

FIRE MANAGEMENT NOTICE

2021 - 2022



**FIRST AND FINAL NOTICE IS HEREBY
SERVED TO ALL LAND OWNERS AND
OCCUPIERS IN THE CITY OF ALBANY**

**These are your legal requirements. Please read
carefully and retain for future reference.**

**This Notice constitutes the City of Albany
Fire Management Notice and is issued
under Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.**

You are required to prepare and maintain your property for the fire season. This Notice sets out the actions you must take.

All fire mitigation measures **must remain in place
until the completion of the fire season.**



102 North Road, Yakamia

PO Box 484, ALBANY WA 6330

Phone 6820 3000 Fax 6820 3888

Email staff@albany.wa.gov.au

www.albany.wa.gov.au

Significant Dates

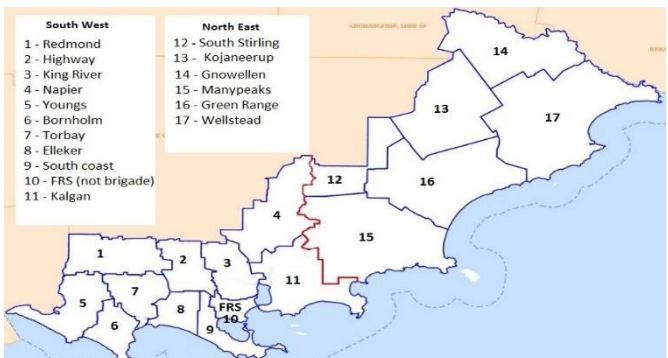
NORTH EAST SECTOR FIRE SEASON

1 October 2021 – 14 November 2021	Restricted Burning permits required
1 October 2021	Fire mitigation installation deadline
15 November 2021 – 15 February 2022	BURNING PROHIBITED
16 February 2022 – 30 April 2022	Restricted Burning permits required

SOUTH WEST SECTOR FIRE SEASON

1 November 2021 – 14 December 2021	Restricted Burning permits required
1 December 2021	Fire mitigation installation deadline
15 December 2021 – 14 March 2022	BURNING PROHIBITED
15 March 2022 – 14 May 2022	Restricted Burning permits required

These dates are subject to change. Any changes will be published in local newspapers and on the City of Albany website at www.albany.wa.gov.au



Prohibited Burning Times

It is an offence to light an unauthorised fire during the Prohibited Burning Time.

Penalties of up to \$25,000 or 12 months' imprisonment, or both, may apply under the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

Restricted Burning Times

You must not light a fire without a permit during the Restricted Burning Time. All permit holders must comply with the requirements of the *Bush Fire Act 1954* and any additional conditions imposed.

These dates are subject to change depending on the prevailing weather conditions. Any changes will be published in local newspapers and on the City of Albany website at www.albany.wa.gov.au

Variations to Requirements

If you cannot meet the fire management requirements listed in this Notice, you must apply for a variation or submit a Bush Fire Management Plan. If approved, the conditions of the approval and application are to be complied with.

For details, please visit the City's website at www.albany.wa.gov.au

Bush Fire Management Plans

Approved Bushfire Management Plans are a strategy for specific fire risk management and can encompass singular or multiple properties. The City will only accept plans completed by an accredited Bush Fire Planning and Design practitioner. Where an approved Bushfire Management Plan is in place, all properties covered by the Plan are to comply with the conditions of the plan. Please contact the City of Albany Planning Department on 9820 3000 for more details.

Definitions

Brigade zone- the designated response area for specific volunteer bush fire brigades. A larger map than the one in this notice is available at www.albany.wa.gov.au

Fine fuel- Combustible dead vegetation matter less than 6mm in thickness reduced to and maintained at an average of 2 tonnes/hectare. Does not include processed mulch below an average depth of 50mm

Harvest and Movement Bans- A municipality specific prohibition on the use of combustion powered vehicles driven in paddocks or bush areas, harvesting, and 'hot works' (includes welding, grinding, soldering and gas cutting) in the open air. Christmas Day and New Year's day are automatically declared as harvest and movement ban dates.

Hazard Specific Fire Break- a 3 metre low fuel area around flammable hazards with vegetation maintained below 50mm. Includes but is not limited to; Haystacks, non-dwelling sheds, green power domes, power poles and fuel storage areas.

North East/ South West Sector- division of brigade boundaries in relation to where they are located within the Albany region. A map is available at www.albany.wa.gov.au

Perimeter fire break- a continuous access track that has standard dimensions of 3 metres wide with 4 metres vertical clearance. Located within 20 metres of the property boundary with the capacity to allow a firefighting truck to safely navigate the interior perimeter of the property. All vegetation on the break is to be maintained below 50mm in height.

Strategic fire break- a designated emergency access route included into subdivisions at a planning stage. Contact the City of Albany Planning Department to see if your subdivision has specific fire mitigation requirements.

Total fire ban- a DFES declaration on days of extreme weather or when widespread fires are seriously stretching firefighting resources. Certain activities and the lighting of any fires are restricted or prohibited. Refer to www.dfes.wa.gov.au for more information.

Asset Protection Zones

All properties, regardless of size must meet Asset Protection Zone (APZ) (building protection zone and hazard separation zones) requirements.

An Asset Protection Zone is an area of at least 20 metres (as far as practicable) within a property boundary that surrounds all habitable buildings to reduce the bushfire hazard and create a defensible space.

Under new legislation, properties with dwellings built before 2015 may be able to clear APZ vegetation regardless of scheme or zoning restrictions. *A copy of the Bush Fire Treatment Standards can be obtained at the DFES website www.dfes.wa.gov.au*

If the development of your property includes BAL conditions, those conditions must be adhered to.

For all other properties the following applies:

- Fine Fuel (combustible dead vegetation matter less than 6 millimetres in thickness) is to be reduced to and maintained at an average of two tonnes per hectare
- Branches that have the potential to fall on the house must be removed
- Clearance of 2.5 metres between trees and power lines

Vegetable gardens, tended lawns, landscaped gardens and trees are acceptable if they are maintained.

Fine fuel and dead vegetation must be reduced that in opinion of an inspecting COA officer it does not constitute an unacceptable fire risk



Additional recommendations on how to prepare your APZ to mitigate fire risk are available on the City of Albany and the Department of Fire and Emergency services (DFES) websites.

Conservation, Special Residential & Rural Residential (Special Rural) Zones

Properties located in these zones may be subject to specific fire mitigation requirements contained in the Albany Local Planning Scheme, a subdivision guide plan (structure plan) or an approved Bush Fire Management Plan.

All bush fire mitigation conditions that apply to your property are to be complied with.

Conditions may include (but are not limited to):

- Additional Asset Protection Zone (APZ) requirements.
- Compliant access to dwellings.
- Permanent water supply.
- Maintenance of Strategic Fire Access Routes.
- Vegetation protection. *(may not apply to clearing for APZ installation, refer AZP section of this notice)*

Any zoned properties without the above fire mitigation provisions are to comply with the conditions of this notice.

Paddock and grassed areas are to be maintained to reduce fine fuel loading.

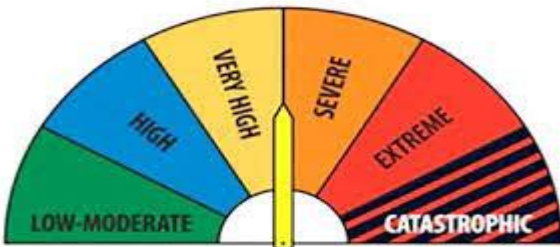
For more information or to check your properties zoning, please contact the City of Albany Planning Department on 6820 3000.

Properties up to 4,000m²

(May exclude some Conservation, Special Residential and Rural Residential zoned properties.)

The following mitigation requirements apply to vacant and developed land with an area of 4,000m² or less:

- Asset Protection Zone conditions
- Fine fuel load (see definitions) is to be reduced and maintained to an average of no more than two tonnes per hectare across the whole property
- Install hazard specific fire breaks



Properties 4,000 m² to 50 Ha

(May exclude some Conservation and Rural Residential zoned properties.)

The following fire mitigation measures apply to vacant and developed land with an area between 4,000m² and 50 Ha:

- Perimeter fire breaks.
- Hazard specific fire breaks.
- Asset Protection Zone conditions.
- Maintain fine fuel load to an average of 8 tonnes per hectare or less across the whole property.

Properties over 50 Ha

Non-agricultural Properties

Non-agricultural properties with an area over 50 Ha require the following measures:

- Hazard specific breaks, Asset Protection Zone conditions and perimeter fire breaks.

You can apply for a Variation to Requirements if your property is managed in a way that:

- reduces the risk of bush fire; or
- You have additional capacity for preventing the outbreak and/or spread of bushfire.

Agricultural properties

During **restricted and prohibited burning times**, all harvesting machinery, including tractors and trucks that are involved in harvesting operations must carry a fire extinguisher

You can apply for a Variation to Requirements if your property is managed in a way that:

- reduces the risk of bush fire; or
- you have additional capacity for preventing the outbreak and/or spread of bushfire.

If a Variation is not granted the following requirements apply:

- Asset Protection Conditions.
- Hazard specific fire breaks.
- Perimeter fire breaks.
- Cropping paddocks must be broken into compartments not exceeding 250Ha in area each separated by internal fire breaks.
- During harvest operations, a fully operational self-propelled (i.e. not trailer mounted) firefighting unit with a minimum water capacity of 600 litres is to be located in the paddock being harvested. Where two or more harvesting machines are operating, the minimum water capacity is to be 1,000 litres.

Plantations & Regeneration Lots

Owners and lessees of plantation and regeneration lots must comply with the conditions detailed in *DFES Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection*. (Available from the DFES website at www.dfes.wa.gov.au)

The following measures are also required (unless a variation has been granted by the City of Albany):

Provide a red PVC container at the main entry point to the property containing map(s) showing water points, tracks and contact details.

Ensure the property is broken into compartments not exceeding 250Ha in area and separated by internal fire breaks 6 metres wide and with 4 metres vertical clearance.

Install a 15 metres wide fire break devoid of vegetation with a height above 50mm under all power lines.

Cooking Fires

NO COOKING FIRES ARE TO BE LIT DURING A TOTAL FIRE BAN

Public land

Unauthorised fires are prohibited on all City of Albany land throughout the year.

This includes

- City of Albany reserves.
- Campsites.
- Beaches.
- Council road verges.

Gas appliances can be utilised and the City provides free BBQ facilities at multiple locations for public use.

Private land

Cooking or BBQ style encapsulated fires (solid fuel) can be used on private land during the fire season under the following conditions:

- the fire is not lit on a day where the Fire Danger Forecast is “very high” or above (approval from the City of Albany can be granted in special circumstances).
- the fire has a 3 metre zone clear of flammables.
- the fire is fully contained to prevent escape.
- the fire is attended at all times.
- sufficient water is available to extinguish fire.
- the fire and any remnants are completely extinguished with no possibility of re-ignition.

Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades

The City of Albany has 16 volunteer fire brigades, spread from Youngs Siding in the West through to Wellstead in the East.



They are run by selfless men and women who donate their time and skills to ensure that we remain safe in the event of an emergency.

Each brigade is always in need of new volunteers, whether they are an active member or an auxiliary member. If you are aged 16 and above they would love to see you. The City of Albany, working with each local brigade, will provide you with comprehensive and on-going training and uniform.

If you would like to join a brigade, or to make a donation, please contact the City of Albany Ranger & Emergency Services team on 6820 3999 or go to the City of Albany website for contact details

PENALTIES MAY APPLY

City of Albany officers are authorised to enter private property, without notice to the owner in order to confirm compliance with this notice. If you fail to comply with the conditions contained in this Notice, penalties up to \$5,000 under the *Bush Fires Act 1954* may apply.

The City of Albany, or a contractor engaged by the City, may enter your land to install fire breaks or reduce fuel loads with any expenses incurred charged to the landowner.

Any 'variation to requirements' approval you hold may be declared void.

Clearing or the removal of native vegetation beyond the requirements of this notice may require permission from other legislative authorities.

Disclaimer:

The City of Albany may vary a condition or conditions of this Notice at its discretion.

This notice is issued and authorised by:

Andrew Sharpe

Chief Executive Officer



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