

Burn SMART

Talking Points



Key Messages

- Plan smart. Burn SMART.
- Planned burning can help you to reduce the amount of flammable material on your property, potentially reducing the impact of bushfire.
- In the wrong conditions, a planned burn can escape and become an uncontrollable fire. If you plan to burn, plan to burn SMART.
- YOU are responsible for any burns on your property and must take care to recognise and manage risks.
- Create a burn plan using the Burn SMART Checklist and Burn SMART Guide.
- Always contact your local government before you burn, to check rules or restrictions for your area.
- You can register your burn by calling DFES' Communications Centre on 08 9395 9209.

What to do

- Before you burn, learn how to burn smart by reviewing the Burn SMART Guide.
- Once you've reviewed the guide, create a burn plan using the Burn SMART Checklist.
- Use the Burn SMART Checklist before, during and after your burn. The Checklist will give you simple steps you can take to help ensure you Burn SMART.
- For further information about planned burning visit the DFES website at www.dfes.wa.gov.au/plannedburning

Supporting Messages

- Encourage all Western Australian small landholders (less than 2Ha or 20,000m²) who live in the Warren, Jarrah Forest or Swan Coastal Plain biogeographic regions and plan to burn, to use the Burn SMART Guide and create a burn plan.
- Remind the community that burning under the wrong conditions can be dangerous and cause bushfires, putting lives and homes at risk. They are responsible for recognising and managing all risks associated with their burn.
- Increase awareness about the risks and benefits of planned burning and the steps landholders can take to better plan their burns.
- Provide the community with information on how to access the Burn SMART Guide and Burn SMART Checklist:
 - Encourage them to access the Burn SMART section of the DFES website
 - Provide them with physical copies of the guide and/or checklist
 - Provide them with the Burn SMART fact sheet (which will encourage them to visit the website).
- Use descriptive messages and key facts to increase your community's understanding of planned burning:
 - Planned burning under mild and stable weather conditions means the fire burns more slowly and with lower flame heights.
 - Fires burn more rapidly when moving up a slope. For every 10 degree increase in uphill slope, a fire will double its speed and intensity.
 - When undertaking a planned burn, fires should be lit at the top of a slope to burn downwards and against the wind.
 - If you plan to burn, check the weather first. Wind speed, wind direction and relative humidity will all affect your burn.
 - Only burn when winds are between 5 and 20km/h.
 - Check when it last rained – it's ideal to burn 2 days after significant rainfall (5 millimetres or greater), but no more than 10 days.
 - After your burn, check the area several times a day for at least 2 days, longer if the weather becomes hotter, drier or windier.
 - Your burn may continue to smoulder for several days and could potentially reignite and start a bushfire. Monitor the area until you are confident that the burn is completely extinguished.
- Remind the community that rules and restrictions can vary from day to day. They should always check with their local government to see what burning restrictions and requirements are in place prior to burning.