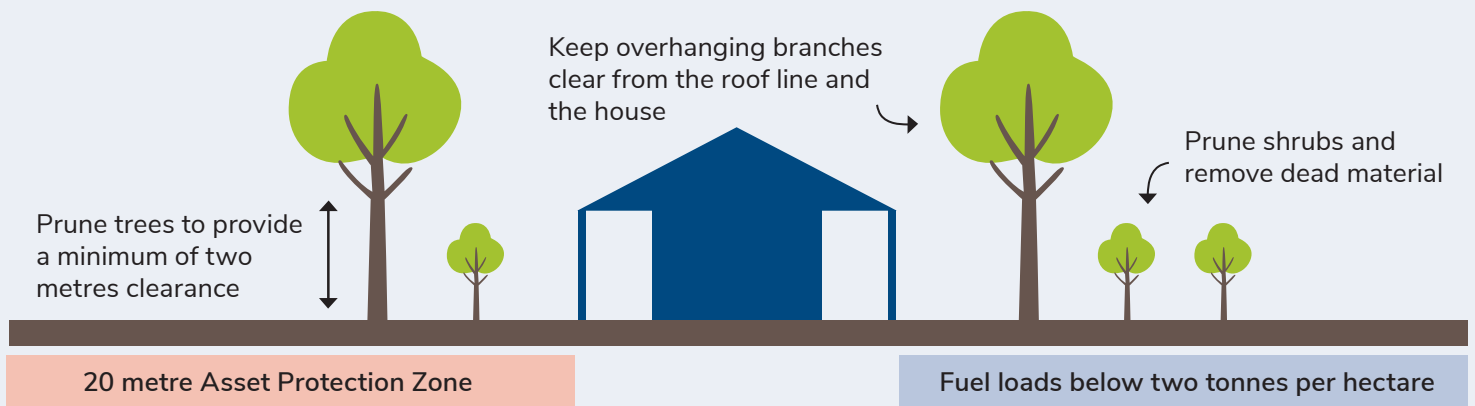


Asset Protection Zone



Properties that are well prepared for bushfires are more likely to experience less damage. One of the most important ways to prepare is by creating an Asset Protection Zone (APZ) around your home.

Asset Protection Zones (APZs) are low-fuel areas around a home that help reduce the impact of a bushfire. Requirements for APZs are detailed in the Shire's Firebreak and Fuel Load Notice.

Many established properties have gardens and vegetation that were planted before current APZ guidelines were developed. In many cases, an effective APZ can still be achieved through careful management, without removing healthy vegetation or undertaking major landscaping works.

The illustration above provides general APZ maintenance tips. For site-specific advice, a Shire of Mundaring Fire Hazard Inspection Officer can visit your property and help you establish or maintain an effective APZ.

Asset Protection Zone

- » Maintain a low level of fuel (dry leaves, bark, grass and other vegetation) within 20 metres of buildings.
- » Aim to keep fuel loads below two tonnes per hectare.
- » Avoid plants taller than two metres within two metres of buildings.
- » Keep tree branches clear of roofs and gutters.
- » In most cases, healthy trees and plants do not need to be removed.
- » Regular maintenance of existing vegetation is often all that's needed to create an effective APZ.

How does a APZ work?

Bushfires need fuel to burn. Fuel includes dry leaves, bark, twigs, grass, and other vegetation around your home. The more fuel available, the more intense a fire can become.

An Asset Protection Zone (APZ) helps protect your home by reducing the amount of fuel close to buildings. This can lower the impact of radiant heat, slow the spread of fire, and reduce the number of embers reaching your property.

In most cases, creating an effective APZ does not mean removing all trees and shrubs. Instead, it involves managing vegetation and keeping fuel levels low. This can include removing leaf litter, pruning trees and shrubs, and clearing away dead or dry plant material.

As a general guide, fuel levels within 20 metres of a home should be kept below two tonnes per hectare, as outlined in the Firebreak and Fuel Load Notice.

Managing fuel around your home

You can reduce fuel levels by:

- » Raking up leaves, bark and small twigs.
- » Composting garden waste or disposing of it safely.
- » Burning garden waste during approved burning periods.
- » Pruning trees and shrubs near your home.
- » Removing dead branches, dry vegetation and other combustible material.

Regular maintenance is often all that is needed to create and maintain an effective APZ.

Managing shrubs in an APZ

Shrubs can be retained within an APZ if they are well maintained.

To reduce bushfire risk:

- » Keep lower branches clear of the ground.
- » Remove dead leaves, twigs and bark trapped within the plant.
- » Avoid dense, continuous vegetation between shrubs.

These simple steps help prevent fire from spreading through vegetation and reduce the likelihood of flames reaching your home.

Be clear before you *clear*

Before carrying out any vegetation removal or major works contact the Shire's Environmental officers or Fire Hazard Inspection officers for advice on 9290 6666.

More information

For general emergency management and fire safety enquiries, contact the Shire's Emergency Management Team during business hours. For after-hours assistance, call (08) 9290 6666. For property-specific fire hazard advice, contact your local Bush Fire Brigade or Shire.