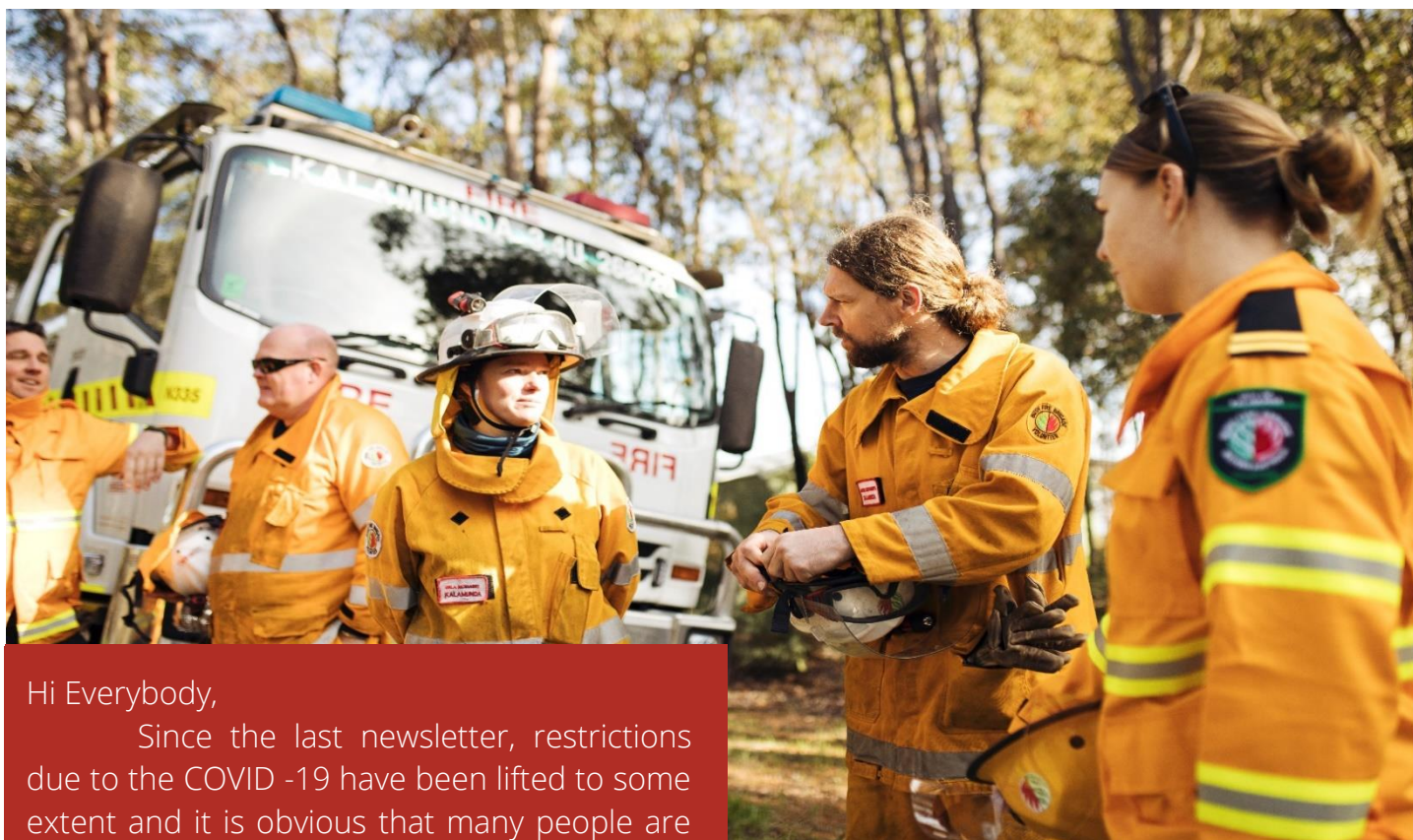




Newsletter

KALAMUNDA BUSHFIRE READY GROUPS



Hi Everybody,

Since the last newsletter, restrictions due to the COVID -19 have been lifted to some extent and it is obvious that many people are taking a look at our own state, having just come back from Shark Bay where business is booming for the locals which is good to see, so if you are in the process of coming home you will no doubt be greeted with the Rates Notice which has just come out. Inside you will also have received the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice for 2020/2021 in case it has been mislaid or you need another copy we are including this in the Newsletter.

The Notice is much the same as last year's however the emphasis is on the Compliance Date, many residents think that the 1st of November is when you start to clean up to comply, however this is not the case this needs to be done prior to this date and be compliant by the 1st of November.

Very important because as from the 1st of November inspectors will be assessing properties so compliance is advised to avoid a work order being issued.



FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION NOTICE 2020/2021

COMPLIANCE DUE BEFORE: 1 NOV 2020

ASSESSMENTS COMMENCE FROM: 1 NOV 2020

Important: The works outlined below must be completed by 1 November 2020 and maintained in this state up to and including 31 March 2021

NOTICE TO ALL OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS OF LAND WITHIN THE CITY OF KALAMUNDA

Pursuant to Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954 (WA)*, the City of Kalamunda gives you written notice to act as specified in this notice to land that you own and/or occupy and with respect to any matter which is upon the land that you own and/or occupy situated within the district of the City of Kalamunda.

Failure or neglect to comply with the requisitions of this notice is an offence and can result in a penalty of up to \$5000. The City of Kalamunda gives you notice that its officers, servants, workmen, contractors, vehicles, machinery and appliances (as the officers deem fit) may enter upon the land and carry out the requisitions of this notice that are not complied with by the time specified in the notice, and the amount of any costs and expenses incurred may be recovered from you as the owner and/or occupier of the land

ALL LAND WITH A TOTAL AREA OF 4000m² OR MORE

☐ FIRE-BREAKS

Install or upgrade a 3-metre-wide by 4-metre-high clearance, bare mineral earth, continuous (no dead ends) trafficable fire-break as close as possible inside the entire perimeter of the land. A reticulated and maintained green lawn may be accepted in lieu of a firebreak.

☐ DEAD FLAMMABLE MATERIAL

Maintain all dead flammable material below 8 tonne per hectare (see definition fuel load).

☐ SLASHING

Dead grass, shrubs and plants shall be slashed, mowed, or trimmed down to a height no greater than 50mm across the entire property.

☐ ASSET PROTECTION ZONE (APZ)

Maintain a fuel reduced zone around all buildings or assets of value which extends 20 metres from the outermost point of the building or asset.

- » Ensure gutters, roofs and walls of buildings are free of flammable matter.
- » Fuel load within the 20 metres shall be reduced and maintained to no more than 2 tonne per hectare
- » Trees over 5 metres in height must be under pruned up to 2 metres.
- » Trees or shrubs within 2 metres of the asset must be pruned so that they have an overall height of no greater than 2 metres.

ALL LAND WITH A TOTAL AREA LESS THAN 4000m²

☐ DEAD FLAMMABLE MATERIAL

Maintain all dead flammable material below 8 tonne per hectare (see definition fuel load).

☐ SLASHING

Dead grass, shrubs and plants shall be slashed, mowed, or trimmed down to a height no greater than 50mm across the entire property.

☐ CLEAN GUTTER DEBRIS

Ensure gutters, roofs and walls of buildings are free of flammable matter

VARIATION TO THE FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION NOTICE

If you consider, for any reason, that it is impractical to meet the requirements as per this notice, you may apply in writing for a variation to the requirements of this notice to the City of Kalamunda by no later than 1 October 2020, to request authorisation to employ other methods of fire prevention to land that you own and/or occupy. An administration fee of \$150 applies for applications received after 1 October 2020.

If permission is not granted to you for a variation of this notice, you must comply with the requirements outlined in the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice.

Variation request application forms are available before 1 October on the City's website at:
www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au/our-city/fire/variations

If you have been taking our advice over the last few Newsletters you would be well on the road to being fully compliant by now, all the leaves should be off the deciduous trees that you may have on your property these as we have suggested can be mulched but should be disposed of in some way as already suggested.

Another important comment in the Reduction Notice is the works outlined must be completed and maintained in that state up to and including 31st March 2021.

As we all know that between now and then we are going to receive a lot more rain and the weeds and native grasses that you have reduced down to 5cm (50mm) will probably grow again and once more part of our life living in the hills it's something we need to maintain, the overall reduction across the property. Unfortunately if you have allowed things to get a bit out of control then the residue from slashing may leave you with dead flammable material in excess of 8 tonne per hectare which will need to be either burnt during the unrestricted burning period or removed to transfer station or bin during the restricted burning period. So, keeping on top of this will reap the benefits when everything dries out and working in the garden during the hot days can be avoided.

As mentioned in the previous Newsletter now would be the time to look at the larger items that you may wish to put into place before the hot weather descends upon us at least take a closer look and decide if you can undertake it before the summer sets in:

ADDITIONAL WORKS

In addition to the requirements of this notice, regardless of land size, you may be required to carry out further fire prevention works on your land to reduce any hazards considered necessary by the duly Authorised Officer of the City of Kalamunda. If required, these requirements will be outlined in a 'work order' sent to the address of the owner and/or occupier.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANS AND CITY APPROVED TREATMENT PLANS

All properties and/or land that are subject to a Bushfire Management Plan, Emergency Management Plan or an approved Bushfire Attack Level assessment (BAL), as a result of subdivision, development application or a City approved treatment plan must comply with the requirements of such plans in their entirety. Compliance with any additional plans does not constitute compliance with this notice.

DEFINITIONS

FIREBREAK

A strip of land cleared of all flammable material with the intention of minimising the spread or extension of a bushfire and provide safe access on your property for emergency vehicles and other firefighting operations.

- » No less than 3 metres wide and 4 metres height clearance inside and along all boundaries (including boundaries adjacent to roads, rail and drain reserves and all public open space reserves).
- » Must have a corner turning radius of up to 10 metres
- » Must be a mineral earth break with a continuous trafficable surface for a 4WD vehicle, clear of any obstructions and must not terminate in a cul-de-sac (dead end)
- » Maintained and living lawns are acceptable in conjunction with or in lieu of mineral earth fire breaks, provided that the same width and height requirements for a fire break are applied.
- » Must not be more than 4 metres wide (further width extensions may be considered upon written application for approval to the City).

FUEL LOAD:

Any material such as wood, leaves and grass that is likely to be ignited and capable of burning.

- » Leaf litter on the ground inclusive of leaves, twigs (up to 6mm diameter) and bark. A fuel load depth of 15mm from the top layer to the mineral earth beneath is indicative of approximately 8 tonne per hectare
- » Mulch piles, stored firewood and burn piles contribute to fuel load and must be stored safely or removed from the property.

If you require any further information, please call the City of Kalamunda Community Safety team on (08) 9257 9999 or visit www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au/our-city/fire.

Rhonda Hardy
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

kalamunda.wa.gov.au

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- **Open eaves** consider covering these so embers can't get in and under and into your ceiling, we have seen many remedies depending on the size of the gap. Such as No More Gaps, High Expansion Foam, wire screening with less than 2mm holes, shaped wooden inserts especially where corrugated iron is concerned something to consider if you have open eaves. If you plan to do it in stages, try filling in the gaps on the east or southwest side of your residence first.
- **Evaporative Air Conditioners** how long since yours was serviced? Consider fitting your unit with screens as embers are responsible for many houses being lost by the A/C ingesting them. Check if you can switch your fan off and keep the pump running, if you have an older unit check if a switch can be retrofitted to ensure the pump can be left running without the fan.



- **Window protection** especially on the eastern side and south western side of the house to start with, radiant heat is so intense it can break the glass and let the fire in, we have observed many BFR members with sprays on the veranda directed down to the windows, and also homes fitted with shutters, food for thought.
- Take a second look at your **access up your driveway** and especially if you are required to have fire breaks, can a large fire truck negotiate your fire breaks, vertical height especially, required to be 4 metres but our larger vehicle is that in height plus all the equipment on top such as lights and aerials .so if you can provide a little more in height so we don't lose all our aerials that would be a big plus. Also is there room for a fire truck to turn around? If you have a small block then this would not apply to you however the more room there is for a fire truck to turn or negotiate your driveway the better, if we can't turn around or the area is too narrow for us to reverse up then we don't come in, in this case firefighters will have to deploy long lengths of hose and this is time consuming when your house is under threat.
- If you are a **wood burning** home for heating, how long since you last looked at your flue and pipework on your roof, if the wood is not burnt efficiently deposits can build up making your fire less efficient

and possibly causing a fire further up the flue, this has happened and continues to happen. If your system is old the top of the flue can rust away resulting in reduced draft to feed the fire and hence loss of efficiency, something like the photo, the top can rust away. Just be aware houses do catch fire during the height of winter from this and burning candles!



- We normally send a reminder before April each year, but have you checked the backup batteries in your fire detector/s these should be checked and renewed annually.
- **Gas Bottles** Are they secure so that they don't fall over, if not consider using light chain to secure both bottles to the wall so that the chain can be unhooked and released quickly if required, check the blow out vent (Red Cap) is facing away from the house.



EVENTS:

At the moment in conjunction with the City of Kalamunda we are planning for Bush Fire Ready Community awareness sessions the first being:



Burn SMART Live demonstration:

Date & Time: Sunday 23rd August from 10.30am-1.30 pm

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

on the corner of Reeds Road and Carmel Road, 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. We will send out a map closer to the event along with more detail.

What you can expect to see and learn is how to effectively conduct a burn on your own property safely and 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.

We encourage you to come along as it will be most beneficial to everyone whether it is a small or large block, for those groups who are long established you will know we have been trying to organise a demonstration burn for a number of years with only one being achieved right at the start with a good turnout. So even if you don't intend to conduct a burn on your own property come along and meet up with members of other groups and pick up the latest Bush Fire Ready literature and talk to us and members of the City of Kalamunda including the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.

Through the generosity of Kalamunda Toyota, we will have access to the BBQ trailer so a sausage sizzle will also be in place. What we would appreciate is if you could let us (Eddie & I) know if you intend coming, just so we have an idea with regard to safe parking of all the vehicles, Both of our numbers are at the bottom of this newsletter so either a phone call, SMS, or return e-mail on the above e-mail address would be appreciated.

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

5 MINUTE
**FIRE
CHAT**



Street Meet # 1:

Date & Time: Saturday 12th September between 09:30 - 1200

Location: Hummerston X Croxton Roads in Kalamunda

We will have an information booth and fire trucks set up on Hummerston Road just down from Croxton. We will be door knocking all residents in that area a week before on Sunday 6th September from 10am onwards. You are most welcome to come along and have a chat on the day, we will have a Marquee in place and plenty of information.



Street Meet # 2:

Date & Time; Saturday 10th October between 0930 -1200

Location: Pickering Brook Primary School car park on Pickering Brook Road

We will have an information booth and fire trucks present so if you are at a loose end come and explore Pickering Brook, at the same time pick up a sausage and bun while you are there, as once again Kalamunda Toyota have allowed us the use of their mobile BBQ trailer.

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

So, until September stay safe and remember we are here to assist if you have any queries. Our property walk throughs will depend on whether we maintain a hard border and the virus stays away. We did say we would start in September however that may well slip to October. 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

