

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 467 042), the Deputy CBFCO (0428 449 004) 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 Shire 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 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 barbecues can still be used during this period.

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 Westonia to find out if the Restricted Burning Period has been extended before lighting any fires

Contact Us

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e. shire@westonia.wa.gov.au
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Westonia WA 6423

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www.westonia.wa.gov.au

Australian Fire Danger Rating System

What is the Australian Fire Danger Rating System?

The Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) Program is redesigning the forecasting of fire danger in Australia. The AFDRS is a project of national significance being developed collaboratively by each state and territory, and the Commonwealth government. It aims to improve public safety, reduce the impacts of bushfires and better support the community with nationally consistent ratings and messaging. The AFDRS will be implemented on 1 September 2022 across Australia.

What are Fire Danger Ratings?

Fire Danger Ratings describe the potential level of danger should a bushfire start. They provide people with information so that they can take action to protect themselves and others from the potentially dangerous impacts of bushfires. Ratings are calculated using a combination of weather forecasting and vegetation information. They do not indicate the chance of a fire occurring.

How is the AFDRS different from our current system?

The current Fire Danger Rating System is largely based on 60-year-old science applied on a large scale. New technology and research have greatly improved our ability to more accurately predict fire behaviour and the potential threat to the community. The AFDRS will have four levels with action-oriented messages to encourage people to take action.

Supporting messages, including localised information, will clearly explain what community response is required at each level. The AFDRS also introduces an 'off' or 'no rating' level (white strip under Moderate) for days where no proactive action is required. This does not mean that fires cannot happen, but that they are not likely to move or act in a threatening way.

The ratings and high-level messages are:

Moderate: Plan and prepare.

High: Be ready to act.

Extreme: Take action now to protect life and property

Catastrophic: For your survival, leave bush-fire risk areas.



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 Westonia. It carries different conditions as to what activities can be undertaken than a TFB. Visit the Shire website (www.westonia.wa.gov.au) to find out what activities may / may not be undertaken. If you would like to be on our 'SMS List' please contact Jasmine on 9046 7063 or admin@westonia.wa.gov.au with your name and mobile number.

Harvesting is not permitted on Christmas Day and New Years Day. Harvesting is permitted on all Sundays and other Public Holidays except where a harvesting or movement ban has been imposed due to extreme weather conditions.

The penalty for failing to comply with this order is a fine of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5000) and a person in default is also liable, whether prosecuted or not, to pay the cost of performing the work directed by this notice, if it is not carried out by the owner or occupier by the date required by this notice.

BILL PRICE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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.
- **"Town Site Land"** means all land located within the boundaries of a town site.
- **"Firebreak"** means ground from which all flammable material has been removed to a height of 4 metres 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 Westonia 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 467 042), the Deputy CBFCO (0428 449 004)

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.

Enquires relating to this Firebreak Order or fire prevention in general should be directed to the Shire office on 90467063

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Frank Corsini | 0429 467 042

Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Michael Crook | 0428 449 004

Westonia Brigade Fire Control Officer

Frank Corsini | 0429 467 042

Colin Lindley | 0427 467 004

Brad Penny | 0429 467 046

Walgoolan Brigade Fire Control Officer

Jason Wahlsten | 0429 447 020

Shaun Crees | 0428 447 057

Warralakin Brigade Fire Control Officer

Michael Crook | 0428 449 004

Dave Crook | 0428 440 127

Brayden Brennan | 0447 098 662

Shire Fire Control Officer

Bill Price | 0427 467 063

(General enquiries ONLY. In an emergency call 000)

Harvest Ban SMS

Call 9046 7063 to subscribe



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www.westonia.wa.gov.au

Follow us:



IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL LAND OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS WITHIN THE SHIRE OF WESTONIA



SHIRE OF
WESTONIA
A vibrant community lifestyle

BUSH FIRE INFORMATION 2025/2026

RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD

16 September 2025 to 31 October 2025

15 February 2026 to 31 March 2026

BURNING PERMIT REQUIRED

PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD

1 November 2025 to 14 February 2026

NO BURNING PERMITTED

FOR ALL EMERGENCIES DIAL 000

