

Media News



Region 22, North East Area

19th March 2010

Being safe when burning off

Recent heavy rains and cooler weather has prompted CFA to declare an early end to the Fire Danger Period ('fire restrictions') for the Municipalities City of Greater Shepparton, Campaspe, Moira, Benalla, Mansfield and Strathbogie on the 15th of March... Fire restrictions will come off for the shires of Mitchell and Murrindindi on Monday 22nd March at 01:00 hours

Region 22 Operations Manager Rob Van Dorsser said the decision was made in consultation with local councils and brigades and reflected the changed on-ground conditions.

"This decision will allow rural landholders to undertake burning off of weeds, grass or undergrowth on their properties without the need for a council permit. This is an early opportunity for them to start cleaning up and preparing their properties for next Summer.

"It's advised, however, that property owners contact their local council in the first instance as local laws on burn-offs do apply, even outside of the declared Fire Danger Period," he said.

Mr Van Dorsser said that burn-offs should also be registered with the VicFire Burn-off notification line (**1800 668 511**) and that property owners should:

- notify neighbours of their intention to burn
- check the weather forecast for the day of the burn and a few days afterwards
- check the fuel moisture conditions; and
- ensure there are enough resources on hand to monitor, contain and extinguish the burn safely and effectively.

He emphasised that notification of burn off's to the Vicfire number would reduce the amount of call outs by brigades and relieve CFA volunteers of unnecessary call outs.

Mr Van Dorsser emphasised that if burn offs get away landholders should ring **000** immediately so that CFA can quickly respond.

Mr Van Dorsser added the Department of Sustainability and Environment would also be looking to undertake controlled burns in the region in the coming weeks.

"The DSE have indicated there will be several burns in the region to take advantage of the milder weather so we're asking residents to be mindful of that if they see smoke," he said.

DSE burns information: www.dse.vic.gov.au → [Fire and Other Emergencies](#) → [Planned Burns](#)

CFA Fire Management information: *On the Land: Agricultural Fire Management Guidelines*. Fire management advice for people living and working on rural properties and for those new to farming. Available at www.cfa.vic.gov.au.

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