

THIS information sheet contains some explanatory information relating to the Shire of Mundaring's Firebreak and Fuel Load Notice. *It is intended as a guide only.* For more detailed information see the Shire of Mundaring Firebreak and Fuel Load Notice or contact a Shire Fire Hazard Inspection Officer.



Firebreak standard

- Firebreaks in Shire of Mundaring are required to be no less than three metres wide and have no less than four metres height clearance.
- They are to be free of all flammable material and are to be trafficable.
- Firebreaks can be constructed by raking, scarifying, ploughing, burning, chemical spraying, cultivating or other methods as approved by an authorised officer.
- Firebreaks are to be in place before 1 November and are to be maintained until 31 March the following year.
- It is the property owners' responsibility to ensure that firebreaks are compliant so please give specific directions to a contractor if hiring someone to complete required work.

How wide and high should a firebreak be?

Height 4 metres

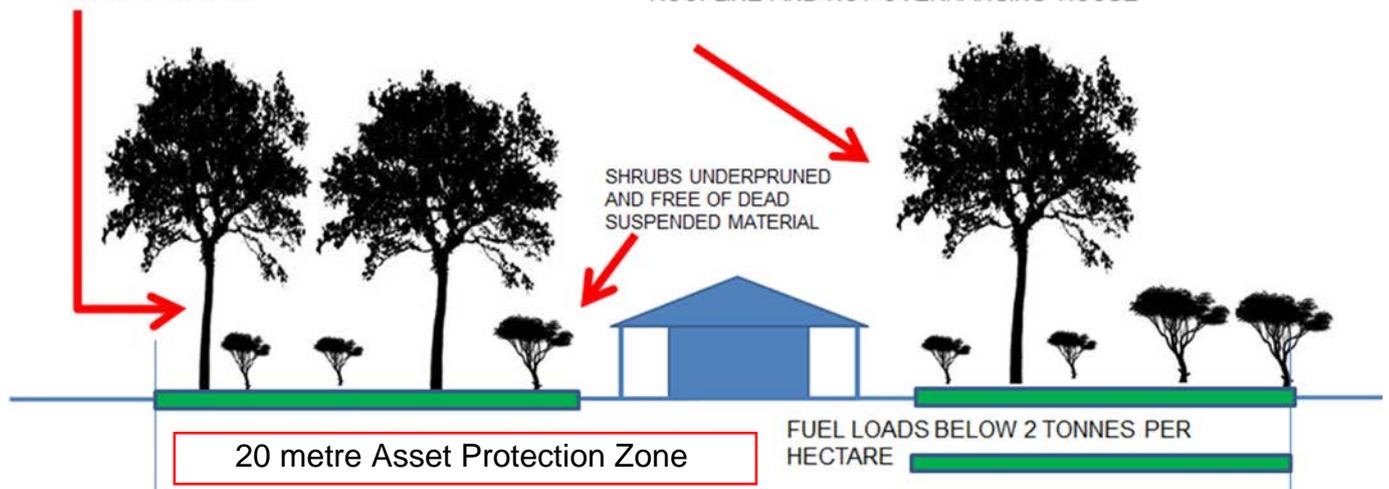


Width 3 metres

TREES UNDER PRUNED TO A HEIGHT OF AT LEAST 2 METRES

TREES CLOSE TO HOUSE PRUNED AWAY FROM ROOFLINE AND NOT OVERHANGING HOUSE

SHRUBS UNDERPRUNED AND FREE OF DEAD SUSPENDED MATERIAL



Emergency Management Service

***A Guide to the Shire's Firebreak
and Fuel Load Notice***



How does a APZ work?

Bush fires spread and increase in intensity by consuming any available fuel in their path. In most cases homes are damaged or lost due to the radiant heat and ember's caused by nearby fires, so to minimise the impact on your home your best defence is to reduce the amount of fuel close to your house.

In this case fuels consist primarily of leaf litter, small twigs and bark at ground level or suspended in the lower parts of trees and shrubs. By removing these from close to your home and keeping the levels below two tonnes per hectare you are effectively starving the fire and reducing the likelihood of damage.

Managing Fuel Loads

You can rake and remove the ground fuels, burn them in piles during approved burning

times, or compost the leaf litter and use it in other areas of your garden.

Under-pruning shrubs and trees close to your home and managing dead and dry material suspended in shrubs is also a good way to reduce fuel loads.

Good management of fuel levels does not necessarily mean you have to remove trees and shrubs. In most cases good management of ground level fuels and some pruning of shrubs and trees is sufficient.

Shrub management in a good APZ

Keeping the lower branches of shrubs clear of the ground is important in maintaining a good APZ, as well as keeping the plant free of dead and suspended litter, bark and twigs. This limits the opportunity for fire to reach the foliage and progress from shrub to shrub.



Be Clear before you Clear

One of the attractions of living in the Hills is the bushland. A risk of being surrounded by bushland is the possibility of bushfires. Establishing Building Protection Zones (BPZs) are part of the Shire's Firebreak and Fuel Load Notice. **BEFORE** you clear any vegetation contact our environment and emergency management officers. They will conduct a home visit and provide advice on what needs to be done in order to meet the Notice requirements.

Be Clear before you Clear - PHONE 9290 6666