

Media release



Wednesday, 2 May 2018

Fire Restrictions over, but Danger Still Remains

Although the Fire Danger Period for the municipalities of Greater Shepparton, Moira and Strathbogie is over, the threat of fire in the landscape is still a present danger. Due to drier than usual conditions for this time of year, people are advised it is easy to lose control of burn-offs.

CFA District 22 Community Education Coordinator, Fiona Ritchie said “With the extra dry conditions lingering people need to realise it’s easier to lose control of a burn-off. Take care and have water readily available at all times and ensure your burn is 100% out before you leave it. Also NEVER leave your burn-off unattended, this goes for small backyard bonfires in drums too.”

Check with your local council to make sure you’re allowed to burn off. Some councils have regulations and Local Laws to adhere to. Burning off grass, stubble, weeds, undergrowth or other vegetation is generally permitted outside the Fire Danger Period, however Local Laws on burn-offs can apply year-round. To be on the safe side it’s best to check with your local council before lighting up.

CFA District 22 Operations Manager, Tony Owen wants to remind anyone burning off, they still need to be mindful of the risks related to lighting fire for any purpose. “Whether you’re cleaning up around your property, clearing vegetation or even just having a bonfire with some friends around, you need to stay vigilant and be mindful of the risks, and in particular the responsibilities associated with lighting any fire. Before lighting up, we urge residents to always notify their neighbours and register any burns with the Burn-Off Notification Hotline on 1800 668 511.”

“The Burn-Off Notification Hotline is a free call to 1800 668 511 which allows residents to register their burn and saves the embarrassment of having a fleet of fire trucks arrive at their property. It also reduces the workload on our hard working volunteers and it will save them having to attend a false alarm. Every year our CFA crews are wasting precious time and resources responding to the false alarms because people aren’t registering their burn-offs,” Mr Owen stated.

People can register their burn with the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority via the Burn-Off Notification Hotline on 1800 668 511 or via email burnoffs@esta.vic.gov.au For further information go to www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/burning-off.



For more information contact CFA D22 CEC Fiona Ritchie on: 03 5833 2414 or f.ritchie@cfa.vic.gov.au



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