



Newsletter

KALAMUNDA BUSHFIRE READY GROUPS



Hello Everybody,

As you may have seen, although the restricted burning season has begun, there were no permits issued due to the unseasonal dryness. Also, there was no burning during our period of lockdown. Although permits are now being issued, we have the same problem as in previous years where residents are burning and unable to control their burn which means our volunteer bush firefighters are being called out to bring everything under control.

Unfortunately, this is an ever-increasing problem, as well as residents burning wet material increasing the smoke hazard, we have been experiencing prior to the recent rains coming through.

In this case we would suggest that you take advantage of the one, two or three dry days between rain to make up your 1mx1mx1m piles and put a cover over them, at least you will have a dryer pile than if it is left open to the rain, so less smoke produced.

So, this autumn/winter/spring period the Department of Fire and Emergency Service (DFES) and the City of Kalamunda (KAL) with the

aid of Volunteer Bush Fire Fighters, Fire and Rescue and the City's mitigation team will be holding at least two possibly three Burn SMART practical demonstrations. One of which will be on Saturday the 8th of May, see the below information. We encourage you to come along and observe, meet a few of the volunteers that put out all those fires in our city and at the same time receive all the good information that you can use to perform some burning on your own property, with a much better peace of mind on how to do it as safely as possible.

Last season we were caught out with our inaugural burn where mother nature turned against us, however it was good to see the large number of residents who braved the weather to come and watch the demonstration. The details of the venue are below, and it is at the same place we had it last time.

COMING EVENT:

Burn SMART Demonstration

Date & Time: Saturday 08th May 2021 – from 10:30am to 1:00pm

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



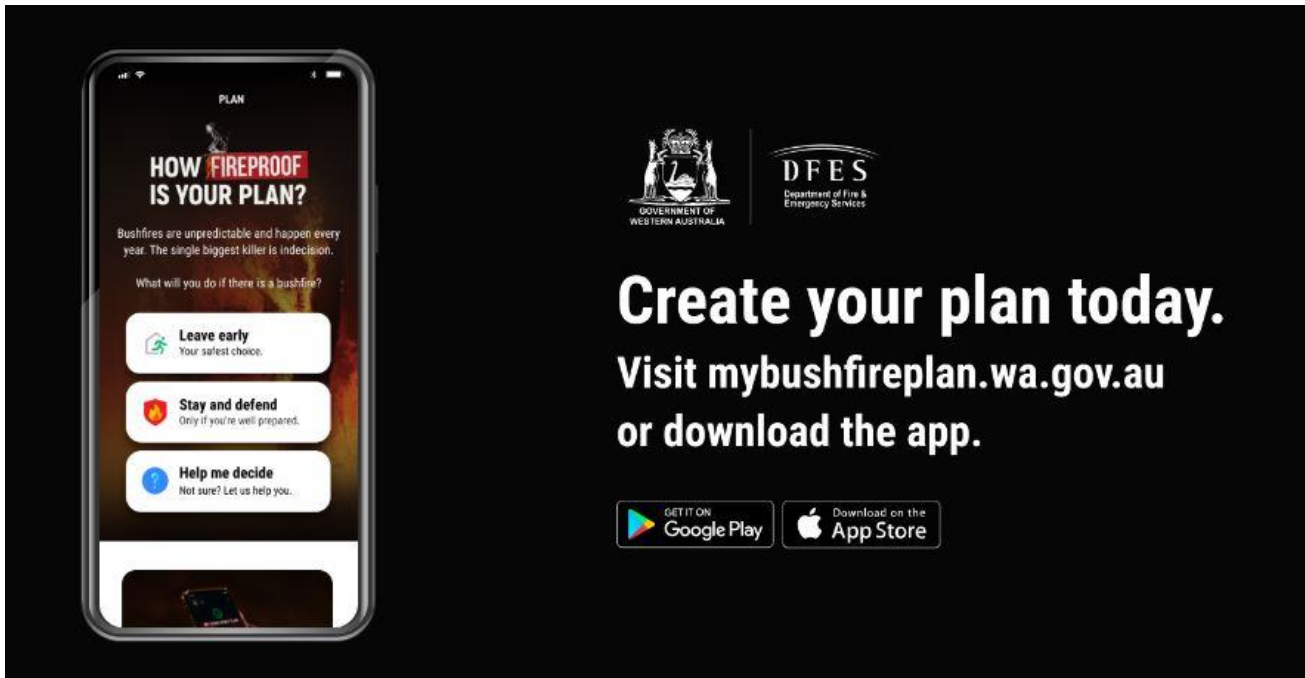
The first Burn Smart demonstration will be held on Saturday May 8th, 2021 from 10:30am to 1:00pm at the Marko Travicich Reserve, 1 Reeds Road, Carmel. There is some parking on Reeds road. If you do find a spot, please endeavour to park well off the road to allow local residents access. The Burn SMART demonstration is not just for those looking at burning a large area of their property but also

those of you that prefer to rake everything together into 1 x 1 x 1 metre piles and burning those.

So, we hope to see you there. Eddie and I shall be setting up an information marquee on Reeds road where you can obtain information on preparing your property to be as bushfire ready as possible.



We can also introduce you to the new My Bush Fire Plan App which once downloaded you can enter all the pertinent details. It can be edited at any time when required and you don't need to be online to do this this means you will have your Bush Fire Ready Plan in your pocket all the time for ease of access.



Some reasons why residents small 1m x 1m x 1m piles get away on them ending up with an uncontrolled bushfire and having to dial 000 is usually because:

- The pile is far too big. We have found piles 2m x 2m x 2m and bigger. So, get the tape measure out and make sure it is the required size as many resident's concept of what a 1m x 1m x 1m looks like varies.
- Lighting up before 6pm. There is a reason why piles are not to be lit before as after 6pm the humidity level is usually high and allows the fire to burn in a less violent way with that light dampness present.
- Burning more than one pile at the same time is just asking for trouble and should be avoided.
- Lighting up in windy conditions, stands to reason your pile will probably release a shower of embers which can travel a fair distance and set off a fire in any unburnt areas including your neighbour's land.
- A lack of anyone present at the time the fire is burning, the rules are a person or persons must be present at the burn at all times.
- A lack of water to control the flame height and put out any fires caused by embers; you must have a charged hose (a hose with water turned on where you can have instant water at the squeeze of the trigger or twist of the wrist).
- The area around your pile not cleared of bush allowing your pile to spread easily. You should have at least a 3-metre bare earth area with your pile in the middle, so the fire is concentrated in the heap and easily controlled.

- When finishing the burn, your pile is not completely extinguished and flares up in the wee hours of the morning when the easterly winds spring up necessitating your volunteer bush fire fighters having to get up and put it out and then go to work a few hours later, so make sure all is extinguished by midnight.

So, if you are still unsure and reluctant to carry out burning your piles or larger areas (Permits required), take the time to come along and see and hear for yourself. Pick up a copy of the Burn SMART manual from our Marquee. If you wish to access Burn SMART on the DFES website, follow the link below. There is a video on Burn SMART, although it centres around coastal plains area all the basic requirements also apply to forest burning. Also access the leaf test which will give you a very rough idea if your fuel load is ok to burn at the time.

[Planning Burning - Department of Fire and Emergency Services \(dfes.wa.gov.au\)](https://dfes.wa.gov.au/Planning-Burning)





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Burn SMART 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	Leaf burns when angled down but not when level	Leaf burns when level but not when angled up	Leaf burns when angled up, but not if vertical	Leaf burns when angled straight up
If in the area to be burnt, the fuel is too moist to burn	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	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	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	The fuel is too dry to burn

Recommendations

Postpone planned burn until moisture levels drop	Proceed with planned burn	Proceed with planned burn, but exercise caution	Do not proceed with planned burn	Do not proceed with planned burn
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Find out more at dfes.wa.gov.au/plannedburning or email BushfireCoE@dfes.wa.gov.au.

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Burn SMART Leaf moisture method | © Bushfire Centre of Excellence, Department of Fire and Emergency Services 2021





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Burn SMART

A planned burning guide for small landholders

DFES recommends managing your fuel loads to help protect your property from bushfire.








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Burn SMART Checklist

Stages 1 and 2: Planning the burn

Planning should be undertaken weeks or even months in advance of your planned burn.

Actions	Completed
Develop a fuel management strategy for your property. Sketch how you will divide your property into manageable burn patches. Refer to full instructions on pages 12-13 of the Burn SMART guide.	
Contact your local government for information on burning restrictions in your area. A permit to burn will be required during restricted burning season.	
Prepare your burn patch. Refer to and complete the list of preparations on page 14 of the Burn SMART guide.	

Stage 3: Before the burn

Actions	Completed
Confirm it has been two days but no more than 10 days since it last rained (5mm or greater). You can check at bom.gov.au/climate/data	
Check for mild weather conditions for the next several days at bom.gov.au/places/wa . Do not burn if strong winds and dry conditions are forecast.	
Ensure all equipment is available and in good working order. Include a metal rake, shovel, hose or another source of water.	
Confirm that the people helping you with the burn are still available.	
Notify all neighbours no less than four days prior to burning. This includes neighbours separated by a road, lane or waterway.	

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Burn SMART Checklist | © Bushfire Centre of Excellence, Department of Fire and Emergency Services 2021

There will be some street meet displays coming up and we will let you know where and when they will occur.

Last but not least and most important, there will be 16 Volunteer Bush Fire Fighters including an SES Volunteer heading up to the Kimberley's the next week to take part in the Gibb River Mountain Bike Challenge. The brigade has been participating in this event every 2 years and this is the 5th trip up there. Our sole purpose is to raise money for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Each year the event takes place and each time they raise in excess of \$500,000 so it is a worthy cause. So, the next Saturday we will have our last fundraiser, a Quiz Night, and this year it will be held at our station in Walliston. If you are interested in attending, the cost per person is \$18 which includes a platter shared at the table which holds 10 persons.

So, see the flyer below and make a booking with Natalie and help us raise some money and there will be Auctions and Silent Auctions with some great prizes. So, hope to see you there. If you do not wish to come along then maybe you would be prepared to make a donation by clicking on the link below, everything over \$2 is tax deductible.

<https://www.mycase.com.au/page/242126/kalamunda-bushies-1>

My name is in the 'show more'.



Take care and don't hesitate to call us if you have any queries or email us.
Have a safe May and until June stay safe.

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



'KALAMUNDA BUSHIES'

present

QUIZ NIGHT



the
GIBB
CHALLENGE

Help us get to the Gibb River Challenge!

Saturday
8 May 2021

Doors open 6:30pm
Quiz starts 7pm

@ KVBFB Station
20 Raymond Rd, Walliston

BYO nibbles welcome
(BYO alcohol prohibited)

\$150 PER TABLE (MAX. 10)
OR \$180 PER TABLE INC. FOOD PLATTER

Cash Bar, Silent Auction, Raffle, Prizes!



Kalamunda
Volunteer Bush
Fire Brigade

CONTACT NATALIE SMAILES TO BOOK YOUR TABLE!
PH: 0400 739 009, E: natalie.smailes@bigpond.com

**All extra profits go to event charity (RFDS) and
team charity (Sock it to Sarcoma).**