



Joint fire safety and native vegetation project near Wilsons Promontory

*Under expert advice some roadside fire management works can benefit both the environment and fire control.*



Phalaris (introduced grass) on roadside

*Native grasses, such as Kangaroo grass, are often better because they have a lower fuel load than introduced grasses.*

## FURTHER INFORMATION

### Roadside Fire Management Guidelines



- ◆ Advice and information to help plan effective roadside fire management.
- ◆ Available from CFA offices or [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

CFA (2001) *Roadside Fire Management Guidelines*

## CONTACTS

CFA  
Community Safety Directorate  
☎ 03 9262 8444  
[www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

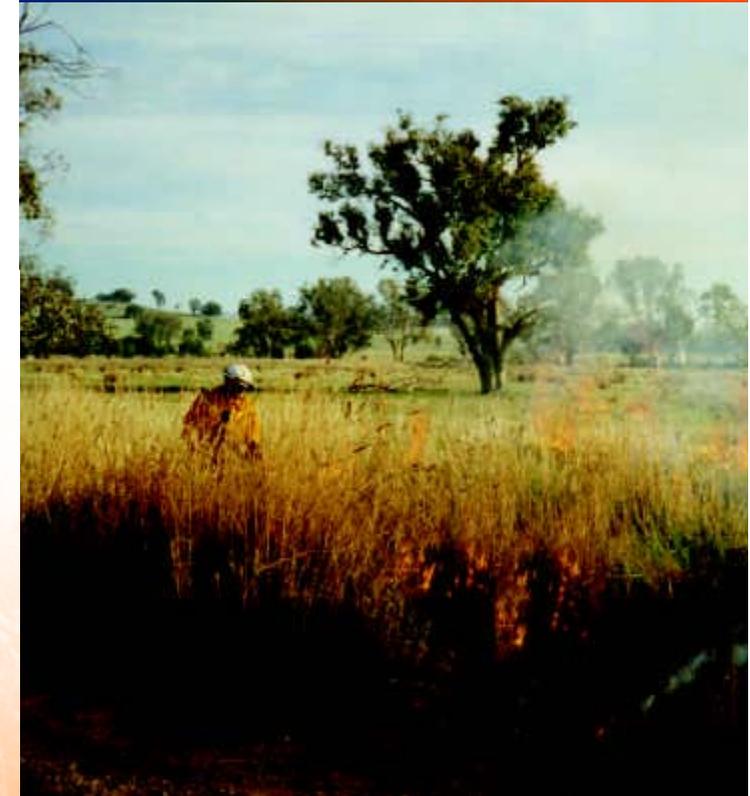
Department of Sustainability and Environment  
☎ 136 186  
[www.nre.vic.gov.au](http://www.nre.vic.gov.au)

VicRoads  
☎ 131 174  
[www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au)

## YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL



# Roadside Fire Management



## General Information



## ROADSIDE FIRE MANAGEMENT

Roadsides are important for safety, the provision of services (such as electricity) and the environment. Careful fire management works on roadsides and private and public land can reduce fire risk.

*CFA supports good roadside fire management that integrates and balances sound knowledge, personal and property safety, and environmental and heritage issues.*

Local councils, CFA and VicRoads have detailed plans for roadside fire management, but what individuals and community groups do on roadsides and on private land is also important.

This brochure contains advice to help landowners and community groups consider fire management issues and seek approval for works on roadsides, such as slashing or revegetation.

## LOCAL COUNCIL

In partnership with CFA and other organisations, your local council plays an important role in making sure that roadsides are well managed.

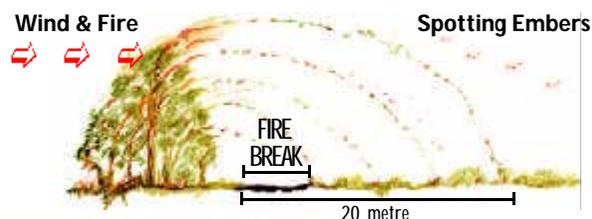
*Contact your council to seek advice, check relevant documents (such as fire, conservation or roadside management plans) and obtain required council approval before:*

- ◆ undertaking any roadside works, or
- ◆ removing, lopping or destroying any native vegetation including grasses, trees and shrubs.

Ask your council about what other government approvals may be necessary and seek VicRoads approval before undertaking works on the roadsides of freeways, highways and most main roads.

## FIRE BREAKS

In low to moderate fire danger conditions, fire breaks can reduce fire spread.



In a fire, trees, shrubs and tall grasses with large seed heads within 20m of a fire break can provide embers that cross the break (spotting), or under some conditions allow flames to cross the break. Fire breaks that meander through treed or shrub areas are of little benefit.



*High conservation roadside near Benalla*

Consider putting fire breaks on **private land**. This may be a better option where:

- ◆ flying embers make treed roadsides the least suitable place for a fire break, or
- ◆ roadsides have a high conservation value.



*Roadside slashing*

## SLASHING

The speed of fire spread in slashed grass is about the same as that for standing grass, but the flame height is halved, making the fire easier to put out.

## FIRE SPREAD

When fire danger is high, a fire is likely to leave a roadside quickly regardless of what fire management works have been done. The following table shows how fast a fire can burn forward in dry grass, on flat ground, when the fire width is over 100 metres.

| Grassland fire danger | Potential forward speed of fire |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Low                   | 2 – 3 metres per minute         |
| Moderate              | 8 metres per minute             |
| High                  | 20 – 30 metres per minute       |
| Very High             | 83 metres per minute            |

**Fires under 100m wide may not travel as fast.**

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- ◆ Plan roadside fire management to minimise native vegetation damage, erosion and weed problems.
- ◆ Weeds can be a fire risk because they often have high fuel loads.
- ◆ When planning revegetation projects consider fire safety needs.