

Burn SMART Planned burning fact sheet

What is planned burning?

Planned burning is the deliberate burning of a specific area, under carefully managed conditions, to reduce fuel such as dead wood, leaf litter, bark and shrubs.

Why is planned burning important?

If you own or manage land in Western Australia it is your responsibility to reduce the risk of bushfire impacting it. This applies to all landholders and land occupiers, including private homes, businesses and local, State and Federal Government.

Under the right conditions, planned burning can help you to reduce the amount of flammable material on your property, potentially reducing the impact of bushfire.

When a bushfire enters an area of reduced fuel, the rate of bushfire spread slows and the intensity at which it burns is reduced. This means landholders and firefighters have a better chance of containing the fire and it is less likely to cause damage to property.

In the wrong conditions, a planned burn can escape and become an uncontrollable fire, putting lives and homes at risk. If you plan to burn, plan to Burn SMART.

How do I Burn SMART?

DFES' Bushfire Centre of Excellence has created a Burn SMART Guide and Burn SMART Checklist, with information for private landholders about planned burning, and actions to take before, during and after your burn. Copies can be downloaded at dfes.wa.gov.au/plannedburning or ask your local fire brigade.

The Guide and Checklist apply to properties within the Swan Coastal Plain, Jarrah Forest or Warren biogeographic regions (see map). The general principles outlined however can also be applied in other areas of Western Australia.

Find out more at dfes.wa.gov.au/plannedburning or email BushfireCoE@dfes.wa.gov.au.

Remember, YOU are responsible for any burns on your property and must take care to recognise and manage risks. Plan smart. Burn SMART.

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