings on the land are free of flammable material.

'Flammable material' includes any bush, plant, tree, grass, vegetation, object, thing, or material that may or is likely to catch fire and burn. It does not include green standing trees, growing bushes, and plants in gardens and/or lawns – unless deemed otherwise by the City.

**Failure to comply with the firebreak requirements may result in penalties of up to \$5,000.** The City will also arrange the remedial works required and will recover those costs from the property owner.

# How to be firebreak compliant

## Manual clearing

Roofs, gutters and walls of all buildings are to be cleared of any flammable materials which could catch fire and burn. Trees and shrubs should be pruned – flammable materials should not be stored within four metres of any structure or fence line.

## Variations to notice

If it is considered impracticable to clear a firebreak or to remove flammable material from the land as specified by this notice, an application to vary or take alternative action to mitigate the fire hazard may be made in writing to the City of Stirling prior to **31 October**. Until written permission is received from the City, compliance with this notice is required.



Ensure all gutters, roofs and walls are cleared of any flammable materials.



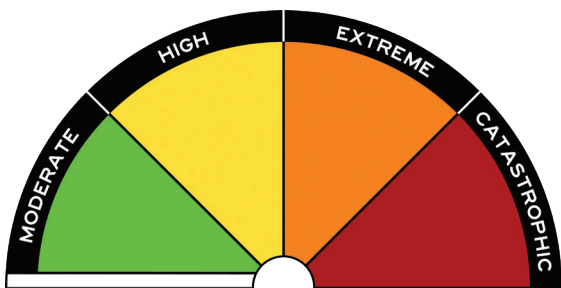
# Restrictions

## Backyard burning

Backyard burning, burning refuse or waste, and the use of incinerators are banned at all times within the City of Stirling without written authorisation.

## Barbeques

Solid fuel BBQs (wood stoves etc) can only be used on days with a moderate fire rating, and must only be used for the purpose of cooking and cannot be used to burn refuse or waste.



*Fire Danger Rating (Updated 2022)*

## Total Fire Bans

Total Fire Bans may be declared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) – they will be advertised in local media, press, radio, television, and online at [www.emergency.wa.gov.au](http://www.emergency.wa.gov.au)

No fires are permitted when a Total Fire Ban is in place. This also includes Hot Work, off-road activity, the use of tools powered by an internal combustion engine or which create sparks.

**Please be aware that infringements may be issued according to the *Bush Fires Act 1954* or prosecution may commence as a result of non-compliance.**

# Fire preparedness checklist

Tear-off this page and place it on your fridge to set yourself reminders during the fire season.

## Prepare your property

### Simple and ongoing property upkeep

Tick off each month to keep track of the four upkeep items listed below:

1. Cut the grass around your property to 5cm or less
2. Prune shrubs so they are not dense
3. Clean gutters
4. Clear any build up of flammable materials (leaf litter etc)

Nov  Dec  Jan  Feb  Mar  Apr

## More lasting protection

### Complete these preparations annually

- Prune vegetation between your house and tree branches
- Clear rubbish and combustible material away from all roofs, gutters and walls of buildings
- Ensure mains powered smoke alarms are installed at your home and check the batteries annually
- Keep gas cylinders away from likely direction of fire (i.e. where bushland is) and turn release valves outwards
- Install metal fly wire mesh on all windows, vents and install a protective screen on evaporative air-conditioners
- Block any gaps under floors, in roof spaces, under eaves, external vents, skylights, chimneys and wall claddings
- Develop an emergency action plan and prepare a survival kit. The Australian Red Cross website has resources to assist with preparing for an emergency.



## Ember attack

Ember attack occurs before, during and after a fire front passes. Embers are pieces of burning bark, leaves or twigs that are carried by the wind around the main fire creating spot fires and can be carried over 25kms from a fire. Embers can land in areas such as your garden, uncovered evaporative air-conditioners, alfresco decking, under or in the gutters of your home and could cause your house to catch fire.

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## Radiant heat exposure

During a bushfire the surrounding temperatures may increase to extreme levels. Exposure to this heat, even from a distance can cause injury through heat burns, heat exhaustion, heart failure and in extreme cases death. To avoid radiant heat exposure, it is important that you include water in your emergency kit and consider your evacuation plan for alternative shelter.



**Remember, you don't have to live in the bush to be at risk from bushfires. Embers can travel far, bringing the fire from the bush to your home.**

# Tree pruning guidelines for property boundaries

Overgrown vegetation from properties adjacent to bushland reserves is considered a safety risk.

It is the responsibility of residents to prune vegetation that extends from their property into a bushland reserve or existing firebreak area.



The City recommends contacting a professional arborist in the instance of large tree management. Residents are responsible for correctly disposing of all pruning waste.

Where bushland reserve vegetation extends into the property of a resident, please contact the City of Stirling.

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## Weed spread



Weeds can be highly flammable and are invasive to the natural environment. Regularly weeding your property helps to reduce fuel load build-up and the potential spread of invasive weeds into bushland reserves. Weeding also facilitates the regeneration of native species and encourages a healthy balanced ecosystem.

<b>Life-threatening Emergency</b>	<b>000</b>
<b>Department of Fire and Emergency Services Information Line</b>	<b>133 337</b>
<b>Bureau of Meteorology Warning Service</b>	<b>1300 659 210</b>
<b>City of Stirling Community Patrols</b>	<b>1300 365 356</b>
<b>Western Power</b>	<b>131 351</b>
<b>State Emergency Service</b>	<b>132 500</b>
<b>Total Fire Ban Information</b>	<b>1800 709 355</b>
<b>Australian Red Cross</b>	<b>1800 733 276</b>

**For more information visit:  
[www.stirling.wa.gov.au/firebreaks](http://www.stirling.wa.gov.au/firebreaks)**

**Open your camera app  
and scan this QR Code  
to go to the web page.**



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**Telephone** (08) 9205 8555

**Enquiries** [www.stirling.wa.gov.au/enquiries](http://www.stirling.wa.gov.au/enquiries)

**Web** [www.stirling.wa.gov.au](http://www.stirling.wa.gov.au) | [f](#) [@](#) [v](#) [/citystirlingwa](#)

This information is available in alternative formats on request. Please contact the Customer Contact Centre on (08) 9205 8555.