

# Calendar for Preparing Your Property

## ARE YOU BUSHFIRE READY?

[areyouready.wa.gov.au](http://areyouready.wa.gov.au)

## HOW PREPARED IS YOUR PROPERTY?

Don't wait until summer to start preparing your home and family for the bushfire season. There are many actions that can be taken throughout the year which will help prepare your property for bushfire. **Manage your property all year round – reduce your bushfire risk now!**

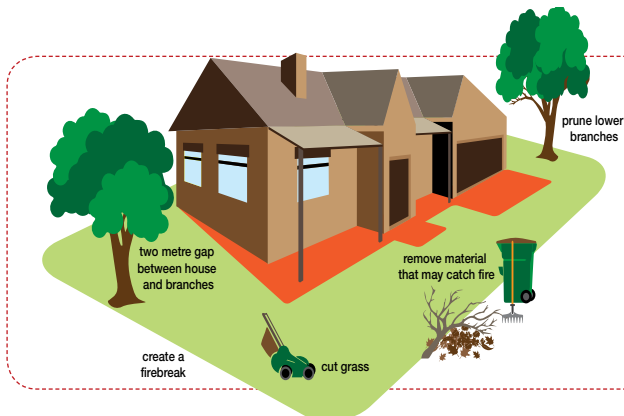
### THERE ARE PRECAUTIONS YOU CAN TAKE IMMEDIATELY THAT WILL HELP PROTECT YOU AND YOUR PROPERTY FROM BUSHFIRE:

- Prepare firebreaks in accordance with your local government fire break notice. Ensure driveway access is clear.
- Protect your house from ember attack by fitting wire screens and shutters.
- Block any gaps under the floor, roof, eaves, external vents, skylights, chimneys and wall cladding.
- Hazard reduction burning – for more information use the DFES Winter Burning Guide. For a copy of this guide contact DFES Environmental Protection Branch on 9395 9300.
- Have an emergency water supply that is independent of mains water supply.
- Discuss fire prevention and preparedness with your family and neighbours.

To create a 20 metre asset protection zone there are various types of hazard reduction actions that you can do on your property. These include:

- Reducing the fuel levels around the house, by clearing long grass, raking leaves and twigs and pruning shrubs.
- Spraying grass and weeds with herbicide.
- Conducting a controlled burn on your property. Check with your local government authority about permits and restrictions for controlled burns.
- Moving flammable material such as wood piles away from your house.

In many situations hand and mechanical clearing is the best way to protect your property. These methods are easier to organise, and are considered safer, than hazard reduction burning.



### What is an asset protection zone?

An asset protection zone (APZ) is an area extending for at least 20 metres around a building on all sides where there is little or nothing to burn. In suburban areas this may mean that your whole block will be part of your APZ.

For more information visit [www.dfes.wa.gov.au](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au) or contact **DFES Community Engagement** 9395 9816

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**Preparation is the key** to reducing your bushfire risk. Below is a list of actions that you and your family can take throughout the year to prepare for the bushfire season.

SEASON	ACTION
<p><b>Autumn &amp; Winter</b> (May – August)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prune trees to remove lower branches, check that power lines are clear and use a professional contractor to remove trees and branches around power lines.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reduce fuel levels around the house by clearing long grass, raking leaves and twigs, and prune flammable shrubs.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Spray grass and weeds with herbicide.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ensure petrol and other flammable materials are stored away from your home.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Make sure your personal and home protection equipment is in good working order.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Overhaul your emergency pump, if you have one.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop or review, your bushfire survival plan. Make sure everyone in the family knows what to do in a fire.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Move woodpiles and stacked timber away from the house.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Spring</b> (September – November)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Keep the grass short. On farms, keep grazing levels high.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prune the dead material from shrubs in the asset protection zone.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Clean out gutters and remove debris from your roof.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Install firebreaks in accordance with your local fire break notice.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prepare your emergency kit, including your bushfire survival plan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Early Summer</b> (December onwards)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prepare to actively defend or leave for a safer place.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Water lawns, trees and shrubs near buildings to keep them green.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Recheck personal and home protection gear, screens, water supplies and gutters.</li> </ul>

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