



Shire of Kent

Fire Hazard Reduction Notice

FIRST AND FINAL NOTICE

COMPLIANCE DUE BY:

1 November

ASSESSMENTS COMMENCE:

1 November

Important: The works outlined below must be completed by 1 November and maintained in this state up to and including 30 April.

Notice to all land owners and occupiers in the Shire of Kent

Pursuant to section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, the Shire of Kent (the Shire) gives written notice to act as specified in this notice to land that you own and/or occupy, and with respect to any matter which is upon the land that you own and/or occupy within the Shire. Failure or neglect to comply with this notice is an offence and can result in a penalty of up to \$5,000. The Shire advises that its officers, servants, staff, contractors, vehicles, machinery, and appliances (as the officers deem fit) may carry out the requisitions of this notice that are not complied with by the date specified above, and any costs and expenses incurred may be recovered from you as the owner and/or occupier of the land.

All land with an area greater than 4,000m² (0.4 ha)

Fire Breaks

- » Install or upgrade a **3-metre-wide by 4-metre-high clearance, bare mineral earth, continuous** (no dead ends) trafficable fire break as close as possible within 20 metres inside the entire perimeter of the land.
- » Install or upgrade a **3-metre-wide by 4-metre-high clearance, bare mineral earth, continuous** (no dead ends) trafficable fire break within 50 metres of and surrounding all buildings and haystacks.

Dead Flammable Material (DFM)

Reduce and/or maintain all dead flammable material below 8 tonnes per hectare (see definition *Fuel Load*).

Asset Protection Zone

Maintain a fuel-reduced zone around all buildings and assets which extends 20 metres from the outermost point of all buildings and assets.

- » Gutters, roofs, and walls of all buildings to be free of flammable matter and maintained.
- » Fuel load within the 20-metre zone is reduced and maintained to no more than 2 tonnes per hectare.
- » Within 3 metres around the building with grass permitted no higher than 0.1 metres; ground covers no higher than 0.5 metres in height. Ground covers greater than 0.5 metres in height are to be treated as shrubs; and, combustible dead vegetation matter to be less than 6 millimeters in thickness and maintained.
- » Trees over 5 metres in height within the 20-metre zone to be under-pruned up to 2 metres.
- » Trees or shrubs within 2 metres of a building / asset shall be pruned to a height no greater than 2 metres and/or pruned away from the building / asset to a distance greater than 2 metres.

All land with a total area of less than 4,000m² (0.4ha)

Dead Flammable Material (DFM)

Reduce and/or maintain all dead flammable material below 8 tonne per hectare (see definition *Fuel Load*).

Slashing

Slash, mow, or trim dead grasses, dead shrubs, and dead plants to a height no greater than 50mm and remove cuttings/swath across the entire property.

Asset Protection Zone

Maintain a fuel-reduced zone around all buildings and assets, which are residences or places of work, which extends 20 metres from the outermost point of all buildings and assets.

- » Gutters, roofs, and walls of all buildings to be free of flammable matter and maintained.
- » Fuel load within the 20-metre zone is reduced and maintained to no more than 2 tonnes per hectare.
- » Within 3 metres around the building with grass permitted no higher than 0.1 metres; ground covers no higher than 0.5 metres in height. Ground covers greater than 0.5 metres in height are to be treated as shrubs; and, combustible dead vegetation matter to be less than 6 millimeters in thickness and maintained.
- » Trees over 5 metres in height within the 20-metre zone to be under-pruned up to 2 metres.
- » Trees or shrubs within 2 metres of a building / asset shall be pruned to a height no greater than 2 metres and/or pruned away from the building / asset to a distance greater than 2 metres.

Additional Works

Where a property is affected by an approved bushfire management plan, property owner and/or occupier must still comply with all requirements in this notice and with ALL additional requirements outlined within that plan.

You may be required to carry out further bushfire property preparedness works on your land to reduce any fire hazards considered necessary by a Fire Control Officer. If required, these will be outlined in a 'work order' and sent to the address of the owner.

Airstrips

Pursuant to regulation 39B(2) of the *Bush Fires Regulations 1954*, the Shire gives written notice to act as specified in this notice to land that you own and/or occupy to:

- » Install or upgrade a **6-metre-wide, bare mineral earth, continuous** trafficable fire break immediately surrounding airstrips.
- » Engine start-up, refuelling and maintenance areas shall be cleared of flammable material to a radius of 18m.

Variation to the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice

If you consider it impractical to meet a requirement(s) of this Notice, you may apply to the Shire for a variation no later than 2 October.

Note: A variation is not an exemption but an application to employ other methods of property preparedness to land that you own and/or occupy.

If your application is not granted you must comply with all requirements outlined in the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice. Variation request application forms are available on the Shire's website.

Emergency Management Plans and Shire Approved Treatment Plans

All properties and/or land subject to a Bushfire Management Plan or an approved Bushfire Attack Level assessment (BAL), as a result of subdivision, development application or a Shire approved treatment plan, must comply with the listed requirements in their entirety. Compliance with any additional plans does not constitute compliance with this Notice.

Fire Suppression Equipment

Pursuant to regulation 38A & 38B of the *Bush Fires Regulations 1954*, the Shire gives written notice that undertaking the below-listed agricultural activities shall have the following conditions:

- » Provide an operational mobile firefighting unit with no less than 600 litres of water (recommended 1200 litres);
- » Minimum 6 metres of hose (recommended 30 metres) with a controlled nozzle;
- » Self-propelled fire units are preferred, with trailer units being accepted only if connected to a tow vehicle at all times; and,
- » To comply with WHS regulations, a mobile firefighting unit (mobile plant) shall not be exceeded GVM and/or GTM so to maintain workplace safety.

Specified activities

- » Grain harvesting
- » Rock raking/ windrowing/ track chaining
- » Spreading
- » Other activities as broadcast by the CBFCO, CESM or CEO.
- » Hay baling
- » Reefinancing
- » Stubble crunching

Fire units are to be ready and available from 1 November - 30 April annually, outside above activities.

Definitions

Fire Break:

A strip of land free of all flammable material with the intention of minimising the spread or extension of a bushfire and provide safe access on the property for emergency vehicles and other firefighting operations:

- » Clearance must be no less than 3-metres wide and 4 metres in height inside and along all boundaries (including boundaries adjacent to roads, rail and drain reserves and reserves).
- » Must not be more than 5-metres wide (further width extensions may be considered upon written application for approval to the Shire).
- » Maintained, reticulated living lawns are lawns considered to be kept completely green. Driveways may be acceptable in conjunction with, or in lieu of, mineral earth fire breaks.
- » Must have a corner turning radius of up to 12 metres.

Fuel Load:

Can be live and dead vegetation that accumulates over time. This Notice refers only to dead vegetation.

Fine fuels include:

Leaf litter, grasses, twigs (up to 6mm diameter), bark etc.

Heavy (Course) fuels include:

Branches, logs, stumps etc.

- » A fuel load depth of 15mm (fine fuels) to the mineral earth is indicative of approximately 8 tonne per hectare. The more fuel load, the higher the flame height and increased fire intensity.
- » Mulch piles, stored firewood and burn piles can contribute to fuel loading on land and must be stored safely away from assets, removed from the property, or actioned as directed by a Fire Control Officer.