



Municipal Fire Management Planning

FIRE PREVENTION NOTICES

Background

The 1997 Municipal Fire Prevention Planning Guidelines suggested that annual works by municipalities should be included as a program in Municipal Fire Prevention Plans.

A common treatment, implemented by municipalities to address the risks posed by bushfire is the issuing of fire prevention notices on private property. This treatment should be included in the Municipal Fire Prevention/Management Plan.

Fire Prevention Notices

The management of vegetation can be an important factor in reducing the risk from bushfire. In some circumstances enforcement is necessary to ensure appropriate management of fire risk occurring. At the municipal level such enforcement is carried out through Municipal Fire Prevention Officers issuing Fire Prevention Notices.

Under s. 41 of the Country Fire Authority Act 1958 (the CFA Act) a Fire Prevention Notice (FPN) can be issued in respect of anything¹ that by its nature, composition, condition or location is, or may become a danger to life or property from the threat of fire. A fire prevention notice may:

- Specify that a certain part or parts of land must be cleared
- Specify the manner of clearing the land
- Be issued in relation to vegetation or other material including but not limited to combustible waste, packaging, equipment, tyres, fuel, oil and other substances that are a fire hazard;

A Fire Prevention Notice can only be served if the Officer forms the opinion that it is necessary or may become necessary to do so to protect life or property from the threat of fire, and there is no other legislation that more adequately deals with the matter.

Under specified conditions the Chief Officer of CFA may also issue a fire prevention notice under s. 41F of the CFA Act. This provision is not delegated to any other CFA employee or member.

Documenting Treatments and responsibilities

The MFPP/MFMP should state that Fire Prevention Notices are used to treat threats to life and property from fire; outline the program status and when the inspection program will be implemented.

Fire Prevention Program should clearly outline:

- the Risk Environment and Hazard combination that is being treated.
- the objective of the treatment
- the details of the works to be undertaken as prescribed in the Fire Prevention Notice
- who is responsible for implementing the treatment and by when

¹ Excluding buildings s. 41(1)(a) CFA Act