



# BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT GENERAL ADVICE



## Properties less than one acre

### Vacant land

- Reduce Fuel Loads and Mitigate Hazard

### Developed land *(e.g. with houses or sheds)*

- Reduce Fuel Loads and Mitigate Hazards
- Create an Asset Protection Zone

## Properties greater than one acre

### Vacant land

- Reduce Fuel Loads and Mitigate Hazard
- Create Fire Breaks

### Developed land *(e.g. with houses or sheds)*

- Reduce Fuel Loads and Mitigate Hazard
- Create Fire Breaks
- Create an Asset Protection Zone

## Fire Breaks

Perimeter fire breaks are required on properties larger than 1 acre. Fire breaks are to be located as near as practicable to the property boundary.

- Boundaries that run along roads and access tracks are to have 10 metre wide breaks.
- All other boundaries are to have 5 metre breaks.

A fire break must be ploughed, cultivated, scarified, chemically sprayed, slashed, strip grazed or otherwise cleared to a maximum vegetation height of 100mm prior to and throughout the fire danger season.

It is recommended that any overhanging branches, trees or shrubs be cleared to a vertical height of 4 metres over the fire break.

## Reduce Fuel Loads and Hazard Mitigation

Fuel loads refer to the amount of flammable material available for a fire to burn. Low fuel loads can be achieved by undertaking the following steps prior to and throughout the fire danger season:

- Slash and maintain ground cover across the entire block to ensure combustable vegetation does not exceed 100mm in height. Be sure to remove cut material.
- Remove dead branches, leaves and undergrowth especially under trees.
- Prune tree limbs that are less than 2 metres above the ground or overhanging your home and outbuildings.

## Asset Protection Zone

An asset protection zone is an area surrounding a building that is managed to reduce the bushfire hazard to an acceptable level.

Building assets such as houses, sheds and outbuildings are legally required to be protected by reducing the amount of flammable material around each building:

- No trees or tall shrubs within 2 metres of a building.
- No trees to overhang a building.
- Trees (crowns) are to be a minimum distance of 2 metres apart. A small group of trees may be treated as one crown.
- Remove bark, heavy mulch, wood piles and any other flammable materials close to buildings and sheds.
- Woodpiles and flammable materials to be stored 10 metres from a habitable building.
- Remove and manage vegetation within 20 metres of your home and within 10 metres of any outbuildings.

Fire breaks are required around the following hazards:

- Green power domes – 1 metre clearance
- Wood heaps and hay stacks – 4 metre clearance
- Fuel storage areas – 4 metre clearance
- Garden refuse piles – 4 metre clearance
- Power poles – 2 metre clearance

A map of assets at risk from bushfire is available on the CFS website at [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)



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Alexandrina Council is committed to supporting residents to be bushfire ready. Under the Fire and Emergency Services Act, Council employs qualified Fire Prevention Officers who educate the community, inspect properties and undertake assessments across the district to assist in minimising the risk of fires spreading.

As the property owner, you are responsible for ensuring the preparation of your property for the fire danger season. This includes installing and maintaining fire breaks and reducing fuel loads on your property.

Properties must be prepared prior to the Fire Danger Season and maintained to a standard throughout the Fire Danger Season. Generally these dates are:

## **MOUNT LOFTY RANGES DISTRICT**

**\*1 DECEMBER TO 30 APRIL**

## **MURRAYLANDS DISTRICT**

**\*15 NOVEMBER TO 15 APRIL**



\*Subject to change. To determine which district you are in or to determine the precise dates for the Fire Danger Season each year please refer to the CFS website: [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)

Council's Fire Prevention Officers inspect properties prior to and throughout the Fire Danger Season. Inspections commence in Mid October each year. If your property does not meet the requirements upon inspection, further action, including the issuing of legal notices, and expiations may occur.



Further information is available at

**[www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/fire](http://www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/fire)**

If you would like to speak with a Fire Prevention Officer to discuss your property, please call Alexandrina Council's Community Safety Team on

**8555 7000**

For more information about being 'Bushfire Ready' contact the

**Bushfire Information Hotline**

**1800 362 361**

or visit

**[www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)**

