

# Farm Fire Safety Checklist



## Protect your assets, home and family



### Fuel Reduction

- › Keep fuel loads to a bare minimum around house blocks, sheds and other assets
- › Create a heavily grazed area where stock can be moved on fire risk days
- › Maintain slashed or mown fuel breaks to a width of at least 3 metres



### Hay

- › Use a probe to test for heat and look out for warning signs such as steam, unusual smells or slumping
- › Allow for airflow by not stacking hay right up against the roof of sheds
- › Store hay in multiple locations to avoid large losses. Protect hay from rain, leaking roofs and spouts and cover stacks with tarps or hay caps



### Machinery & Harvesters

- › Check and clean machinery thoroughly before using for the first time
- › Equip harvesters and other large machinery with appropriate fire extinguishers and a shovel
- › Think twice before harvesting, grinding, welding or slashing on hot, dry, windy days
- › Take regular breaks to check for straw or grass build-up and overheating bearings



### Around the Home

- › Have one smoke alarm on each level of the house and in each bedroom where someone sleeps with the door closed
- › Check your chimneys and flues before winter for birds' nests, cracks, rust or damaged internal fire bricks
- › Always use a fire screen in front of an open fire
- › Replace damaged appliances such as heaters or power boards immediately



### Burning Off

- › Always register your burns: call 1800 668 511 or email [burnoffs@esta.vic.gov.au](mailto:burnoffs@esta.vic.gov.au)
- › Never leave a burn-off unattended
- › Always have resources on hand to contain the fire if necessary



### Response & Suppression

- › Check, service and recharge all knapsacks and extinguishers before the Fire Danger Period
- › Phone 000 as soon as you detect a fire.
- › It takes time to get a fire truck on site
- › Ensure everyone knows how to use the private firefighting equipment on your property
- › Keep a fire extinguisher inside the house and a fire blanket handy in the kitchen



### Access for Emergency Services

- › Make sure your property name and number are clearly visible from both directions at the property entrance
- › Make sure a truck can turn around in access tracks near to house blocks, sheds and fences
- › Clearly mark all water supplies and ensure water tanks have CFA compatible fittings



### Be Prepared to Act Quickly in an Emergency

- › Have essential items prepared and ready to go: medications, bottled water, first aid kit, photos, valuables,
- › a battery-powered radio, 100% woollen blankets and essentials for your pets
- › Scan important documents including current inventories of feed, stock and fencing onto a CD or memory stick and keep a copy stored off your property
- › Keep important contact numbers (family, neighbours, vets, stock agents and insurance) in an easy to access place