

Planned Burning

WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU



cfa.vic.gov.au

What is planned burning?

A planned burn is the controlled use of fire under carefully managed conditions to reduce fuel such as dead wood, leaf litter, bark, grass and shrubs.

A planned burn is conducted under specified weather conditions by trained firefighters using specific lighting patterns and resources to meet burn objectives.

Why do planned burning?

Planned burning reduces the bushfires threat by:

- Decreasing fuels loads which reduces the intensity of a fire and reduces its rate of spread.
- Reduces embers with on a bad fire day can start new fires some distance away from the main fire (up to 36 kilometres)
- This increases the likelihood of firefighters controlling the fire in early stages.

Fuel reduction within 150 metres of a house significantly increases the likelihood of house survival by minimising the impact of radiant heat and ember attack.

Under severe bushfire conditions the effectiveness of planned burning reduces and the risk to life and property increases. Community members should **prepare and maintain** their property and manage vegetation to help reduce the risk around their homes and assets.

Every person living close to vegetation should have a Bushfire Survival Plan. You are not alone in your preparations and CFA will offer advice and support.

When is planned burning done?

Planned burning can only be done in very mild and suitable weather conditions. These conditions occur in a limited weather window of when it is suitable to apply fire in the landscape. This is often in Spring and Summer but can be any time throughout the year.

A large amount of planning and community engagement will go into a planned burn before it will go ahead. The safety of the community is very important when deciding where the planned burns should go ahead and where the planned burn is positioned in the landscape to maximize benefits to community from impacts of a bushfire.

How will you be notified of a burn date

If you directly border the burn site, you will be notified in writing or via door knocking activities within 48 hours of the burn date. Notices will also be displayed around the burn site.

Information on planned burns in Victoria is available from the **Planned Burns Victoria** website www.plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au.

Planned Burns Victoria is an opt-in system that you can customise to suit your particular notification needs. The system notifies people when a planned burn in Victoria is close to being ignited.



Burning & the environment

Burning is also used by land managers to maintain the health of plants and ecosystems that are reliant on fire.

Over time Australia flora and fauna have adapted to survive fire. Much of the Australian environment needs disturbance by fire to create habitat diversity or to regenerate plant species.

CFA uses the expertise of Biodiversity Advisors to assess suitability of sites for burning and set guidelines around ideal burn intensity for specific species of both plants and animals. Cultural heritage assessments are conducted with relevant Cultural Heritage Advisors.

While wildlife usually moves out of the way of these low intensity burns some can get caught up and potentially injured from the fire. We invite registered carers to attend burns where appropriate however if you see any wildlife that is injured contact the animal ranger, local vet or contact [Wildlife Rescue on 1300 596 457](#).

Parks and Reserves

Planned burning on protected public land including National Parks, State Parks and other crown land reserves is done by Forest Fire Management Victoria on behalf of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and Parks Victoria. For more information go to [DECCA](#) and [Parks Victoria](#) websites.

Private land and other reserves

Planned burning is conducted by CFA brigades on behalf of and at the request of private land owners or managers of other reserves such as roads, rail corridors, council reserves and water authority land

DEECA, Parks Victoria and CFA work together on planned burns. Sharing resources and knowledge ensures that we get the best outcome for community.



Is smoke dangerous to my health

People with heart or lung conditions (including asthma), children, pregnant women and those over 65 years of age are more sensitive to the effects of breathing in smoke.

Seek medical advice or call **NURSE on CALL on 1300 60 60 24** if you are experiencing any discomfort that may be due to smoke exposure such as itchy eyes, sore throat, runny nose or coughing.

Call 000 if anyone is having difficulty breathing wheezing or experiencing tightness in the chest.

Pets and Livestock with planned burns

Depending on where you are located to the burn site you may experience some smoke on your property. There will also be a lot of movement of vehicles and personal patrolling along the boundary and in the general area.

This may be stressful for some animals so consider moving livestock to an area away from the burn site or keeping pets inside your house or shedding. If you are concerned about your pet then you may wish to even relocate them for the day.

Further Information

- Planned Burning - [CFA Website](#)
- Planned Burning - [DEECA website](#)
- [Planned Burns Victoria](#)