

A Severe Bushfire Season is On the Way

Is your home ready?

An important message from your Augusta Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service.

Spring rain has delayed the onset of warmer weather in the south, and when the bush dries off there will be increased fuel to burn.

We live in a region with a high bushfire risk. It is in the best interests of all residents, property owners in and around Augusta to ensure that we do everything we can to prepare in the event of a bushfire.

In event of a major fire, there are simply not enough resources to get to everyone. Ultimately it is up to every individual to be prepared.

A detailed property protection checklist is at www.dfes.wa.gov.au/firechat

Make a start now!

- Cut the grass around your place to below 20cm
- Prune shrubs so they are not dense
- Clean gutters!
- Check that gas bottle release valves face away from property
- Remove any shrubs from against the home
- Keep gas cylinders away from likely direction of fire (i.e. where bush is) and turn release valves outwards
- Remove wood, mulch or any flammable material against or near the house
- Create a minimum two metre gap between your house and tree branches
- Install metal fly wire mesh on all windows, vents and install a protective screen on evaporative air conditioner
- Block any gaps under floor, in the roof spaces, under eaves, external vents, skylights, chimneys and wall claddings
- Install a fire or heat radiant shield such as a solid fence

If you own property in town or beyond, you should ensure that you are compliant with the Shire's *Firebreak and Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice 2017-2018*. There's a copy on the Shire's website under Services>Community safety.

Please note that the Restricted Burning Period commences **November 9**, and a **permit** to burn is required from that date (date is subject to change).

Contact us

If you require advice or assistance, particularly if you have potential fire hazards that need controlled burning before the season begins within Augusta townsite, please write to us with your details: augustavfrs@bigpond.com or call our local Augusta Brigade Captain, Alex Bernhagen, on 0412 770 072. Outside Augusta townsite your local brigade may be able to assist with controlled burning or recommend a contractor for vegetation control.

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