

Firebreak Order & Bush Fire Information

BUSH FIRE SEASON 2024-25



REPORT ALL FIRES TO 000

Bush Fires Act 1954 - Your Responsibilities

This Notice is to all landowners and occupiers within the Shire of Gingin and is issued pursuant to Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

This Firebreak Order applies to all owners and occupiers of land within the Shire of Gingin (the Shire). As a measure to assist in the control of bush fires and pursuant to the powers contained in Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, you have a legal requirement to carry out fire prevention works on your property.

Your property must be compliant from **1 November** and be maintained through to **15 May** each year.

This Firebreak Order details what you must do to comply. Failure to comply may result in a penalty and/or the Shire entering your land to install firebreak works at your expense.

Compliance inspections will commence on **1 November 2024**.

This Firebreak Order and information is effective from **1 October 2024**. All previous Firebreak Orders are hereby cancelled.

What is a firebreak?

A firebreak is a strip of land that has been cleared of all trees, shrubs, grass, and other flammable materials providing a 'fuel free' area for emergency vehicles to gain safe access to your property, and prevents fire travelling under vehicles or underfoot. **Flammable material** is any vegetation (bushes, grasses, trees, mulch, leaves and green waste), object, or material that is likely to catch fire.



Burning Periods

The Burning Periods below specify the times of the year when burning is permitted or not. However, the Shire may vary these Burning Periods depending on the weather or other conditions.

RESTRICTED

(Spring Season)
Permits required

**1 October to
30 November
(midnight)**

PROHIBITED

No burning permitted

**1 December to
31 March
(midnight)**

RESTRICTED

(Autumn Season)
Permits required

**1 April to 15 May
(midnight)**

UNRESTRICTED

No permits required

**16 May to
30 September
(midnight)**

Burning Periods

Firebreak Compliance Requirements

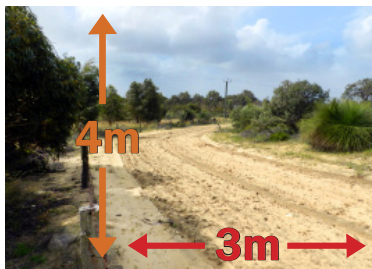
All land LESS than 4,000m² (0.4 hectares) - Owners/Occupiers of developed and vacant land are required to:

- Ensure the entire vacant block of land is cleared of weeds or long grass by slashing, mowing, or other means to a height no greater than 50mm, and keep maintained in this state.
- Where a property is affected by an approved bush fire management plan, property owners must still comply with all requirements in this Firebreak Order and with any additional requirements outlined within that plan.

All land GREATER than 4,000m² (0.4 hectares) - Owners/Occupiers of developed and vacant land are required to:

- Install a 3-metre-wide by 4-metre-high trafficable firebreak as close as possible to the inside perimeter of the land, free of flammable material, with all overhanging vegetation trimmed back to provide clear emergency vehicle access.
- Install and maintain a 20 metre APZ (Asset Protection Zone) surrounding all buildings, large haystacks, and/or fuel dumps.
- Where a property is affected by an approved bush fire management plan, property owners must still comply with all requirements in this Firebreak Order and with any additional requirements outlined within that plan.

**Example of
a Compliant
Firebreak:**



Timber production land with an area LESS than 30,000m² (3 hectares) - Owners/Occupiers of developed and vacant land are required to:

- Install a 10-metre-wide by 4-metre-high trafficable firebreak as close as possible to the inside perimeter of the land, free of flammable material, with all overhanging vegetation trimmed back to provide clear emergency vehicle access.

Timber production land with an area GREATER than 30,000m² (3 hectares) - Owners/Occupiers of developed and vacant land are required to:

- Install a 15-metre-wide by 4-metre-high trafficable firebreak as close as possible to the inside perimeter of the land, free of flammable material, with all overhanging vegetation trimmed back to provide clear emergency vehicle access.

AND

- For compartments not larger than 300,000m² (30 hectares) install a 6-metre-wide by 4-metre-high trafficable firebreak as close as possible to the inside perimeter of the land, free of flammable material, with all overhanging vegetation trimmed back to provide clear emergency vehicle access.
- You must also maintain a water supply of 25,000L for every 50 hectares of plantation or part thereof. Water sources are



Firebreak Compliance Requirements

Permissions During Restricted Burning Period

Burning garden refuse or operating a fire pit is permissible WITHOUT A PERMIT during the Restricted Burning Period, ensuring the following is adhered to:

- The fire is lit between 6pm and 11pm and is completely extinguished before midnight on the same day.
- The garden refuse must be on the ground or in a fire pit, and be no more than 1 metre wide and 1 metre high.
- There is no flammable material (other than that being burned) within 5 metres of the fire at any time (garden refuse).
- At least one person is always present at the site of the fire until it is completely extinguished.
- Only one heap may be burnt at one time.
- Let your neighbours know you will be burning material (eg, garden refuse).
- Keep a hose or spray pack on hand to dampen down fierce fires (eg, garden refuse).
- Burning cannot be undertaken on a day where the Fire Danger Rating (FDR) is HIGH (or above).

Examples below of a fire pit and garden refuse pile 1 metre wide by 1 metre high acceptable for burning without a permit between 6pm and 11pm during Restricted Burning Period.



Fire Bans & Their Differences

Under the *Bush Fires Act 1954* local governments and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) have the power to place a fire ban. In the Shire of Gingin there are two types of bans that you will most commonly hear about, which are:

Total Fire Bans (TFB) - which are set by DFES. Generally they will set this ban the day before it is due to commence.

Harvest, Hot Works & Vehicle Movement Bans (HVMB) - these are set by the **Shire of Gingin**. The Shire will impose this type of ban when the predicted weather conditions (as classified by the Bureau of Meteorology) are rated High, Extreme, or Catastrophic.

BOTH BANS SHARE THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- Open fires for the purpose of cooking, camping, or outdoor entertainment including fire pits, bonfires, and garden refuse are **prohibited**.
- Undertaking of hot works such as metal work, grinding, welding, and gas cutting in the open air are **prohibited**, except for business and industry if regulatory conditions are met.
- Undertaking of off-road activity using a four-wheel drive, quad bike, motorcycle, bobcat, or similar vehicle are **prohibited**, except for agricultural purposes or by business and industry if regulatory conditions are met.

The main difference between the 2 types of bans is that the HVMB also prohibits the use of harvest vehicles for harvesting operations which is not prohibited if there is only a TFB in place. Either one or both of these bans may be active at the same time.

A fire ban will generally be enacted during the hotter months of the year (usually the Prohibited or Restricted Burning Periods) but if the FDR is high enough during the Unrestricted Burning Period (June - September) then a ban can also be placed during that period if deemed necessary by the Shire or DFES.

It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to find out if there is a fire ban in place. Subscribe to the Shire's SMS service to receive free notifications when either ban is placed. To subscribe or for more information visit **gingin.wa.gov.au/fire-breaks-bans-information**.

Asset Protection Zone

Installing and maintaining an Asset Protection Zone is one of the most effective things you can do to reduce risks to your property in the event of a bush fire.

An Asset Protection Zone is an area extending for at least 20 metres around a building on all sides where there is a low fuel loading area.

Reducing vegetation, rubbish, log stacks, and anything that can burn will increase its chances of surviving a bushfire.

You should prepare your property to survive a fire, even if your plan is to leave.



Image above supplied by DFES

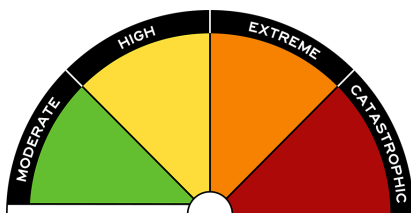
Are your firebreaks compliant throughout the bush fire season?

Rainfall can cause your firebreaks to regenerate with fresh green growth. Your firebreaks must remain compliant throughout 1 November to 15 May.

Make sure your firebreaks are bare of any vegetation/debris during this time to avoid an infringement.

Fire Danger Ratings & Maps

To check what the FDR is for today, go to **gingin.wa.gov.au** and scroll down to the bottom of the homepage. Here you will find the FDRs for both Shire of Gingin FDR areas, being Swan Inland North and Swan Coastal North. When the FDR is HIGH (or above) all permits are suspended and burning is prohibited.



To check what FDR area your property falls into, you can view the Emergency WA Fire Danger Rating Maps, go to:
<https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au/#firedangerratings>.



Fire Control Officers List

A Bushfire Control Officer (BFCO) is a delegated representative of the Shire responsible for administering provisions of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

Please see below for the list of Fire Control Officers in the Shire of Gingin.

 FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS Bushfire Season 2024/25		
To obtain a Fire Permit during Restricted Burning Periods:		
⇒ Go to gingin.wa.gov/fire-information to apply online, or		
⇒ Contact your local Fire Control Officer below		
CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER / COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER		
TBA	All Areas	TBA
DEPUTY CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICERS		
Wayne Fewster	Beermullah	0428 754 017
Murray Hyne	Gingin Town Site	9575 2250 or 0407 380 708
James Morton	Gingin West/Neergabby/ Woodridge	0427 141 078
Brendan Ladner	Ledge Point	0410 540 190
FCO NAME	AREA	CONTACT No
Brad Alp	Beermullah	0427 476 529
David Roe	Beermullah	0427 754 059
Gary Brown*	Cowalla	9655 3142 or 0407 384 357
Jennifer French*	Cowalla	0417 171 425
Peter Crowe	Gingin Area	0427 385 287
Craig Hyne	Gingin Area	0448 825 833
James Morton	Gingin West/Woodridge	0427 141 078
Tom Kusters	Lancelin/Seaview Park	0438 943 156
Colin Walker*	Lancelin/Seaview Park	0404 600 530
Brendon Ladner	Seabird/Guilderton/ Sovereign Hill/Redfield Park/Ledge Point	0410 540 190
Rod Croucher	Ocean Farm	0427 085 499
Mike Regan	Ocean Farm	0400 852 477
Allister Butcher	Red Gully	0409 591 244
Ranger Services (all areas)		9575 5140
* Permits Only		

Firebreak Contractors

Any owner and/or occupier who engages a contractor to undertake firebreak works on their behalf is responsible for ensuring that the completed works meet the requirements of this Firebreak Order.

Failure to install firebreaks on your property may result in the Shire engaging a contractor to complete the required works at your expense.



FIREBREAK CONTRACTORS

Bushfire Season 2024/25

Disclaimer: Contractor details are included at the Contractor's request and should not be taken as endorsement by the Shire of Gingin of any particular contractor.

CONTRACTOR	CONTACT	AREA
Anspach Agricultural Contracting	9655 7074	Beermullah, Cowalla, Cullula, Mindarra Orange Springs, Red Gully
Colin Santoro	0427 751 213 or csantoro3@bigpond.com	All areas
Exterior Enhancement	0419 962 431	All areas
Graham Knight	0427 982 134 or 9655 1094	Seaview Park & Ledge Point
Limestone Park Earthmoving	0418 908 538	All areas
Luke Crowe	0427 386 952 or 9575 2339 or melcrowe89@yahoo.com.au	Gingin & surrounds
Mick Basile	0427 553 032	Ocean Farm & Seaview Park
MR Mulching	0400 852 477 or 9655 1296	All areas
Paddy Murphy	0419 900 471 or 9575 7537	Gingin West & Neergabby
Perth's Bobcat Buddy	0467 570 060	Woodridge
Richard Dean	9577 1677	Woodridge
Charlie George	0428 632 451 or chazz55@bigpond.com	Seaview Park & surrounds
John Hakesely	0419 164 417	Woodridge, Redfield Park & Sovereign Hill



Burning Permit

To apply for a permit:

- Visit the Shire's website **gingin.wa.gov.au** and click on 'Fire Information'

OR

- Contact your Local Fire Control Officer

OR

- Scan the QR code above.

Please ensure that you read all the conditions on your permit before you start to burn.

Help our Fire Fighters

Register **ANY** burn you plan to undertake at **ANY** time of the year with DFES on (08) 9395 9209.

By notifying DFES, you will assist us in preventing any unnecessary call-outs to our local fire fighters when members of the public call 000.

Become a Volunteer

West Australians in rural and pastoral areas rely heavily on Bush Fire Brigades for protection against the threat and devastation of fire.

Over 19,000+ bush fire service volunteers protect WA from bush fires through fire prevention and risk management, fire suppression, and fire safety education.

To become a volunteer or a support member with your local Bush Fire Brigade please contact the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for the Shire of Gingin, on 0408 943 576 during Shire office hours or your local Bush Fire Brigade Captain.



Variation to the Firebreak Order

If you are unable to clear a firebreak in the manner specified in this Firebreak Order, you may apply for a variation requesting permission to install the firebreak in an alternative position or take alternative action to comply with the Firebreak Order.

An application for a variation to the Firebreak Order must be made no later than **15 October** in any given year.

You may apply to vary your firebreak if:

- It would be impractical or dangerous to construct a firebreak on your land due to its landscape.
- A normal firebreak would encroach on a reticulated lawn. You need to keep the lawn green and maintained to a height less than 25mm from 1 November to 15 May each year.
- A normal firebreak would encroach on reticulated feed paddocks. You need to keep the paddocks green and maintained to a height of less than 50mm from 1 November to 15 May each year.
- A normal firebreak would encroach on reticulated garden beds, orchards, or other sustained cultivation. You need to ensure clear trafficable access for emergency vehicles to your buildings and land.
- Trees were previously planted where the firebreak would normally be placed, so an alternative firebreak is required.

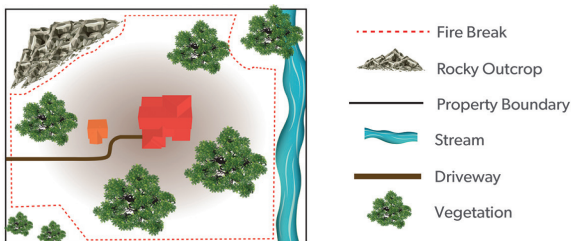
To apply for a variation:

- Download a Firebreak Order Variation Form from gingin.wa.gov.au/fire-information

OR

- Visit the Shire of Gingin Office or Lancelin Office and request a hard copy.

Below is an example of a Firebreak Variation:



Once you have submitted your Firebreak Order Variation to the Shire, it will be assessed by a Ranger who will then contact you. If approved, all firebreak conditions will be as per your approved Variation. If your Variation is not approved or your previous Variation is cancelled, you must comply with the requirements of this Firebreak Order within 14 days.

Variation to the Firebreak Order

Infringements & Penalties

In accordance with the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, penalties apply for the following offences and infringements:

\$250.00

S.17(12) - Setting fire to bush during Prohibited Burning Times.

\$250.00

S.18 - Offences relating to burning of bush.

\$100.00

S.24B(3)(a) - Failure to produce Permit to Burn.

\$100.00

S.24B(3)(b) - Failure or refusal to identify person who issued permit to burn.

\$250.00

S.27(1) - Offences relating to the operation of tractors, or self-propelled harvesters, engines, machinery, and vehicles during the prohibited and restricted burning times.

\$250.00

S.28(1) - Failure of occupier of land to extinguish a bush fire burning on that land.

\$250.00

S.33(3) - Failure of owner or occupier of land to comply with a notice requiring them to take action to plough or clear firebreaks or take other action to prevent the outbreak or spread of bush fires.

\$250.00

R.15(2) - Applying to another bush fire control officer for permit where permit already refused or granted subject to special conditions.

\$250.00

R.15B(1) - Failure to comply with conditions in Regulation 15B in relation to the burning of the bush

\$250.00

R.39CA(5) - Failure to comply with directions of Bush Fire Control Officer.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I light a camp fire, bonfire, fire pit, or use a barbecue, kettle BBQ (eg, Weber), smoker, pizza oven, or spit style rotisserie which burns solid, or liquid fuel during a TFB?

No.

Can I use an angle grinder, welder, charring, soldering, gas cutting or any other cutting tool outside during a TFB?

No.

Can I drive a vehicle where the vehicle will be in contact with vegetation during a TFB?

No.

Can I clear land of vegetation during a HVMB?

No.

What can't I do when a HVMB is issued during a TFB?

Harvesting, driving cars, ATVs or motorbikes over vegetation, operating drill rigs/machinery, slashing road verges, or operating lawn mowing services by businesses or local governments.

How can I better prepare my property for a bushfire?

It is recommended to prune shrubs, ensure gas cylinders are chained/secured upright, check gas valves face away from the property, clean gutters, maintain your firebreaks, and if a fire threatens move livestock to a well grazed paddock (see page 4 for grass height requirements).

What do I need in order to stay and defend my property in a bushfire?

When a bushfire is likely to impact your home, staying to defend can be extremely dangerous. You must be physically and mentally ready, you will need supplies to last at least 5 days (food, water, and medication), a first aid kit, a battery operated radio, smoke and particle masks, and non-flammable blankets.



The Shire of Gingin would like to thank DFES, James Morton and Nikki Woods for supplying the photos displayed in this brochure.



For more firebreak and bush fire information visit:
gingin.wa.gov.au/fire-information

FIRES AND EMERGENCIES CALL 000

**TUNE INTO ABC LOCAL RADIO (630AM and 558AM)
FOR CURRENT EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

Current alerts, warnings, and other important information
available at the following websites:

- abc.net.au/radio
- emergency.wa.gov.au
- dfes.wa.gov.au
- dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans

For more information please contact the Shire of Gingin:

Gingin Administration Centre

7 Brockman St,
Gingin WA 6503
T: (08) 9575 5100

Lancelin Office

255 Vins Way,
Lancelin WA 6044
T: (08) 9575 5155

E: mail@gingin.wa.gov.au

W: gingin.wa.gov.au

f facebook.com/ShireOfGingin

