

BUSHFIRE SEASON 2026–2027

Firebreak Notice and Bushfire Information



PLEASE NOTE:

Before lighting a fire at any time,
including the Unrestricted Burning Period,
you must register your burn with DFES by
calling 9395 9209.

For more information, visit harvey.wa.gov.au

Key Dates



Firebreak/Hazard
Reduction work to
be completed by
30 November 2026



Firebreak/Hazard
Reduction work to
be maintained until
15 May 2027

Burning periods for the Shire of Harvey



RESTRICTED
Spring/Summer

Permits Required
2 November 2026
to 14 December 2026 (midnight)



PROHIBITED

Burning Prohibited
15 December 2026
to 14 March 2027 (midnight)



RESTRICTED
Autumn

Permits Required
15 March 2027
to 15 May 2027 (midnight)

Please note, these dates can change at short notice due to variable weather conditions.

Total Fire Ban (TFB)

Declared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES). During a Total Fire Ban, you must not light fires or undertake activities that could start a fire.

Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans (HVMB)

Declared by the Shire of Harvey. A HVMB prohibits harvesting operations and vehicle movement on paddocks or uncleared land. A HVMB may be declared with or without a Total Fire Ban.

For current ban information, visit or listen to:

- **DFES:** dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans
- **Shire of Harvey:** harvey.wa.gov.au
- **Shire of Harvey Facebook**
- **ABC Radio:** 684 AM or 102.5 FM



Please note, anyone who lights a fire is fully responsible, and may be liable, including costs, if it escapes their property and causes damage.

Before lighting the fire, register your burn with DFES
by calling 9395 9209.

Firebreak Notice

Responsibilities

Notice is hereby given to all owners of land within the Shire of Harvey that pursuant to the powers conferred in Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, you are required to carry out fire prevention work in accordance with the requirements of this Notice, on or before **30 November 2026**.

As a landowner, you have a responsibility to manage your property to reduce the risk of bushfire. This notice informs you of the actions you must take to manage your property and the dates when those actions must be adhered to.

Compliance

The Shire will be inspecting properties for compliance from **1 December 2026**.

Failure or neglect to comply with the requirements of this Notice is an offence under Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* and may result in enforcement action. The maximum penalty upon conviction is **\$5,000**.

Where the owner or occupier fails to comply with this Notice, the Shire may enter the land, carry out the required works and recover any costs and expenses incurred from the owner and/or occupier of the land.

Variations to Firebreak Requirements

If you are unable to comply with this Notice, you may apply to the Shire by **1 November 2026** for approval to provide firebreaks in alternative locations or undertake alternative fire hazard reduction measures.

Applications must be submitted using the form available at harvey.wa.gov.au/services/fire-and-emergency-management.

Unless approved in writing by the Shire, you must comply with this Notice.

Special Work Orders

The Shire retains the ability to issue Special Work Orders pursuant to Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, to individual landowners should additional works be necessary for a potential fire hazard that may exist on a property. These can be issued at any time during the year.

Bushfire Management Plan

Properties subject to an approved **Bushfire Management Plan (BMP)** as a condition of subdivision or development approval, or approved treatment plan, must comply with the requirements of that plan. **Compliance with an approved BMP does not remove the requirement to comply with this Firebreak Notice unless otherwise approved in writing by the Shire.**

Firebreak Notice

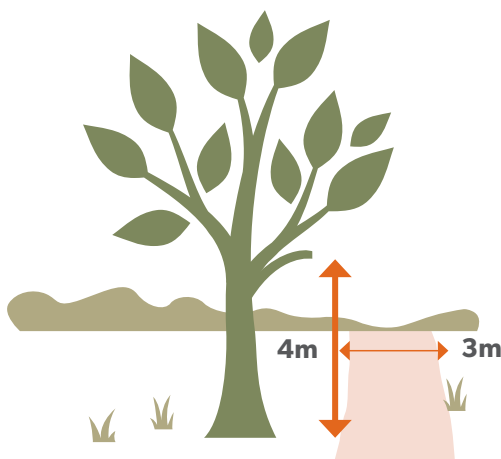
Rural land

Firebreaks must be at least 3m wide with a minimum vertical clearance of 4m and maintained in the following positions:

- Located within 10m of all boundaries of the property/land.
- So as to divide the land into areas of not more than 120ha.
- Around all groups of buildings, haystacks and fuel installations but not closer than 6m.

Irrigated Land

Irrigated land that is kept fully watered and maintained in a **non-flammable** state for the whole of the Restricted and Prohibited burning periods may not require a firebreak.



Fuel and gas depots

Maintain the land clear of all flammable materials for 20m from any edge of the storage unit.

Plantations

Provide 15m wide firebreaks immediately adjoining to external boundaries of the planted area. The outer 10m be cleared of all flammable material while the inner 5m (closest to the trees) kept in a reduced fuel state.

Provide internal 6m wide firebreaks so as to divide the land into areas of not more than 30ha.

Firebreak Notice

Urban Development/Residential exceeding 2024m²

Firebreak of at least 2m wide with a 4m high vertical clearance must be provided and maintained in a non-flammable state within 6m of the property boundaries.

Cleared hardstand areas and reticulated grassed areas maintained in a green state are acceptable.

Urban Development/Residential 2024m² or less

All flammable material on the entire property (noting that this does not include living, standing trees, shrubs, plants and lawn under cultivation) is to be reduced and maintained to a height of less than 5cm.

Definitions

Firebreak

A strip of land which has been cleared of all flammable material such as wood, leaves and grass that is likely to be ignited and capable of burning. It must be trafficable, meaning it must be accessible by a fire appliance and cleared of vegetation without any obstruction to the vehicle. Firebreaks should be designed to allow safe access for firefighting vehicles wherever practicable.

Flammable materials

Accumulated fuel such as leaf litter, twigs, bark, grass over 5cm high, timber boxes, cartons, paper and any combustible material, capable of carrying a running fire but excludes living standing trees and shrubs.

Urban Development/Residential Land

Land within a townsite or urban area, including land zoned Residential, Urban Development, Commercial and Industrial.

Rural land

Includes land zoned Rural, Rural Residential and Priority Agriculture.

Flammable fuel storage

Includes all petroleum-based liquids, Liquefied Petroleum Gas, Liquefied Natural Gas, any other combustible liquid or gaseous fuel.

Hay stack

Hay stack means any collection of hay including fodder rolls placed or stacked together that exceeds 100m³ in size (eg. 5m x 5m x 4m) whether in a shed, other structure or in the open air.

Definitions Continued

Strip of land

Land cleared of all flammable materials, such as wood, leaves and grass that is likely to be ignited and capable of burning; it must be maintained throughout the period.

Irrigated land /hard stand/reticulated grass

Land that is kept fully watered and maintained in a non-flammable state for the whole of the Restricted and Prohibited burning periods.

Plantation

Any area exceeding 3ha planted for commercial gain. Including pine, eucalypt or other commercial value trees, excluding orchards and vineyards.

Special risks

Areas that adjoin public roads, railway reserves and power lines.

Trafficable

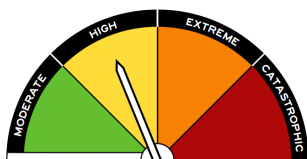
Trafficable means capable of supporting the safe passage of a four-wheel drive fire appliance under normal operating conditions.

Vertical Clearance

A continuous vertical uninterrupted line at a right angle to the horizontal line of the firebreak.

Australian Fire Danger Rating System

The Australian Fire Danger Ratings (AFDRS) levels are:



MODERATE

Plan and prepare

HIGH

Be ready to act

EXTREME

Take action now to protect life and property

CATASTROPHIC

For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas

For more information visit:

dfes.wa.gov.au/hazard-information/bushfire/prepare#fire-danger-ratings



Further information can be found at: harvey.wa.gov.au/services/fire-and-emergency-management/burning-periods-and-fire-danger-ratings

Burning of Garden Refuse

Not permitted at any time during the Prohibited Burning Period, on days of Total Fire Ban or when the Fire Danger Rating is HIGH or above.

- The person intending to light the fire must telephone the Department of Fire and Emergency Services on 9395 9209 and register the burn immediately prior to lighting the fire. The fire shall only be lit between 6pm and 11pm and completely extinguished before midnight on the same day;
- There is no flammable material (other than that being burnt) within three (3) metres of the fire at any time while the fire is burning;
- Only one pile (up to one (1) cubic metre in size) of garden refuse may be burnt at any one time;
- At least one person must remain in attendance at all times until the fire is completely extinguished;
- The fire may only be lit within the confines of privately owned land;
- Wind conditions must be light (below 20 km/h) and smoke must not cause a nuisance to neighbours.

Gas and electric barbecues

Enclosed gas and electric barbecues may be used throughout the year, including during a Total Fire Ban, provided they are:

- used for cooking only;
- fitted with an enclosed flame; and flame or heating element is fully enclosed by the appliance
- operated at a private residence or an authorised public barbecue area.

Barbecues with exposed flames must not be used during a Total Fire Ban.

Campfires, fire pits, wood-fired barbecues and pizza ovens

These appliances may only be used for cooking during the Unrestricted and Restricted Burning Periods. They must not be used:

- during the Prohibited Burning Period;
- on a Total Fire Ban day or during a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban; or
- when the Fire Danger Rating is High or above.

When in use:

- maintain a minimum 5m clearance from inflammable material;
- keep a suitable means of extinguishment immediately available;
- remain in attendance at all times; and
- take reasonable precautions to prevent smoke from causing a nuisance.
- during the Restricted Burning Period can only be used between the hours of 6:00pm and 11:00pm and extinguished by midnight that day. Exemptions may apply

Permit To Burn

During the **Restricted Burning Period**, a **permit is required** to burn grass, paddocks, or bush. Permits must be requested **at least 72 hours in advance** from your local Bush Fire Control Officer (see contact list on page 9).

Permits are issued in writing and are only valid for the dates specified. If a permit is refused, you cannot reapply for the same burn, but may request that the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer review the decision.

All permit holders must strictly comply with the following conditions and special conditions outlined in the permit.

- The person intending to light the fire must telephone the Department of Fire and Emergency Services on 9395 9209 and register the burn immediately prior to lighting the fire;
- Contact the Shire Administration Centre no later than 24 hours prior to the day when the proposed burn is to take place. Weekend burning must be notified by Friday at 4pm on 9729 0300.
- Contact the owner and/or occupier of adjoining land prior to burning by no more than 28 days or less than 4 days unless the notice is given verbally in which case a minimum period may be determined by mutual agreement.
- Contact the nearest Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), if the land is situated within 3km of State Forest Land, National Parks, Nature Reserve and other DBCA lands on 9735 1988.
- Burning under permit is permitted during the Restricted Burning Period on Sundays and Public Holidays.

Unrestricted Burning Period

Before lighting a fire within the Shire of Harvey boundaries during the **Unrestricted Burning Period** for the purpose of fire hazard reduction, you must:

- Telephone the Department of Fire and Emergency Services on 9395 9209 to register the burn immediately prior to lighting the fire;
- Ensure at least one person is in attendance at all times while the fire is burning, and that they are contactable via mobile phone; and
- Maintain a suitable water source on-site that is ready to be used to control or extinguish the fire for the full duration of the burn.

Key Contacts

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Wayne Jackson – 0448 086 672

Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (South)

Max Van Weert – 0438 974 107

Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (North)

Vaughn Byrd – 0404 800 302

Bush Fire Control Officers

Contact a Bush Fire Control Officer between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday. Please note, 72 hours notice is required prior to burning.

Jacob Clark	Australind Binningup Leschenault Parkfield Wellesley	0419 620 579
Todd Verrall	Uduc	0419 291 813
Max Van Weert	Beela Brunswick Olive Hill Roelands	0438 974 107
Vaughn Byrd	Benger Harvey Townsite Harvey Hills	0404 800 302
Jayden Marinelli	Cookernup Hoffman	0402 175 047
Wayne Jackson	Myalup	0448 086 672
Matthew Anzellino	Yarloop	0437 411 614

Other contacts

Community Emergency Services Manager

9729 0383

Shire of Harvey

9729 0300

Shire Rangers

9729 0333

DBCA Parks and Wildlife Wellington

9735 1988

Water Corporation

13 13 75

Volunteer Bushfire Brigades

Binningup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	Dario Nandapi	0429 201 534
Cookernup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	Kerry Argent	0428 282 830
Harvey Hills Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	Steve Watt	0477 413 464
Leshenault Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	Michael Papalia	0439 922 606
Myalup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	Paul Reynolds	0406 063 464
Olive Hills/Roelands Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	Luke Wright	0448 061 959
Uduc Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	Andrew Mapstone	0428 292 609
Yarloop Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	Roger Harrison	0408 194 981



Bushfire Preparedness

Reducing your bushfire risk

Preparing for bushfire is an essential part of living in a bushfire-prone area. Reducing fuel around your home, maintaining your property and having an emergency plan will significantly improve the safety of your family, pets, livestock and home.

Where required under this Firebreak Notice, ensure all firebreaks and hazard reduction works are completed by **30 November 2026** and maintained until **15 May 2027**. Firebreaks must remain clear of inflammable material throughout the compliance period. Cleared hardstand areas and irrigated areas maintained in a green state may be accepted as a firebreak.

DFES recommends maintaining an Asset Protection Zone (APZ) of up to 20m around buildings, where practicable and appropriate to the site.

Reduce the fuel around your home

- Clear rubbish, leaf litter, bark, long grass and other combustible material from around buildings.
- Maintain grass to a height of 5cm or less.
- Prune lower tree branches to 2m above the ground to reduce the likelihood of fire spreading into the tree canopy.
- Maintain at least a 2m separation between buildings and overhanging tree branches.
- Maintain a minimum 3m wide driveway with a 4m vertical clearance to provide safe access for emergency vehicles.
- Do not store firewood or other combustible materials against buildings.
- Remove leaves and other combustible material from beneath trees.
- Keep roofs, gutters and valleys free of leaves, bark and other combustible material.

Prepare your home

- Ensure garden hoses are long enough to reach all parts of your home and use metal fittings where practicable.
- Ensure an adequate water supply and an alternative power source are available to operate firefighting pumps if required.
- Review your home and contents insurance to ensure your level of cover is adequate.

Prepare your household

- Prepare for a bushfire now by creating an emergency plan to help keep you and your household safe.
- Create your plan using the Emergency WA app or visit emergency.wa.gov.au.

Stay Informed



**REPORT ALL
FIRES TO 000**

Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans

For all up to date information regarding Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans, please tune in to the following:

ABC (684 AM/102.5 FM) Local Radio

There will be designated tune-in times for listeners to hear harvest bans:

Weekdays 10.05am, 12.35pm and 2.05pm
(1.05pm in Perth metro area)

Weekends 12.35pm and 2.05pm

Total Fire Bans

Information line 1800 709 355

dfes.wa.gov.au

emergency.wa.gov.au

ABC (684AM/102.5 FM) Local Radio

DFES emergency info line

133 337

Follow DFES on Facebook



SHIRE OF
HARVEY

harvey.wa.gov.au

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