

# Fire Prevention

## Protecting our community



### Fire Prevention Notices - Frequently Asked Questions

#### Why does Council issue Fire Prevention Notices?

Under the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958*, council has a legal obligation to ensure the community's fire risk is reduced. Municipal Fire Prevention Officers have powers to inspect properties and issue Fire Prevention Notices where necessary. Council also has the legal right to act on and remove a fire hazard on private land and recoup the costs if the landowner fails to comply.

#### Why did I receive a Fire Prevention Notice?

Council's Fire Prevention Officers have recently assessed your property for fire hazards and determined that you need to reduce fire hazards on your property.

#### What do I have to do?

You must follow the directions as per the notice and ensure works are carried out by the completion date. You must maintain your property in this state for the duration of the Fire Danger Period.

#### But I've just cut my grass!

If you have already carried out what is required on the notice, then you don't need to worry. Please contact the council's Municipal Fire Prevention Officer to let us know and continue to maintain your property in this state for the duration of the Fire Danger Period.

#### I am having difficulty getting the work completed by the deadline, can I have an extension?

Contact the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer to discuss your particular situation.

#### What will happen if I don't comply with the notice?

If the works required have not been completed to the satisfaction of the Fire Prevention Officers by the due date, a contractor will be engaged to carry out the works and the costs will be passed back to you with an additional administration fee. The fine for failing to comply is \$1,652.

#### My neighbour's property is a fire hazard.

If there is a property of concern to you, please let our Customer Support team know by calling 03 5358 8700. We will inspect the property and provide the owner with a Fire Prevention Notice if required.

#### There is long grass next door, there are snakes and they are a danger to my family.

Snakes in the country are a fact of life. Snakes are attracted to the places we live as they provide shelter and food, such as frogs and mice, which are also attracted to our homes. Try to remove attractions for snakes from your property, such as wood piles and stock feed, and keep open areas where children play free of long grass. There is nothing the council can do about snakes as they are a protected native species. We can inspect the property, and if the long grass poses a fire hazard, we will issue the owner with a Fire Prevention Notice.

#### I need more information about preparing my property for fire.

The CFA has some excellent resources to assist residents in preparing their homes for fire. Check out their website ([www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)) or contact the CFA Community Education Coordinator at your local CFA Regional Office.



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