

# Fire Prevention

## Protecting Our Community



### Fire Prevention Notice - Frequently Asked Questions

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

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

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

Council's Municipal 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 outlined within the notice that you have been issued and ensure that these works are carried out by the provided completion date. You must maintain your property for the duration of the Fire Danger Period.

#### But I have just cut my grass!

If you have already carried out the requirements listed on the notice, then you don't need to worry. Contact the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer to let council know and continue to maintain your property 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 individual situation.

#### What will happen if I do not comply with a Fire Prevention Notice?

If the works required have not been completed to the satisfaction of the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer by the due date, a contractor will be engaged to carry out the required work. These costs will be charged to you along with an additional administration fee. You may also receive a fine of \$1,923 for failing to comply with a Fire Prevention Notice.

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

If you are aware of a property that requires attention, please contact our Customer Support Team on 03 5358 8700. Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Officers will inspect the property and issue the landowner with a Fire Prevention Notice if required.

#### There is long grass next door, I am worried about snakes.

Snakes are common and often seek out refuge close to homes as they are always on the lookout for environments that provide shelter, food, and water. If it is possible, try to remove the source of attraction from your property, such as wood piles and stock feed. It is advisable to keep a well-maintained open area where children can play away from any long grass. There is nothing that councils can do about snakes as they are a protected native species. We can inspect the property of concern and if the long grass poses a fire hazard, we will issue the landowner with a Fire Prevention Notice.

#### Where can I find information about preparing my property for fire?

The CFA has excellent resources to assist residents and landowners prepare their homes for fire. Please contact the CFA Community Education Coordinator at your local CFA Regional Office or check [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) for further information.



Northern Grampians Shire Council  
LIVE | WORK | INVEST | VISIT

#### CONTACT US

[ngshire@ngshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:ngshire@ngshire.vic.gov.au)  
 [www.ngshire.vic.gov.au](http://www.ngshire.vic.gov.au)  
 (03) 5358 8700  
 PO Box 580 Stawell VIC 3380

#### CONNECT WITH US

[facebook.com/ngshire](https://facebook.com/ngshire)  
 @ngshire  
 @northerngrampiansshire  
 #ngshire #liveworkinvestvisit #wandervictoria