



Fact Sheet

Risk-based approach to the Fire Prevention Inspection Program

Issuing and enforcing Fire Prevention Notices is one of the key fire management activities of the Shire and ensures that the responsibility for reducing fire risk within the municipality is shared by private property owners.

The Shire undertakes an annual Fire Prevention Inspection Program, commencing in the lead up to the fire season. This involves inspection of approximately 2,000 privately-owned properties across the Peninsula.

All vegetation can burn under the right conditions, but bushfire risk varies across the Peninsula. We use State Government bushfire risk mapping data to help us prioritise our inspection program.

Lower risk areas generally include urban and township areas, where properties tend to be smaller and are not located next to bushland. These areas are generally located outside of the Bushfire Prone Area and are less prone to bushfire spread and ember attack.

See [Planning Maps Online](#) to get a Bushfire Prone Area Report for an individual property.

What is a Fire Prevention Notice?

The *Country Fire Authority Act 1958* and *Fire Rescue Victoria Act 1958* authorises Municipal Fire Prevention Officers to issue Fire Prevention Notices on owners or occupiers of private properties to complete fire management works. A Fire Prevention Notice is a statutory notice and failure to comply with the direction of the Notice carries an infringement of \$1,817.

Why does the Shire issue Fire Prevention Notices?

If you receive a Fire Prevention Notice this means that a Fire Prevention Officer has inspected your property and determined it poses a fire hazard.

Each property is considered individually for its level of risk, but there are key things Fire Prevention Officers look for when inspecting a property:

- Long, dry grass
- Fallen and dead vegetation
- Weeds contributing to a high fuel load
- Vegetation close to neighbouring assets.

When does the Shire issue Fire Prevention Notices?

Fire Prevention Notices can be issued all year round, but the Shire focuses its inspection program in the lead-up to and throughout the Fire Danger Period.

When is the Fire Danger Period?

The Fire Danger Period is declared by the CFA when the likelihood of fire in the area has increased. The Fire Danger Period is different from year to year, however is typically in effect from early December until the end of April. Strict restrictions apply during the Fire Danger Period, see the [CFA website](#) for more information.

Managing fire risk is a shared responsibility of everyone in the community – what should I do to prepare my property for bushfire?

In the lead up to fire season, all property owners and occupiers should prepare their properties for bushfire, even if their property is not immediately next to bushland. At a minimum you should:

- Slash all grass and keep this maintained throughout the fire season
- Remove any fallen and dead vegetation
- Remove fine fuels (anything less than 6mm in diameter such as twigs, leaves and loose bark)
- Create separation between vegetation and buildings and fences by mowing and pruning vegetation.

Weeds often contribute to bushfire risk – see the [Mornington Peninsula Weeds Brochure](#) for information about common weeds found on the Peninsula and how to manage them.

The CFA website has useful resources on [preparing your property for bushfire](#) and [bushfire planning permit requirements](#).

I am concerned that my neighbour's property may be a fire hazard.

If you are concerned about bushfire risk on a privately-owned property, please call the Shire on 5950 1050. You will need to provide the location of the property and your specific concerns. The Shire will assess your concerns to determine whether it is appropriate for the property to be inspected and a Fire Prevention Notice issued.



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There are snakes, rats or other vermin coming from the property next door.

Snakes in the rural-urban interface are a fact of life. Ensure you maintain a safe area around your house and outbuildings. Snakes are attracted to the places we live as they provide shelter and food such as frogs and mice. Try to remove attractions for snakes from your property such as wood piles, stock feed and hay and maintain open areas where children play away from long grass. There is nothing the Shire can do about snakes as they are a protected species.

The Shire will not issue Fire Prevention Notices to deal with amenity issues such as snakes, rats or other non-fire related concerns.

I am concerned about a neighbouring Government owned property.

The Shire is not empowered to issue Fire Prevention Notices to Government agencies. It is recommended that you contact the responsible agency directly and inform them of your concerns.

Parks Victoria	131 963 www.parkweb.vic.gov.au
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)	136 186 www.delwp.vic.gov.au
Melbourne Water	131 722 www.melbournewater.com.au
South East Water	131 694 www.southeastwater.com.au
Vic Roads	131 170 www.vicroads.vic.gov.au
Vic Track	1300 842 872 www.victrack.com.au

For more information about the Fire Prevention Program contact the Community Safety and Compliance Unit on 5950 1050.