

BurnSMART PLANNED BURNING



AUGUST 2023: BURNSMART PLANNED BURNING

If you own or manage land in Western Australia it is your responsibility to reduce the risk of bushfire impacting it. This applies to all landholders and land occupiers, including private homes, businesses and government.

One of the most effective ways you can reduce fuel loads and the risk of bushfire is planned burning. Planned burning describes deliberately burning a predetermined area under appropriate environmental conditions to reduce fuel loads (the vegetation and dead plant material that can burn in a fire). Planned burns are undertaken under mild and stable weather conditions so that the fire burns slowly and is controllable with low flame heights.

It is important to note however that you are responsible for any fire you light and, if it escapes, you may be liable for the damage it causes.

Reducing fuel increases the chances of your property surviving a bushfire.

The more fuel available to a bushfire, the hotter the fire can burn and the harder it is to control. Flammable material such as leaf litter, fallen branches, dead grasses and shrubs provide fuel for fire, allowing it to grow more quickly and burn at higher temperatures. This increases the likelihood of damage to your property, neighbouring properties and the environment. In comparison, reduced fuel levels assist not only in reducing how quickly a fire can spread, but it also reduces its spotting distance (how far the fire can jump).

Planned burning is a particularly efficient way to remove fuel over larger areas. When used appropriately, it generally results in less environmental disturbance than other methods. Many native plants and animals can also benefit from periodic fire.

The following information is designed to help you Burn SMART:

- Plan smart. Burn SMART.
- Planned burning can reduce the amount of flammable material on your property, potentially reducing the impact and spread of bushfire.
- In the wrong conditions, a planned burn can escape and become an uncontrollable fire. If you plan to burn, plan to Burn SMART.
- YOU are responsible for any burns on your property and must take care to recognise and manage risks.
- Create a burn plan using the Burn SMART Guide and Burn SMART Checklist.
- Watch the Burn SMART Planned Burning How-To Video Series to revisit the key stages of a planned burn and what you must do in order to Burn SMART.
- Register your burn by calling the DFES Communications Centre on 08 9395 9209.
- Burning under the wrong conditions can put lives and homes at risk. Property owners are responsible for recognising and managing all risks associated with their burn.
- Rules and restrictions can vary from day to day. Always check with your local government for burning restrictions and requirements prior to burning.

For more information on planned burning visit [The DFES website](#)

CONDUCTING A SAFE WINTER BURN

BurnSMART - A guide for planned burns

DFES has developed a great how-to guide to help you prepare and execute a successful winter burn. The guide explains the factors that contribute to a safe burn, including weather considerations, assessing your risks, topography, safety tips and clothing, checklists and important contact numbers.

[Click this link or image to download the guide.](#)



BurnSMART - how to video series

The BurnSMART four part video series offers a great overview for conducting a safe winter burn. [Follow this link to the complete DFES BurnSMART video series.](#)

BurnSMART - Leaf moisture method, understanding the results

How quickly and intensely a dead leaf sample burns offers a strong indication of its moisture level. This is valuable to consider when judging the potential success of a planned burn. Use these markers as a guide.

Wet	Damp	Moist	Dry	Very dry
				
<p>Leaf burns only when pointed straight down or does not burn at all</p> <p>If in the area to be burnt, the fuel is too moist to burn</p>	<p>Leaf burns when angled down but not when level</p> <p>If the leaf sample is from the:</p> <p>Top layer The fire will burn slowly</p> <p>Bottom layer The fuel moisture is okay</p> <p>Fires with damp fuels tend to need the wind and/or a slope to spread</p>	<p>Leaf burns when level but not when angled up</p> <p>If the leaf sample is from the:</p> <p>Top layer The fire will burn at the upper level of intensity for a burn</p> <p>Bottom layer The fuel moisture is okay</p>	<p>Leaf burns when angled up, but not if vertical</p> <p>If the leaf sample is from the:</p> <p>Top layer The fire will burn at too high an intensity for a burn</p> <p>Bottom layer The fuel is too dry to perform a burn</p>	<p>Leaf burns when angled straight up</p> <p>The fuel is too dry to burn</p>
Recommendations				
Postpone planned burn until moisture levels drop	Proceed with planned burn	Proceed with planned burn, but exercise caution	Do not proceed with planned burn	Do not proceed with planned burn

Register your burn and tell your neighbours

Tell your neighbours about your plans

- Notify all neighbours no less than four days prior to burning. This includes neighbours separated by a road, lane or waterway.

Register your burn with DFES.

- On the day of your planned burn, call the DFES Communications Centre on (08) 9395 9209 to register your burn. This will prevent volunteer firefighters from being called out if smoke is reported.



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GET BUSHFIRE RESILIENT

INFORMATION FOR HOUSEHOLDS IN REGIONAL AREAS AND ON THE URBAN FRINGE

2023 FREE WEBINAR SERIES

An El Niño summer is coming

Recent rainfall has supercharged fuel loads. Dry conditions will increase fire risks next summer, especially grass fires

Watch the webinars with family and friends and discuss the information and your plans

BRI's webinars are presented by eminent subject experts. Learn how grass fires and bushfires behave and what your family can do to reduce your risks

Viewers can ask questions before or during the webinar, and when you register we'll also send you a link to videos.

To learn more about our presenters head to br.org.au/presenters

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Pets and bushfires – what do we know?

7.30pm AEST Wednesday 9 August

- Mel Taylor, Macquarie University
- Steve Glassey, University of Portsmouth
- Rachel Westcott, South Australian Veterinary Emergency Management Inc

Getting ready for an El Niño summer

7.30pm AEST Wednesday 16 August

- Craig Lapsley, Innovation Pro Pty Ltd
- Parvathi Subramaniam, The University of Sydney
- Danielle Clode, Flinders University

Reducing risks for people and houses

7.30pm AEST Thursday 31 August

- Justin Leonard, CSIRO

Grass fire and bushfire behavior

7.30pm AEST Wednesday 13 September

- Kevin Tolhurst AM, University of Melbourne
- Justin Leonard, CSIRO

Safety actions for the fire season

7.30pm AEDT Wednesday 4 October

- Craig Lapsley, Innovation Pro Pty Ltd
- Jamie Mackenzie, Red Flag - Real Time Leadership Solutions
- Steve Pascoe, Resident, Strathewen, Victoria

About Bushfire Resilience Inc. br.org.au/about

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