

Total Fire Bans and Harvest Vehicle Movement Bans



During periods of elevated bushfire risk, Total Fire Bans (TFBs) and Harvest Vehicle Movement Bans (HVMBs) may be implemented to reduce the likelihood of fires starting and spreading. TFBs are declared by DFES, while HVMBs are issued by local governments.

A Total Fire Ban (TFB) is declared on days when fires are most likely to threaten lives and property due to predicted extreme fire weather or when widespread fires are already stretching firefighting resources. While TFBs are most common during the fire season, they can also be declared at other times of the year when conditions such as high temperatures and strong winds create an elevated fire risk.

During a TFB, residents should consider the requirements of Section 22B(2)(b) of the Bush Fires Act 1954 and ask themselves: "Could this open-air activity start, or be likely to start, a fire?"

A Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban (HVMB) may be imposed by the Shire's Chief Bush Fire Control Officer during the Restricted or Prohibited Burning Period. HVMBs restrict the use of machinery, equipment and vehicles that

could start or spread a bushfire when weather conditions are severe and any fire would be dangerous and difficult to control.

What activities can members of the general public undertake during a TFB or HVMB?

This guide is intended for members of the general public. Businesses, industry operators and public authorities may be eligible to apply to DFES for exemptions during a TFB; however, these exemptions do not apply during an HVMB.

Please note that the information in this guide relates only to Total Fire Bans and Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans. It does not take into account the current burning period (Unrestricted, Restricted or Prohibited) or Fire Danger Rating (Moderate, High, Extreme or Catastrophic).

Open Air Activity	Location	TFB	HVMB	Notes
Blasting, above ground	Cleared area	No	No	
Bon Fire	Cleared area	No	No	
Burn pile/s of garden cuttings	Cleared area	No	No	
Campfire	Cleared area	No	No	
Chainsaw, battery or electric	Off-road/ vegetation	Yes, but	Yes, but	not if it might cause sparks or heat*
Chainsaw, internal combustion engine (fuelled)	Off-road/ vegetation	No	No	
Cooking*, electric	Cleared area	Yes	Yes	
Cooking*, gas (enclosed flame)	Cleared area	Yes, with	Yes, with	a 5m break + a water source
Cooking*, solid fuel* or open flame	Cleared area	No	No	
Cutting tool*, battery or electric	Cleared area	Yes, but	Yes, but	not if it might cause sparks or heat*
Cutting tool*, internal combustion engine (fuelled)	Cleared area	No	No	
Electric Fences	Cleared area	Turn off	Turn off	Recommended
Fire Pit	Cleared area	No	No	
Fireworks	Cleared area	No	No	
Garden tool*, battery or electric	Off-road/ vegetation	Yes, but	Yes, but	not if it might cause sparks or heat*
Garden tool*, internal combustion engine (fuelled)	Off-road/ vegetation	No	No	
Generator, internal combustion engine (fuelled)	Cleared area	Yes	Yes	
Generator, internal combustion engine (fuelled)	Off-road/ vegetation	No	No	

Open Air Activity	Location	TFB	HVMB	Notes
Harvesting	Off-road/ vegetation	Yes, but	No	there are conditions to be met
Hot works (weld, grind, cut, heat, char, solder)	Cleared area	No	No	
Incinerator	Cleared area	No	No	
Lawn Mower, battery or electric	Green, reticulated	Yes, but	Yes, but	not if it might cause sparks or heat*
Lawn Mower, battery or electric	Off-road/ vegetation	Yes, but	Yes, but	not if it might cause sparks or heat*
Lawn Mower, internal combustion engine (fuelled)	Green, reticulated	No	No	
Lawn Mower, internal combustion engine (fuelled)	Off-road/ vegetation	No	No	
Machine (bobcat, excavator, bulldozer etc)	Off-road/ vegetation	No	No	
Off-road activity (inc. rock breaking etc)	Off-road/ vegetation	No	No	
Power Tool*, battery or electric	Cleared area	Yes, but	Yes, but	not if it might cause sparks or heat*
Power Tool*, internal combustion engine (fuelled)	Cleared area	No	No	
Road work (grading/bitumising)	Cleared area	Yes, but	Yes, but	there are conditions to be met
Running fire	Off-road/ vegetation	No	No	
Stock tending, using a vehicle	refer to notes	See below	See below	refer to to vehicle movement, below
Vehicle* movement, internal combustion engine (fuelled)	Off-road/ vegetation	No	No	
Vehicle* movement, internal combustion engine (fuelled)	Cleared farm road	Yes	Yes	
Vehicle* movement, internal combustion engine (fuelled)	Gazetted road	Yes	Yes	

Additional Descriptions

What can cause sparks?

Activities such as using metal blades on hard surfaces, striking rocks together, or mowing dry grass can create sparks and start a fire. If conditions are hot, dry or windy, the safest option is to delay the work.

What can cause heat?

Many tools generate heat through their motors, batteries and moving parts. This heat can ignite dry vegetation or other flammable materials. If you're unsure whether an activity is safe, delay the work until conditions improve.

Term	Description
Fully enclosed	An area with four walls and a roof. This does not include carports, patios, pergolas or verandahs. Activities may be undertaken in a fully enclosed area, however users should be aware of smoke and fumes.
*Cooking	BBQs, kettle BBQs (e.g. Weber), pizza ovens, smokers, spit roasters, rotisseries and similar cooking appliances.
*Cutting tools	Angle grinders, bench grinders, jigsaws, saws, welders, soldering equipment and gas-cutting tools.
*Garden tools	Brush cutters, grass trimmers, hedge trimmers, leaf blowers and whipper snippers. Note: battery-powered or electric leaf blowers can generally be used as they do not create sparks.
*Power tools	Drills, heat guns, jackhammers, impact drivers, nail guns, planers, routers and sanders.
*Solid fuel	Wood, briquettes, wood pellets and charcoal.
*Vehicle	Cars, motorbikes, quad bikes, tractors, dune buggies and similar motor vehicles.



Scan to check current TFBs information and see if you're eligible for a DFES exemption (canceled under HVMB).



Scan to receive SMS updates on local burning periods, TFBs, HVMBs and Extreme+ Fire Danger Ratings.

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For further information contact the Shire's Emergency Management Team by calling 9290 6696 or email fse@mundaring.wa.gov.au