

# Fire Prevention is everyone's responsibility

Owning a property in the Alpine Shire means you live amongst vast agricultural land, native bushland and pine forests. This can make us susceptible to bushfire threat. However, there are some actions we can take to reduce our risk.

Each year there is a designated Fire Danger Period announced for Northeast Victoria. This is a time when the Country Fire Authority (CFA) deem action is required to reduce radiant heat, fire intensity and ember attack and minimise direct flame impact on you or your neighbour's assets.

You as the owner or occupier have a responsibility to take action.

## When is the Fire Danger Period?

Each year the CFA declares the Fire Danger Period for all private land in Victoria over the summer. The Fire Danger Period start and end dates change each year, however, it normally takes effect from approximately November through to April.

Declaration dates will be announced on the CFA website [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

## What do I have to do?

You are required to clean up and reduce fine fuels such as bark, leaves, twigs and long grass either as a fire break or the entire property.

Reducing the fine fuels assists to reduce the intensity of a fire if it occurs, as fine fuels are responsible for the major increase in fire intensity and spread.

These required works must be carried out and you must then maintain your property in this state for the duration of the Fire Danger Period.

## What is Council's role?

Under the Country Fire Authority Act 1958, Council has a legal obligation to reduce the risk of fire to the community.

A Municipal Fire Prevention Officer has the power to inspect and issue Fire Prevention Notices. However, there are no guarantees of personal or property safety when it comes to bushfire.

If you don't act on your responsibility, Council will issue a Fire Prevention Notice.

## What is a Fire Prevention Notice?

A Fire Prevention Notice is a notice issued to protect life and property from the threat of fire.

The works detailed on the Fire Prevention Notice are designed to reduce radiant heat, fire intensity, ember attack and minimise direct flame impact on yours or your neighbour's assets. These works are consistent with CFA guidelines for protecting your home.

## Fire Prevention Notices may specify:

- Parts of the land or property that need to be treated,
- Treatment methods for particular vegetation or material,
- Construction of a fuel reduced area,
- Positions of objects on the land that need to be altered and
- The date the actions need to be completed by.

## What happens if I don't comply with the Notice?

Authorised Officers will conduct follow up inspections on properties that have received a Fire Prevention Notice to ensure the works have been completed and maintained throughout the fire danger period.

If the works required have not been carried out to the satisfaction of the authorised officer by the due date, a contractor may be engaged to carry out the works. The costs will be passed on to you, with additional administration fees.

Council may not contact you prior to undertaking works once the Fire Prevention Notice has been issued.

## Penalty

You may receive an on-the-spot infringement notice of 10 penalty units, \$1923.00, for non-compliance. Ongoing non-compliance can carry higher penalties.

For more information about preparing your property for fire visit:

[www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property)

[www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/council/fire-flood-and-emergencies/plan-and-prepare](http://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/council/fire-flood-and-emergencies/plan-and-prepare)

## Key Contacts

Call 000 in an emergency for police, ambulance or fire

Call 13 25 00 for storm and flood assistance

### ACCESS ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

#### VicEmergency

1800 226 226

[emergency.vic.gov.au/prepare](http://emergency.vic.gov.au/prepare)

#### Regional Roads Victoria

133 778

[traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au)

### SEEK MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

#### Alpine Health

03 5751 9300

[alpinehealth.org.au](http://alpinehealth.org.au)

#### LifeLine

13 11 14

[lifeline.org.au](http://lifeline.org.au)

[navspace.org.au](http://navspace.org.au)

### LISTEN TO EMERGENCY BROADCASTERS

#### Alpine Radio

03 5754 4554

**96.5FM** Kiewa Valley

**92.9FM** Ovens Valley

[alpinefm.org.au](http://alpinefm.org.au)

#### ABC Goulburn Murray

**106.5FM** Kiewa Valley

**89.7FM** Bright

**91.7FM** Myrtleford

[abc.net.au/radio/goulburnmurray](http://abc.net.au/radio/goulburnmurray)

