



Plan ahead and seek advice before burning.

BURNING

Before burning, be clear about what the burning will achieve, identify risks and how they will be managed, and obtain all necessary permits. The properly managed use of fire can increase fire protection and improve the health of native vegetation. For further information see "On The Land Agricultural Fire Management Guidelines" available from CFA offices or the CFA website.

BURNING REFUSE

Open fire burning & Incinerators

Before burning rubbish any time of the year. Check that there are no local council requirements or restrictions. Some local councils do not permit incinerators and/or open area burning to be used at any time.

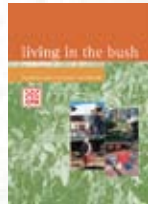
During the Fire Danger Period the use of fire in the outdoors is subject to strict legal conditions, including obtaining permits.

FURTHER INFORMATION



CFA On the Land: Agricultural Fire Management Guidelines 2007

Information to help plan effective agricultural fire management.



Living In The Bush: Bushfire Survival Plan Workbook

Information to help plan for personal survival and effective fire management around your home.



Building in a Wildfire Management Overlay, 2007

Information on how to obtain permits for building in a WMO area.

Publications are available from CFA offices and online at www.cfa.vic.gov.au. WMO Applicants Kit is also available from your local council.

CONTACTS

CFA

Community Safety Directorate
☎ 03 9262 8444 | www.cfa.vic.gov.au

YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL

Private Property Fire Management



General Information



VEGETATION FIRE MANAGEMENT

Making your house and property fire safe is your responsibility, and is important for your family, your business and for the environment. Sound fire management works on private property can reduce fire risk.

Local councils, CFA, VicRoads and the Department of Sustainability and Environment have detailed plans for fire management on roadsides and public land, but what individuals do on private land is also important.

This brochure contains information for landowners considering fire management works.

REMEMBER - ASK FIRST

There may be local council laws and planning scheme requirements that prohibit the removal of vegetation without a permit. Contact your council to seek advice and obtain required approval before removing, lopping or destroying any native vegetation including grasses, trees and shrubs.

It is important that vegetation management is carried out in a way which minimises harm to the environment.



Clear leaf litter and fine fuels from around the home.

LANDSCAPING

Use the layout of your property and manage vegetation carefully to create low fuel areas around the house and limit the ability of a fire to ignite a building through flame contact or radiant heat. This will help to create a defensible space in which active defence of the property is possible. Prepare your home and family to survive bushfires. See “Living In The Bush: Bushfire Survival Plan Workbook” available from CFA offices and the CFA website. Consult with the Department of Sustainability and Environment for advice on the ecological management of fire.



Well planned fire management on private property can often benefit both the environment and fire safety.

WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT OVERLAYS

A Wildfire Management Overlay is a planning control applied to areas that have been identified to be high bushfire risk areas. A permit is required to build a house in an area that is covered by a Wildfire Management Overlay (WMO) Information is available in a Wildfire Management Overlay Applicants Kit available from CFA offices, the CFA website, or your local council.

FUEL BREAKS

A fuel break is an area where fuels such as vegetation are reduced or removed. The use of fuel breaks is often an important part of fire management on rural properties.

The effectiveness of a fuel break depends on the weather conditions at the time, width of the break, and whether embers are being produced.



Fuel breaks can be effective if embers cannot cross the break

If you decide that a fuel break is an option for your property, you must consider the method of creating the break and avoid harm to the environment. Some methods of creating fire breaks are:

Spraying

Weed killers can be used to create a fuel break. If using weed killers, always consider the environment. Apply weedkillers selectively to avoid unnecessary damage to native grasses and vegetation.

Slashing

Slashed or mowed grass burns at about the same speed as standing grass, but flame height is halved, making it easier and safer to fight a fire. Encourage and conserve native grasses, which tend to be shorter and provide less fuel for a fire.

BARE EARTH BREAKS can be sprayed, burnt, graded and/or ploughed to ensure they are clear of fuel. Always consider environmental impacts such as soil erosion, destruction of native vegetation, and increased weed growth. Keep bare earth breaks to a minimum to decrease risks to the environment.