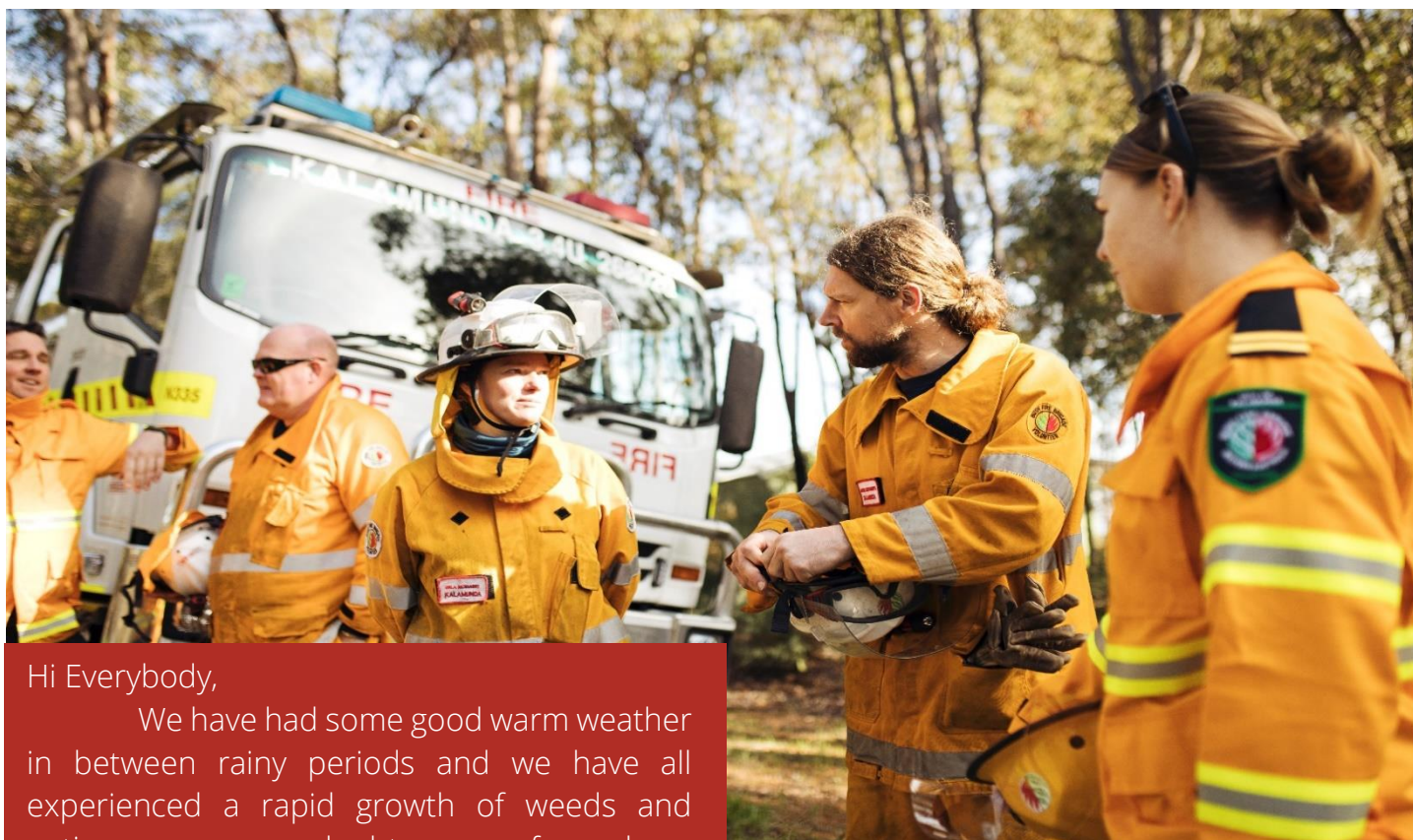




Newsletter

KALAMUNDA BUSHFIRE READY GROUPS



Hi Everybody,

We have had some good warm weather in between rainy periods and we have all experienced a rapid growth of weeds and native grasses, no doubt many of you have already cut the previous flourish down and are now faced with this second burst, try not to leave it until it is dead as then you will have the problem of unwanted flammable material on the ground, the best is to be persistent and keep up with the growth it will be much easier for you in the long run when we have very hot days necessitating working in the hot sun. Also, in keeping with the City of Kalamunda requirements in keeping your grass height down to 50mm. The requirement is to have no more than a fuel loading over the property of 8 tonnes/hectare which roughly equates to 15 mm of leaf litter and twigs depth down to the bare earth. This is ideally not suitable all the way up to the house and for 20 metres radius out from the house a loading of 1T/Hectare is recommended, this can be roughly estimated as one layer of leaves covering the surface. If you have ample lawns, gardens, paths, and driveways within this area then it will make life a lot easier for you, less leaves to rake up.

Some burning is taking place around the district, but the surface ground litter may have dried out but leaving the layers below damp and hard to burn. If burning is your choice check the ground litter especially down to bare earth to see if the leaves have dried out, the new Burn Smart Guide will certainly give you good direction on how to determine this, remember also if your property has a Southerly/Easterly aspect (Facing the south or East) that at this time of the year it will take considerably longer for your surface fuel (Leaves, twigs etc) to dry out in comparison to having a Northerly/Westerly aspect, so bear this in mind when planning any burning, You can check this out by downloading a copy of the Burn Smart Burning Guide from the DFES website: dfes.wa.gov.au/plannedburning

then going into and downloading the Leaf Moisture Method, follow the instructions and this will give you an approximate idea as to whether it is too wet to burn, too dry to burn or just right, remember this is rule of thumb, however if you burn and the under layers of leaves are damp the result will be a lot of smoke and finding you have only burnt the top layer of leaves and twigs where the bulk of your fuel remains unburnt on the ground, so rather than doing it twice make sure that the surface litter is dry down to the bare earth. For those of you that burn the same areas each year then you shouldn't have too much trouble.

In order to help you achieve this, below is the Leaf Method Sheet and explanation, try it and see if you can achieve the ideal time to burn using these indicators.

Better still come along to our Burn SMART demonstration on Sunday the 20th September the details of which are below. Remember the 1st of November is when compliance to the City of Kalamunda Fire Hazard Reduction Notice requirements must be in place, we gave a good amount of advice in the last two Newsletters to help you progress with those requirements.

DFES

Department of Fire & Emergency Services

FOR A SAFER STATE

TRAINING / KNOWLEDGE / ENGAGEMENT

Burn SMART

Leaf moisture method

Leaf moisture method – understanding the results

How quickly and intensely a dead leaf sample burns offers a strong indication of its moisture level. This is valuable to consider when judging the potential success of a planned burn. Use these markers as a guide.

Wet	Damp	Moist	Dry	Very dry
 Leaf burns only when pointed straight down or does not burn at all If in the area to be burnt, then the fuel is too moist to burn	 Leaf burns when angled down but not when level If the leaf sample is from the: Top layer The fire will burn slowly Bottom layer The fuel moisture is okay Fires with damp fuels tend to need the wind and/or a slope to spread	 Leaf burns when level but not when angled up If the leaf sample is from the: Top layer The fire will burn at the upper level of intensity for a burn Bottom layer The fuel moisture is okay	 Leaf burns when angled up, but not if vertical If the leaf sample is from the: Top layer The fire will burn at too high an intensity for a burn Bottom layer The fuel is too dry to perform a burn	 Leaf burns when angled straight up The fuel is too dry to burn
Recommendation Postpone planned burn until moisture levels drop	Recommendation Proceed with planned burn	Recommendation Proceed with planned burn, but exercise caution	Recommendation Do not proceed with planned burn	Recommendation Do not proceed with planned burn

Find out more at: dfes.wa.gov.au/plannedburning / Email: BushfireCoE@dfes.wa.gov.au

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**YOU CAN'T OUTRUN
IT, OR OUTLAST IT.
SO TAKE 5 MINUTES
TO OUTSMART IT.**

**5 MINUTE
FIRE
CHAT**



To those of you who are required to have a fire break i.e. with a land area of 4,000 square metres and above, as per the notice, the requirement is 3 metres wide and 4 metres in height with no dead ends. So, one of our fire trucks should be able to drive in and do a full circuit of the perimeter without any hindrance.

Apart from helping reduce the spread of the fire it is also a means of access for our fire trucks, they need to negotiate the firebreak and if it is lacking width or height then the trucks will not be able to access and will not access which is to the landowners disadvantage as an appliance can't reach the fire site and it means you are also not complying with the requirements.



This is our largest fire truck and almost the width of a firebreak and a height of 4 + metres so you can see why adherence to the required dimensions is important. It is also important that the firebreak remains as close as possible to bare earth, we have seen many firebreaks that are covered in several layers of leaves and twigs which defeats the purpose of a fire break.

There is also mention that a reticulated and maintained grassed area can be used as a fire break. However, if it is not reticulated it will die off in summer and maintained means kept at a maximum height of 50mm.

Next month we will go through the planning aspects of a Plan to Leave and leave early or stay and defend & a closer look at the 5-minute fire chat.

COMING EVENTS:

Street Meet #1

Date & Time: Saturday 12th September – between 09:30 and 11:30

Location: **corner of Hummerston and Schipp rd, Piesse Brook**

We will have an information booth and fire trucks set up at the car park, if you feel like coming down and grabbing some Burn SMART and Bush Fire Ready information you will be most welcome with Piesse Brook flowing only few metres away, as well have the opportunity to chat to us, members of our brigade, and hopefully a Ranger and member of the City mitigation team.



Bush Fire Ready Group STREET MEET

Piesse Brook: Schipp, Hummerston, Croxton and Roach Roads

Dear Resident,

We're taking it to the streets! Bush Fire Street Meets are the new initiative that have taken off around the State! Street meets are essentially informal neighbourhood meetings that allow firefighters to talk to residents in a direct and personal manner about fire safety in their direct surroundings.

The areas including and surrounding Hummerston, Croxton, Roach and Schipp roads in the Piesse Brook/Kalamunda area have been earmarked as a location for high bush fire risk and as such we'll be delivering a street meeting within your area. This will be lead by the Kalamunda Bush Fire Ready Group and supported by the City's Fire and Emergency team.

We hope to see you there!

Additionally, we've included a survey with this letter, that will help us better understand how our community is prepared for bush fire emergencies. Should you prefer to complete this online you can visit:

engage.kalamunda.wa.gov.au/bushfire

 **Saturday, 12 September 2020**

 **Schipp Rd, Piesse Brook, near to the Hummerston Rd intersection**

 **9.30 - 11.30am**

Regards,
The Community Engagement Team
City of Kalamunda
www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au

For more information contact:
Phone: (08) 9257 9999 **Email** enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au
Post PO Box 42, Kalamunda WA 6926 **In Person** 2 Railway Road Kalamunda WA 6076

Thank you for your input!
engage.kalamunda.wa.gov.au

Please return this sketch to the City of Kalamunda :
PO Box 42, KALAMUNDA WA 6926
T 9257 9999 F 9293 2715 E enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au





Plan smart
Burn SMART



Burn SMART live demonstration:

Date & Time: Saturday 20th September –10:30 and 13:30

Location: **Marko Travicich Reserve – 1 Reeds Road, Carmel**

There is ample parking and members of the Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, the City of Kalamunda Fire Mitigation Team and the Kalamunda Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service will be present. Members of the Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade will direct you as required on arrival. What you can expect to see and learn is how to effectively conduct a burn on your own property with confidence.

What you can expect to have demonstrated:

- Mechanical works such as pruning, raking and removing fine fuels (pile burning or bin removal)
- Mechanical (pruning) and burning of the grass trees skirts conducted by the City of Kalamunda Mitigation Team.
- Low intensity landscape burning demonstrated by the Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Plus, many more hints on preparing your burn and how to contain it.

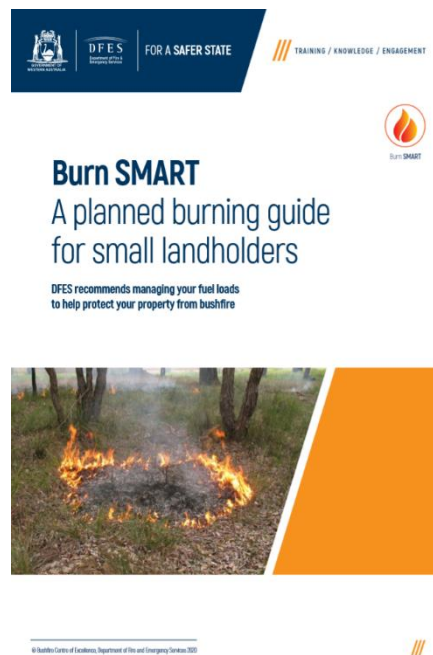
The Bush Fire Ready Team will be present with the latest literature on Burn SMART.





What we would appreciate is if you could let us (Eddie & I) know if you intend on coming. Thanks to those BFR members who have been in touch, we have fingers crossed that it will be a dry day. So, until October stay safe and remember we are here to assist if you have any queries

Our property walk throughs are available just give either of us a ring. We will be having a property walk through on October the 11th which will be open to all the residents who are interested, this will be on one of our brigade members properties and exact details will be sent in the October Newsletter.



Once again the link into Burn SMART resources: dfes.wa.gov.au/plannedburning

So, until October stay safe and remember we are here to assist if you have any queries. Our property walk throughs are available, just give either of us a ring. There are other events that will be occurring which we will let you know in detail in the next Newsletter.

Until then stay safe

Chris Grubba Kalamunda BFRG Facilitator 0427 454 633
Eddie van Rijnswood Kalamunda BFRG Facilitator 9293 3494

