Shire of Murray

Bushfire Compliance Notice 2026/27



First and final notice

To all owners/occupiers of land within the Shire of Murray

Your property must comply with the requirements of this Bushfire Compliance Notice by 1 December 2026 and be maintained through to 15 May 2027.

A maximum penalty of $5,000 applies for non-compliance of this Bushfire Compliance Notice

Pursuant to the powers contained in ***Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 (the Act)***, owners and/or occupiers of land within the Shire of Murray (Shire) are required to carry out fire prevention work on their land that must comply with the requirements as stated in this Bushfire Compliance Notice (Notice). Fire prevention work must be completed by **1 December 2026** and must be maintained through to **15 May 2027**.



Bushfire Prevention Work Requirements

1. Area of land - 4,000m² or less

Where the area of any land in the Shire is 4,000m² or less, the owner/occupier of the land must reduce and maintain all flammable material on the entire land to a height of 50 millimetres or less.

2. Area of land - greater than 4,001m² and less than 45,000m²

Where the area of any land in the Shire is greater than 4,001m² and less than 45,000m² in size, the owner/occupier of the land must construct and maintain a mineral earth firebreak:

i. Inside all external boundaries of the land as close as practicable, but within 20 metres of the boundaries so as to form a continuous firebreak around the land.

ii. Around all outbuildings, sheds, haystacks, groups of buildings and fuel depots/storage areas situated on the land.

3. Area of land - greater than 45,001m²

Where the area of any land in the Shire is greater than 45,001m² in size, the owner/occupier of the land shall:

i. Reduce and maintain to a height of 50 millimetres or less, all flammable material on the land by mowing, slashing, baling or grazing **OR**;

ii. Where the owner/occupier of land within the Shire is unable to comply with the abovementioned requirements of Clause 3i, if applicable the owner/occupier shall comply with the requirements as described in clause 4 and clause 5.

4. Asset Protection Zones

Where any of the following assets are located on any land in the Shire the owner/occupier of the land shall comply with the requirements of clause 5:

i. Habitable buildings;
ii. Other buildings or groups of buildings;
iii. Sheds;
iv. Haystacks;
v. Fuel depots/storage areas.

5. Compliance with Asset Protection Zones

Where any of the assets as described in clause 4 are located on any land in the Shire the owner/occupier of the land shall comply with the following requirements:

i. Slash and maintain to a height of 50 millimetres or less all flammable material within 20 metres around any habitable building;

ii. Install a firebreak around buildings, sheds, haystacks, and fuel depots/ storage areas situated on the land;

iii. Remove any flammable material on or around any building or roof of a building including from any gutters, abutments and valleys.

iv. Install and maintain a 3-metre wide driveway.

6. Storage of Cut, Stockpiled Timber Products

On all land in the Shire except, land specified as Industrial, Non-Rateable or Reserve Land the owner and/or occupier of the land shall not keep or permit to be kept any cut, stockpiled or windrowed timber products (manufactured or natural) unless the owner and/or occupier of the land has obtained the approval of the Shire. Every pile of cut, stockpiled or windrowed timber product larger than 12 cubic metres is to be completely surrounded by a 10 metre wide firebreak.

7. Variations to this Notice

If it is considered to be impractical for any reason to clear firebreaks or establish other arrangements as required by this Notice, the owner and/or occupier of land in the Shire may apply for a variation by contacting the Shire prior to 1st November each calendar year. If a request to vary this Notice is not approved, the requirements of this Notice shall apply.

8. Bushfire Management Plans

Where a Bushfire Management Plan (BMP) exists for a specified area or property as required by the Local Planning Scheme or subdivision approval or for an individual or group of properties, compliance with all requirements of the BMP are required in addition to any additional requirements as prescribed by this Notice.

9. Plantations

i. Boundary firebreaks

All property boundaries must have a 15-metre firebreak installed. The outer 10 metres will be cleared of all flammable material while the inner five (5) metres i.e. that portion closest to the trees, may be kept in a reduced fuel state by slashing or grazing grass to a height of less than 50 millimetres. This includes the trimming back of all overhanging limbs, bushes, shrubs and any other object encroaching into the vertical axis above the outer 10 metres of the firebreak area.

ii. Internal firebreaks

Plantation area must be subdivided into areas not greater than 30 hectares, separated by six (6) metre wide firebreaks. This includes the trimming back of all overhanging limbs, bushes, shrubs and any other object encroaching into the vertical axis of the firebreak area.

iii. Public Roads and Railway Reserves

Firebreaks shall be constructed and maintained immediately inside any boundary that adjoins a public road and/or railway reserve. The specifications will be the same as for "Boundary Firebreaks" on Plantations.

iv. Powerlines

Firebreaks shall be provided along power lines where they pass through or lie adjacent to Plantations. The specifications of the width and the height of clearing shall be in accordance with Western Power specifications and requirements.

v. Compliance with DFES Guidelines and Standards

All plantations shall comply with the requirements contained in the DFES guidelines or standards for Plantation Fire Protection.

10. Compliance with this notice

i. Pursuant to ***Section 33 (4) of the Bush Fires Act 1954***, where the owner and/or occupier of the land fails or neglects to comply with the requirements of this Notice within the times as specified in this Notice, the Shire may enter upon the land and carry out the requirements of this Notice that have not been completed by the owner and/or occupier of the land.

ii. Pursuant to ***Section 33 (5) of the Bush Fires Act 1954***, the Shire may recover from the owner and/or occupier of land the amount of any costs and expenses incurred by the Shire to complete the requirements of this Notice that have not been completed by the owner and/or occupier of the land.

11. Burning garden refuse or rubbish during limited burning times (s.24G of the Act)

1. The burning of garden refuse or rubbish is prohibited on all land within the district that is under 4,000m^2 in size during the Limited Burning Time that would otherwise be permitted under section 24F of the Act.

   For the purposes of this Clause 'Limited Burning Time' means 1 October each calendar year through until 15 May the following calendar year (inclusive), and as varied pursuant to Sections 17 and 18 of the Act).

On land larger than 4,001m^2 the burning of garden refuse or rubbish that would otherwise be permitted under section 24F is prohibited absolutely during the Prohibited Burning Time

The effect of this clause is that;

i. the burning of garden refuse or rubbish in an incinerator or on the ground on land that is 4,000m^2 or less in size is prohibited during the Limited Burning Time; and,

ii. the burning of garden refuse or rubbish in an incinerator or on the ground is prohibited on all land within the district during the Prohibited Burning Time.

2. In addition to the above restrictions, any person burning garden refuse or rubbish on the ground during the Limited Burning Time must do so in accordance with the following requirements:
   - **i.** there is to be no flammable material (other than that being burnt) within 5 metres of the fire at any time while the fire is burning;
   - **ii.** the fire is lit between 6:00pm and 11:00pm and is completely extinguished before midnight on the same day;
   - **iii.** at least one person is present at the site of the fire at all times until it is completely extinguished;
   - **iv.** one pile (up to one cubic metre in size) can only be burnt at a time;
   - **v.** No burning on a declared Public Holiday;
   - **vi.** the person intending to light the fire must telephone the Department of Fire and Emergency Services Communications Centre (COMCEN) immediately prior to igniting, on (08) 9395 9209 or 1800 198 140; and,
   - **vii.** when the fire is no longer required, the person who has lit the fire must ensure that the fire is completely extinguished by the application of water.
3. Any time when there is in force a fire danger forecast issued by the Western Australian Bureau of Meteorology for the district of High, Extreme or Catastrophic, Total Fire Ban or any other prohibition is in effect under the Act, burning of garden refuse or rubbish in an incinerator or on the ground is prohibited on all land within the district.
4. The Shire of Murray Health Local Law 2018 further restricts and / or prohibits burning of rubbish or refuse on land in the district that is under 4,000m^2 in size.



12. Use of Solid Fuel, Fire Pits and Solid Fuel Cooking Equipment

In accordance with Section 25(1a) of the Act and the Shire Bushfire Compliance Notice, the following establishes the requirements where Solid Fuel, Solid Fuel Cooking Equipment and Fire Pits as defined below are permitted to be used within the Shire.

Solid Fuel: Includes charcoal, wood, BBQ pellets, BBQ briquettes and heat beads.

Solid Fuel Cooking Equipment: Includes BBQs, grills, pizza ovens and smokers.

Fire Pits: Includes chimeneas, fire baskets and fire bowls.

Unless otherwise stipulated, fully incapsulated gas BBQs can be used at any time of the year.

Solid Fuel, Solid Fuel Cooking Equipment and Fire Pits are only permitted on private property during the restricted and unrestricted burning periods unless the Fire Danger Rating is High or above or Total Fire Ban or Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban has been declared.

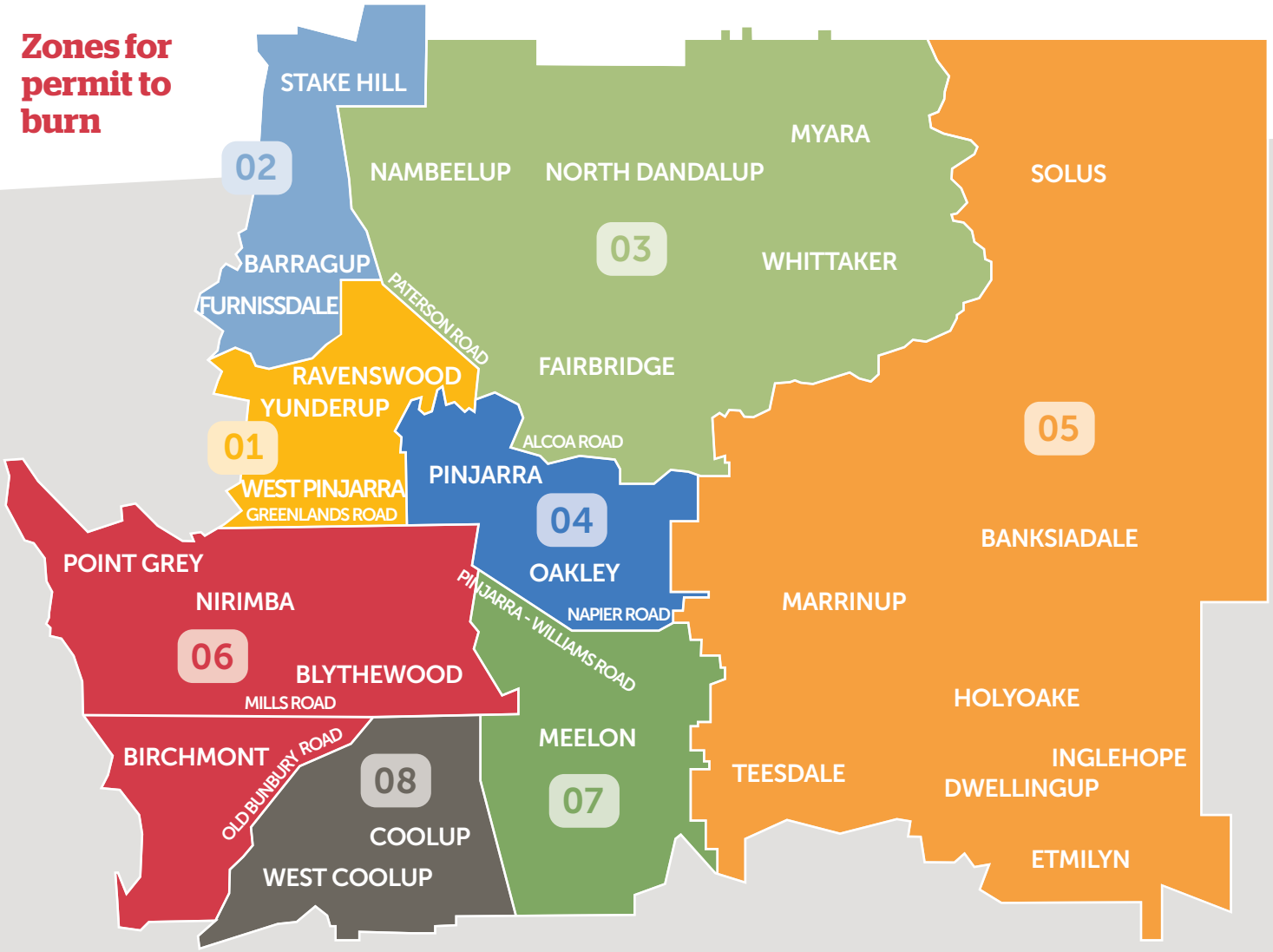
In accordance with the Shire's Consolidated Local Law, campfires and fire pits are not permitted on Shire owned and managed land.

Solid Fuel, Solid Fuel Cooking Equipment and Fire Pits can only be used in accordance with the following requirements.

- The fire must be contained within a non-flammable container.
- The fire must be supervised at all times and must never be left unattended.
- At least 3 metres surrounding the fire must be free of any flammable material.
- The person supervising the fire must have access to an adequate water supply and/or a fire extinguisher sufficient enough to be able to extinguish the fire.

Fire Danger Rating	Fire Pits	Solid Fuel, Solid Fuel Cooking Equipment
Total Fire Ban	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
Catastrophic	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
Extreme	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
High	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
Moderate	Permitted on private property	Permitted on private property

Zones for permit to burn



Zone		Fire Control Officer	Permit Issuing Officers
01	South Yunderup/Ravenswood	Lawrie Caffin-0411 515 688	Lawrie Caffin-0411 515 688
02	West Murray	Justin Crotty-0413 763 511	Andrew Taylor-0438 219 794 Rachael Crotty-0413 422 878
03	North Dandalup	Michael Webster-0439 920 882	Lorraine Webster-0448 135 671 Brendan Webster-0418 930 986
04	Pinjarra Townsite	Kevin Jones-0417 996 806	Kevin Jones-0417 996 806
05	Dwellingup	Anthony Cocivera-0408 070 386	Dave Turner-0427 775 914
06	Coolup		Stuart Kirkham-0427 868 306
07	Coolup	Douglas McLarty-0407 728 446	Douglas McLarty-0407 728 446
08	Coolup		Chris Sattler-0428 625 066

Restricted burning time one

Permit to burn required

1 October 2026 — 30 November 2026 (inclusive)

Fire prevention works deadline

Completed by 30 November 2026

Maintained up to and including 15 May 2027

Prohibited burning time

Burning prohibited

1 December 2026 — 31 March 2027 (inclusive)

Restricted burning time two

Permit to burn required

1 April 2027 — 15 May 2027 (inclusive)

Unrestricted burning period

16 May 2027 — 30 September 2027 (inclusive)

Note

- Unseasonal weather conditions may necessitate a variation to the above dates.
- In accordance with the Shire of Murray Health Local Law 2018, the burning of any refuse or rubbish is prohibited on all land within the district that is under 4,000m^2 in size.
- Burning is prohibited on days where the Fire Danger Rating is High or above and if either a Total Fire Ban/ Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban is declared.
- Prior to any burning, please contact and advise the DFES Communication Centre on (08) 9395 9209 as well as the Shire Ranger Services on (08) 9531 7709.

13. Definitions

For the purpose of this Notice the following definitions apply:

"Authorised Officer" means a person authorised by the Shire and appointed as a Bush Fire Control Officer in accordance with ***S.38 of the Bush Fires Act 1954***.

"Bushfire Management Plan" means a plan that has been developed and approved by the Shire to reduce and mitigate fire hazards within a particular subdivision, lot or other area of land anywhere in the Shire.

"Driveway" means the point of access (driveway) to a habitable building that is accessible for both conventional two-wheel drive vehicles and firefighting appliances that is totally clear of all vegetation, trees, bushes, shrubs and other objects or things encroaching into the vertical clearance of the driveway. If a driveway to a habitable building is longer than 50 metres in length from a public road, a clear turnaround area with a 10-metre radius must also be provided.

"Firebreak" means a strip of land that has been cleared of all trees, bushes, grasses and any other object or thing or flammable material to a trafficable surface leaving clear bare mineral earth. This includes the trimming back and removal of all overhanging trees, bushes, shrubs and any other object or thing over the vertical clearance of the fire break area. Firebreaks constructed on road verges do not constitute a legal firebreak.

"Fire Management Plan" has the same meaning as "bushfire management plan".

"Fuel Depot/Storage Area" means an area of land, a building or structure where fuel (i.e. petrol, diesel, kerosene, liquid gas or any other fossil fuel) is kept in any container or other manner in commercial quantities.

"Flammable Material" means any plant, tree, grass, vegetable, substance, object, thing or material (except living flora including live standing trees, shrubs and bushes) that may or is likely to catch fire and burn or any other item deemed by an authorised officer to be capable of combustion.

"Habitable Building" means a dwelling, work place, place of gathering or assembly and includes a building used for storage or display of goods or produce for sale by wholesale in accordance with classes 1-9 of the Building Code of Australia. The term habitable building includes attached and adjacent structures like garages, carports, verandahs or similar roofed structure(s) that are attached to, or within 6 metres of the dwelling or primary building.

"Haystack" means any collection of hay including fodder rolls placed or stacked together that exceeds 100 cubic metres in size (e.g. 5m x 5m x 4m), whether in a shed, other structure or in the open air.

"Outbuilding" means any structure, shed, building, storage facility or structure or alike built for any purpose outside of the definition of the "habitable building" definition.

"Plantations" means any area of planted pines, eucalypt, hardwood or softwood trees exceeding 3 hectares in area.

"Rubbish" means any filth, dirt, ashes, vegetation, garden refuse, waste material, waste food, sludge, offensive matter, cinders, wood or metal shavings and sawdust but does not include liquid waste or liquid refuse (as defined in the SoM Health Local Law).

"Shed" has the same meaning as outbuilding.

"Size" means a size of an individual parcel or lot of land as recorded in the Shire of Murray property Rates Register or land database.

1 hectare = 10,000m^2 = 2.47 acres
1 acre = 4,046.86m^2 = 0.4046 hectare

"Trafficable" means to be able to travel from one point to another in a 4x4 fire appliance on a clear surface, unhindered without any obstruction that may endanger resources. A firebreak is not to terminate in a dead end without provision for egress to a safe place or a cleared turn around area of 17.5 metre radius.

"Vertical Clearance" means the height of the space above the full width of the firebreak or driveway that must be kept clear of all obstructions and vegetation to a minimum height of 4.5 metres from the ground.

Standards for firebreaks

All firebreaks as required by this Notice shall be constructed and maintained, where applicable, in accordance with the DFES Guide to Constructing and Maintaining Firebreaks.

A copy of this Guide is available on the Shire's website at www.murray.wa.gov.au or can be obtained by contacting Ranger Services on 08 9531 7709.



Additional fire prevention work

In addition to the requirements of this Notice, regardless of land size and location, the owner and/or occupier of land within the Shire may be required to carry out additional fire prevention work to reduce bushfire risk considered necessary by an Authorised Officer of the Shire. Any additional fire prevention work would be specified by way of a Special Fire Prevention Work Order forwarded to the address of the owner and/or occupier of the land.

The following are examples of additional fire prevention work that may be requested by the issuing of a Special Fire Prevention Work Order:

- Ensure roofs, gutters and walls of all buildings on the land are free of flammable material.
- Remove accumulated fuel such as leaf litter, twigs, dead bush and dead trees capable of carrying fire.
- Reduce unmanaged grasses/weeds by slashing, mowing or other means.
- Reduce long grass in areas that have not been grazed by livestock or cultivated by mowing, slashing, baling or by other means.
- Reduce vegetation on the land to a low fire risk state from the outer edge of the firebreak through to the property boundary (e.g. no long grass or overhanging branches).
- Reduce to a low fire risk state any adjacent verge, road reserve, drain that is adjacent to the land.
- Assets identified in the ***Shire's Bushfire Risk Management Plan 2021 - 2026*** or any land identified with a Bush Fire Management Plan or a treatment plan to reduce bushfire risk to assets.

Engaging contractors for fire prevention work

Any owner and/or occupier of land within the Shire who engages a contractor to carry out fire prevention work on behalf of the owner and/or occupier of the land will be held responsible for ensuring that any completed fire prevention work complies with the requirements of this Notice.

Previous notices

Any Notice previously published by the Shire in the Government Gazette or in any locally circulated newsprint is hereby revoked.

Permit to burn

During Restricted Burning Times, a Permit to Burn is required and is obtainable free of charge from:

- Local Bush Fire Brigade Fire Control Officers
- Local Permit Issuing Officer.

Note

- A Permit to Burn will not be issued during the Prohibited Burning Time.
- **A Permit to Burn will not be issued for land that is less than 4,000m².**
- The holder of a Permit to Burn will be required to adhere to all conditions on the permit.

Even when a Permit to Burn has been issued, no fire is to be lit when the fire danger rating is High or above or when a Total Fire Ban or a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban has been declared.

Burning of Shire land

Owners and/or occupiers of land can apply to the Shire to burn the road reserve (verge) directly adjacent to their property. An application form can be obtained from the shire's website or by phoning Shire Ranger Services (08) 9531 7709.

Stay informed

Total Fire Ban

What is a Total Fire Ban?

A Total Fire Ban (TFB) is a ban on activities that could result in a fire starting. A TFB is declared by DFES on days when fires are most likely to threaten lives and property. This is because of predicted extreme fire weather or when there are already widespread fires and firefighting resources are stretched.

Total Fire Bans are declared using local government boundaries in both rural and urban areas. You can see whether your local government area is affected by a Total Fire Ban at emergency.wa.gov.au.

Some activities can continue during a Total Fire Ban if the activity is being carried out in relation to work for a business, a public authority, or as part of an agricultural activity.

If you ignore a Total Fire Ban, you could be fined up to $25,000 and/or be jailed for up to 12 months.

What does a TFB affect?

A TFB affects any activity that may cause a fire including:

- Lighting a campfire or using a fire pit
- Burning leaves, garden waste or grass cuttings
- Using an incinerator
- Using a grinder, welder or any other 'hot work' that creates a spark
- Operating a hot-air balloon
- Using an outdoor wood-fired pizza oven or stove, or a BBQ that uses solid fuel

Any equipment powered by an internal combustion engine including:

- Vehicles such as car, tractor, motorbike, quad bike or dune buggy
- A chainsaw or lawn mower
- A plant trimmer or grass trimmer
- Bobcats, excavators, bulldozers (or any other similar machines)
- A generator

Total Fire Ban information

1800 709 355 ABC 102.5FM or ABC 684AM

dfes.wa.gov.au | emergency.wa.gov.au

Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban

Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans (HVMB) in the district can be imposed by local government under the Bush Fires Regulations 1954 (Regs) when the local Fire Behaviour Index reaches 40 or as otherwise permitted under the Regs.

A HVMB may be imposed for any length of time but is generally imposed for 'heat of the day' periods and may be extended or revoked as weather conditions change.

During a HVMB any machinery or equipment that is powered by an internal combustion engine can not be used including any engine, vehicle, harvester, tractor, motorbike, quad bike, dune buggy etc.

Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban information

- Shire of Murray 08 9531 7777
- ABC 102.5FM or ABC 684AM
- Local Fire Control Officer

SMS alerts

Shire of Murray residents can subscribe to SMS alerts of local Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans and other information via **murray.wa.gov.au.**

Please note: SMS alerts do not include alerts about fires or other emergencies.

EmergencyWA

emergency.wa.gov.au

Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS)

Catastrophic

Fire Behaviour Index Range **100+**

Leave bushfire risk area

Unsafe for firefighters and community. Without initial attack success, likelihood of very large fire development is very high. High probability of loss of life and property.

Extreme

Fire Behaviour Index Range **50–99**

Take action now

Defensive suppression strategies. High levels of threat to life/property. Safety of firefighters and community paramount.

High

Fire Behaviour Index Range **24-49**

Be ready to act

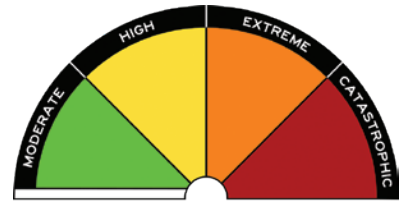
Initial attack success critical to prevent large fire development. Defensive suppression strategies.

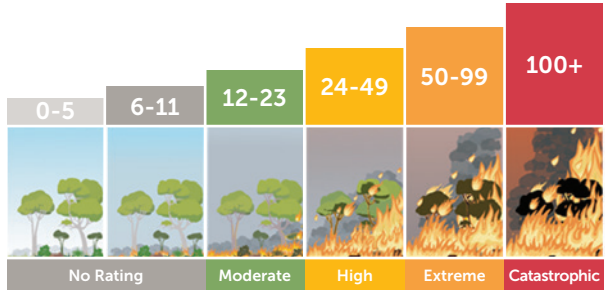
Moderate

Fire Behaviour Index Range **12–23**

Plan and prepare

Most bushfires in this category. Fires typically suppressed with direct, parallel or indirect attack.







Report All Fires: Call 000

Important contacts

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

General enquiries
08 9395 9300

Emergency information
133 337 (13DFES)

Register your controlled burn
08 9395 9209

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

General enquiries
08 9290 6100

Shire of Murray Rangers and Emergency Management
08 9531 7709

Shire of Murray

@ShireofMurray

Contact us

1915 Pinjarra Road, Pinjarra WA 6208
PO Box 21, Pinjarra WA 6208

T: (08) 9531 7777
E: mailbag@murray.wa.gov.au
murray.wa.gov.au