

CHEWTON BUSHLANDS COMMUNITY FIREGUARD 2019/20 Fire Danger Season

Fire Danger Period

We are currently in the **Fire Danger Period**. You cannot light a fire in open air unless you have a permit or comply with certain requirements. If you don't obtain a permit, you will be breaking the law and may be prosecuted. Penalties include a fine up to \$18,000 and/or 12 months imprisonment.

For details on what you can and cannot do checkout the **Can I, Can't I** brochure. <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/can>

On Fire Danger days

- **REFRAIN** from high fire risk activities
- **TUNE** in to local ABC station (91.10)
- **MONITOR** VicEmergency App for fire activity
- **INFORM** neighbours of your plans for the day (stay or go)
- **CHECK** your fire plan, evacuation packs and plans
- **PROVIDE** shaded water sources for wildlife in extreme heat.

Enact your FIRE PLAN when

SEVERE EXTREME

AND

CODE RED

conditions exist

Remember it is advisable to **LEAVE** on those days.

In fact it is a **must** on a **CODE RED DAY!**

Know you neighbour's Fire Plan

We encourage you to check in with your neighbours about their fire plans, to keep them informed about yours, and to let each other know when you are going to be absent from your property.

Make yourself aware of the needs of elderly neighbours and those who may need additional assistance. It is up to each of us to be personally vigilant.

In case of fire

- **RING** 000
- **CALL** your neighbours
- **ASSIST** CFA by having someone stand at the driveway entry to your property. If water is taken from a dam, it will be replenished. **The Chewton CFA will not necessarily enter the Bushlands if it is under threat from a big fire.**
- **EVACUATE.** Our nearest Fire Evacuation Point is the Western Oval (opposite Castlemaine Maxi IGA)

Useful contacts

VicEmergency

- 1800 226 226

CFA

- www.cfa.vic.gov.au
- Twitter @CFA_Updates
- Facebook [facebook.com/cfavic](https://www.facebook.com/cfavic)

DELWP

- www.ffm.vic.gov.au/warnings-bushfires-and-incidents

Vicfire Burnoff Notification

- 1800 668 511

All Emergencies

- 000

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VicEmergency smart phone app

If you have a smart phone and you haven't already done so, download the VicEmergency App from the App Store to your mobile phone (Google "VicEmergency App")

- **Set "watch zones"** that cover the fire activity area to which you want to be alerted. A larger watch zone alerts you to fires approaching from a greater distance, allowing you more time to enact fire plans.

You will be alerted automatically for the following fire dangers:

- **Severe**
- **Extreme**
- **Code Red**
- **Advice:** an incident is occurring in the area...
- **Watch and act:** an emergency is heading toward you
- **Emergency:** you are in imminent danger
- **All clear**
- **Community information**
- **Prepare to evacuate**
- **Evacuate now**

For further information go to www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/about-warnings/

Chewton Bushlands Fireguard

The Bushlands Fireguard is the group of residents who share their phone numbers for use as an aid to communication between them on fire danger days.

The Chewton Bushlands Association doesn't offer central co-ordination of information sharing in real-time on fire danger days. The most effective way to access real time information is to use the VicEmergency app.

Bushlanders are individually responsible for keeping informed of fire conditions and for their own fire plans.

Please send us your suggestions of any further ways to improve our fire season preparedness.

Useful resources

Fire briefing notes Antoinette Birkenbeil's 2016 fire briefing notes are still relevant: chewtonbushlandsassociation.org.au/events/cfa-bushlands-fire-briefing-december-2016/

Country Fire Authority Warnings & Restrictions, Plan & Prepare, Planned burns: www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Chewton CFA

How Chewton Bushlands residents can assist CFA Chewton

- Make your property road number signage clear
- Remember that fire trucks require large turning circles, and that low hanging branches can prevent a truck accessing your property
- The map overleaf has been lodged with the CFA Chewton
- Keep up to date by following the CFA Chewton Facebook page www.facebook.com/chewtonfirebrigade/

How CFA Chewton can assist Chewton Bushlands residents

- Providing property "fire preparedness" assessments
- Enabling one off controlled burn-offs. Individuals must maintain subsequent fuel loads. Contact CFA Captain Jo Willen on 0408 552 488... checking local fire activity prior to calling and do **not** call during an active fire.