



DEFINITIONS

In this Fire Break Order unless the contrary intention appears:

- **“Rural Land”** means all land not located within the boundaries of a town site as shown on the Shire of Merredin Town Planning Scheme No. 1 Scheme Map;
- **“Town Site Land”** means all land located within the boundaries of a town site as shown on the Shire of Merredin Town Planning Scheme No. 1 Scheme Map;
- **“Firebreak”** means ground from which all flammable material has been removed to a height of 5cm (50mm) and on which no flammable material is permitted;
- **“Flammable Materials”** means material that can be easily ignited, i.e. – dead or dry grass, leaves, timber, paper, plastic and other material or thing deemed by an authorised officer to be capable of combustion but does not include green growing trees or green growing plants in gardens;
- **“Occupier of Land”** means a person or persons as defined in Section 7 of the *Bushfires Act 1954*.



OTHER INFORMATION

RADIO STATIONS DURING A FIRE EMERGENCY

During a fire emergency all landowners and occupiers are encouraged to listen to ABC Radio as they are the official emergency broadcast radio station. Local frequencies for Merredin are 531, 558 and 720.

FIRE INCIDENT REPORTS

All landowners and occupiers who incur a bushfire have an obligation to assist the Fire Control Officer to compile a Fire Incident Report Form.

LANDOWNERS & OCCUPIERS RESPONSIBILITIES

The *Bush Fires Act 1954* requires the occupiers of the land to take all reasonable measures to control fires on their land, at their expense, regardless of how the fire started. Whilst local volunteer fire fighters will come out and assist in the control of the fire, landowners and occupiers are reminded that they are ultimately responsible for fires on their property including monitoring the fire after fire crews have left. Penalties apply and recovery of costs can be made by Council for those who do not comply with these provisions.

BRIGADE MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in joining your local Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, please contact the CBFCO (0429 411 429), the Deputy CBFCO (0428 469 018) or the Shire’s Senior Ranger (0400 240 787).

FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT

Residents are strongly encouraged to have and maintain firefighting equipment for the protection of their own property.

VOLUNTEERS ATTENDING A FIRE IN THEIR OWN VEHICLE

Must immediately report to the onsite Fire Control Officer for safety and insurance purposes.

Enquiries relating to this Firebreak Order or fire prevention in general should be directed to the Shire’s Senior Ranger on 9041 1611 or 0400 240 787

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Stephen Crook | 0429 411 429

Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
John Flockart | 0428 469 018

Senior Ranger
Kim Friis | 0400 240 787

Merredin Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service
9041 2522
(General enquiries ONLY. In an emergency call 000)

Harvest Ban Information Line
9041 2999

Harvest Ban SMS
Call 9041 1611 to subscribe



SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

PO Box 42

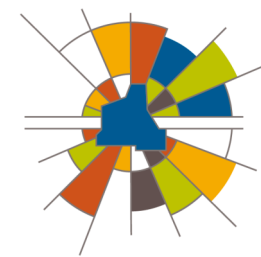
MERREDIN WA 6415

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SHIRE OF
MERREDIN
INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT

FIRE BREAK ORDER
2018/19

Restricted Burning Periods

17 September 2018 - 31 October 2018
18 February 2019 - 16 March 2019

BURNING PERMITS REQUIRED

Prohibited Burning Period

1 November 2018 - 17 February 2019

STRICTLY NO BURNING

FOR ALL EMERGENCIES - DIAL 000



BURNING PERMITS

- 1. PERMITS** to burn are required for the whole of the Restricted Burning Periods and can only be obtained from your local FCO. Contact the CBFCO (0429 411 429) or the Senior Ranger (0400 240 787) to be put in touch with your FCO to obtain a permit.
- 2. CAREFULLY READ** and adhere to all of the conditions of the permit as any breach or negligence could make you liable for any damage to neighbouring properties and/or infringements/penalties.
- 3. ANY SPECIAL CONDITIONS** imposed by the FCO when issuing permits must be strictly adhered to. The Senior Ranger may check that permit conditions are being complied with during the Restricted Burning Period.
- 4. INFRINGEMENTS / ON THE SPOT FINES** of **\$250 & UPWARDS** apply to any breaches of the permit conditions/special conditions. Contact your FCO or Senior Ranger if in doubt.
- 5. PERIOD OF NOTICE** to neighbours prior to burning cannot be more than 28 days or less than 4 days although lesser notice may be determined by mutual agreement of all neighbours.
- 6. NO PERMITS** will be issued for burning on **PUBLIC HOLIDAYS** during the Restricted and Prohibited Burning Periods.
- 7. GARDEN REFUSE & RUBBISH** Prior to the burning of garden refuse and rubbish a 3 metre radius perimeter around the waste heap is to be cleared of all flammable material. Burning of garden refuse and rubbish is not permitted during the Prohibited Burning Period and during the Restricted Burning Periods it will require a permit from a Fire Control Officer.
- 8. CAMP FIRES** During the Restricted Burning Period a permit is required for any cooking and camping fire. Cooking and Camp fires are not permitted throughout the Prohibited Burning Period. Gas barbeques can still be used during this period.
- 9. INCINERATORS** used to burn rubbish must be properly constructed. An open drum with or without a lid is not an authorised incinerator.

Please note that if deemed necessary the 'Restricted Burning Period' may be extended by the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
You should consult with your local FCO or contact the Shire of Merredin to find out if the Restricted Burning Period has been extended before lighting any fires

FIREBREAKS

As a measure for preventing the outbreak of bush fires or preventing the spread or extension of a bush fire which may occur, **ALL OWNERS and OCCUPIERS** of land within the district of the Shire of Merredin are required before 1 November in each year (or within 14 days of becoming the Owner or Occupier of land if after that date) to clear firebreaks or take measures in accordance with this notice and maintain those firebreaks and measures in accordance with this notice up to and including the 16 March in the following year.

The Duties of the Owner or Occupier are detailed below depending upon the property type. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to ensure your requirements have been undertaken by 1 NOVEMBER annually. Failure to do so and to continue to maintain your property during bushfire season WILL RESULT in the issuing of an INFRINGEMENT by the Senior Ranger.

TOWN SITE LAND WITH A BUILDING(S)

- Where the area of land is 2,000m² or less the land shall be cleared of all flammable materials;
- Where the area of land exceeds 2,000m², install a 3m wide firebreak immediately inside the external boundaries of the land;
- Maintain all grass on the land to a height no greater 5cm (50mm)
- Prune trees and shrubs and remove dead flammable material within 6m of all buildings on the land; and
- Ensure the roofs, gutters and walls of all buildings on the land are free of flammable matter.

VACANT TOWN SITE LAND

- Where the area of land is 2,000m² or less maintain all grass and flammable matter on the land to a height no greater than 5cm (50mm); and
- Where the land exceeds 2,000m² install a 3m wide firebreak immediately inside all external boundaries of the land by removing all flammable matter within that 3m wide fire break to a height of 5cm (50mm).

RURAL LAND

- Install firebreaks to a width of 3m immediately inside and along all external boundaries of the land;
- Install firebreaks to a width of 20m around all buildings, haysheds and fuel storage areas on the land; and
- Where the land is greater than 400 Ha in area, install sufficient internal 3m wide firebreaks so as to divide the land into areas of 400 Ha or less which are bounded by a 3m wide firebreak.

FUEL DUMPS & DEPOTS

- Remove all inflammable matter within 10m of where fuel drums, fuel ramps or fuel dumps are located and where fuel drums, whether containing fuel or not, are stored.

APPLICATION TO VARY THE LISTED REQUIREMENTS

If it is considered impracticable for any reason whatsoever to clear firebreaks or establish other arrangements as required by this notice, you may apply in writing to the Shire of Merredin not later than 16 October annually for permission to provide firebreaks in alternative positions on the land. If permission is not granted in writing by the local government you must comply with the requirements of this notice.

In addition, you may be required to carry out further works which are considered necessary by the Senior Ranger (the appointed authorised officer for the Shire of Merredin) and specified by way of a separate written notice forwarded to the address as shown on the Shire of Merredin rates record for the relevant land.

TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Section 33(4) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, where the:

Owner or Occupier of land who has received notice fails or neglects to comply with the requisitions of the notice within the time specified, the Shire of Merredin may by its officers and with such servants, workmen and contractors, 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 1954* the amount of any costs and expenses incurred may be recovered from you as the Owner or Occupier of the land.

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 1954*.

FIRE BANS

Fire bans may be applied during both the Restricted and Prohibited Burning Periods.

A **TOTAL FIRE BAN (TFB)** is a ban put in place by the Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES). When declared, TFBs are in place for the whole day from midnight to midnight. They may be revoked during the day if the forecast weather does not eventuate or if weather conditions ease. Further information about what activities may / may not be undertaken during a TFB can be found by visiting DFES' website - www.dfes.wa.gov.au. To find out if a ban is in place listen to ABC radio, follow DFES on Twitter / Facebook, go to the DFES website or call 133 337.

A **HARVEST & VEHICLE MOVEMENT BAN (HVMB)** is a ban put in place by the Shire of Merredin. It carries different conditions as to what activities can be undertaken than a TFB. Visit the Shire website (www.merredin.wa.gov.au) to find out what activities may / may not be undertaken. To find out if a ban is in place call the Harvest Ban Information Line (9041 2999) or subscribe to the Harvest Ban SMS - call 9041 1611.