



Frequently Asked Questions

Fuel Hazard Reduction & Firebreak Notice 2013-2014

QUESTION	ANSWER
I never received the Fuel Reduction & Firebreak Notice	Under the Act (Bushfire Act 1954) the Shire is required to advertise the <i>Fuel Hazards Reduction and Firebreak Notice</i> in the local newspaper and <i>WA Local Government Gazette</i> . The Shire elects to post a notice to landowners to ensure relevant information is received by property owners and the community. If you have not received a copy of the <i>Notice</i> we will gladly forward a copy to you, alternatively the <i>Notice</i> is available on our website www.nannup.wa.gov.au
What if I object to the Infringement?	In accordance with the Bushfire Act a withdrawal for a bushfire infringement must be made in writing within 60 days of the notice being issued. With the fire season being a very busy period for the Firebreak Inspectors, it is in the landowner's best interest to write to the CEO immediately so that a timely response can be made within the 60 day period otherwise a withdrawal may not be considered.
Can you recommend a Contractor?	The Shire is unable to recommend any particular contractor.
I have only recently purchased a property and the real estate/previous owners did not inform me that I am required to have firebreaks installed.	All new property owners receive a Welcome pack from the Shire which includes a copy of the latest <i>Fuel Hazard Reduction and Firebreak Notice</i> . Your local fire brigade will also have been informed. Please contact the Shire should you require extra time to complete any works orders.

<p>Why do I have to install a firebreak when I live in town and not Rural?</p>	<p>Firebreak is a generic term used to cover properties that do require a firebreak. Each area has specific requirements, please refer to your specific location legal requirements within the <i>Notice</i> and it will explain what is required of you.</p>
<p>I cannot find a contractor to carry out the firebreak work. If I pay the infringement will the Shire carry out the work for me? Will there be an extra charge for this?</p>	<p>If the property is re-inspected and is still non-compliant then yes the Shire may carry out the work on your behalf. Please note however, you will be invoiced for these works plus you may be liable for other penalties.</p>
<p>Why have you issued a fine at the end of the fire season? I cleared my block at the commencement of the fire season so why didn't you check it then?</p>	<p>The Firebreak inspectors have a large area to inspect each year with high risk areas being inspected first. It is your responsibility as a land owner to ensure that your property is compliant throughout the whole of the fire season. This may mean that further works and maintenance could be required.</p>
<p>I have been issued with a warning, how long do I have to complete the works?</p>	<p>You have a further 28 days to complete the works.</p>
<p>How much clearance from trees is allowed around a dwelling? How close are they allowed to be?</p>	<p>1 metre horizontal and 4 metres vertical from roof line.</p>
<p>My garden is not reticulated, does that mean I have to remove this from next to my house?</p>	<p>If your garden is maintained on a regular basis and is free from dead plants and leaf litter, then it is allowed to stay.</p>
<p>Firebreak Inspectors seem to only be inspecting my area and not others.</p>	<p>Inspections are conducted in relation to risk. Areas that are deemed to be of high risk will always be inspected first while other areas will be inspected in relation to risk, rating and so on as time permits. If you have any concerns regarding a property that may be of high fire risk, please contact the Firebreak Inspectors at the Shire office.</p>
<p>I want to find out more information about how to prepare for the fire season. Do you have any recommended publications I can review.</p>	<p>DFES have some great resources. Please visit www.defes.wa.gov.au</p>
<p>Can I use spray to kill the grass to create a firebreak?</p>	<p>NO, all firebreaks are to be bare mineral earth. If there is any hazardous material within this zone the property is non-compliant and may result in an infringement, as well as the need for more works to be undertaken.</p>
<p>Where do these regulations come from? Who decides that we must do this?</p>	<p>Most of the regulations stem from the Bushfires Act, while local modifications are developed and then endorsed by a range of key stakeholders including Bush Fire Brigade members, DFES, and internal Shire officers, before being endorsed by the Bushfire Advisory Committee (BFAC), and then approved by Council.</p>

<p>Explain to me how reducing the leaves on my property to 5cm is going to make any difference if a fire comes through.</p>	<p>By reducing the leaf litter to 5cm this will slow the rate of spread of the fire. Please note this will not stop the fire but gives Firefighters the chance to save properties. The 5cm depth has also been considered from an environmental point of view allowing organisms, insects and other creatures to live within this system.</p>
<p>The Shire verge adjacent to my property is overgrown and non-compliant. Will I get an infringement for this? Who is responsible for keeping the verge maintained? Am I allowed to clear the verge to make it compliant?</p>	<p>No, you will not receive an infringement notice for a non-compliant Shire verge however, this non-compliance issue should be reported to the Shire to ensure a works request is lodged. If you live in town you are encouraged to maintain the verge adjacent to your property. If you wish to clear the verge adjacent to your property then please contact the Shire office for advise. Whilst the Shire makes every effort to keep road verges compliant, because of the sheer size of the Shire it is not possible to do this for every verge every year.</p>
<p>What does "Hazardous" mean?</p>	<p>Any bush, plant. Tree, grasses, vegetable, substance, object, thing of material that may or is likely to catch fire and burn.</p>
<p>What is meant by excess leaf litter? How much do we reasonably need to remove?</p>	<p>A simple way is if you rub your foot over an area, whatever covers your shoe is what needs to be cleared.</p>