

## **FIRE BANS – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

### ***What is the difference between a Total Fire Ban and a Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban?***

A Total Fire Ban (TFB) is declared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES). The restrictions it imposes and the time frames it is in effect for differ to a Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban (HVMB) which, in comparison, is a ban placed by your local government.

### ***What is a TFB imposed by DFES?***

A TFB is declared because of extreme weather conditions or when widespread fires are seriously stretching firefighting resources. A TFB is declared by DFES following consultation with local governments.

### ***What does declaring a Total Fire Ban mean for you?***

When a TFB is declared it prohibits the lighting of any fires in the open air and any other activities that may start a fire. The ban includes all open-air fires for the purpose of cooking or camping. It also includes incinerators, welding, grinding, soldering or gas cutting.

Farmers can continue day-to-day agricultural activity such as harvesting and feeding and moving livestock when a TFB is in place as long as their local government has not implemented a HVMB. Certain activities likely to create a bushfire danger such as operating an oxy-torch, welding and operating grinders in the open air are still banned.

### ***How do you find out if a TFB has been imposed and when it is lifted?***

DFES communicates the imposition of a TFB through various media outlets. Most commonly, this information can be heard via your local ABC radio station at set times during the day. Other methods of communication include DFES' twitter page, the DFES website, publication to subscribers through the DFES website's automated RSS feeds or by calling the Total Fire Ban information line on 1800 709 355.

When declared, TFB's are in place for the whole day from midnight to midnight. They may be revoked during the day if the forecast weather does not eventuate or if weather conditions ease.



Generally speaking the Shire does not communicate via any method that a TFB is in place but if contacted, the Shire can ordinarily advise if a TFB is in effect.

***What is a HVMB imposed by the Local Government?***

In the Shire of Kojonup our Bush Fire Control Officers decide whether or not to impose a HVMB dependent on the weather and other conditions.

***What does the declaration of a HVMB mean for you?***

Day-to-day agricultural activity such as harvesting and feeding and moving livestock is to cease during the nominated time period.

***How do you find out if a HVMB has been imposed and when it is lifted?***

In the Shire of Kojonup a HVMB will be communicated to SMS subscribers. If you wish to receive notifications via your mobile, please ring the Shire on 9831 2400 and provide your name, mobile number and brigade area. If you are a business wishing to receive notifications please give your business name. Please do not rely on this system as the only way of receiving notifications, please call the Bush Fire Ban Line on 9831 0145.

The Shire will also communicate if a Harvest and Vehicle Movement ban is in effect via the Shire's Facebook page and via ABC radio. The lifting of a ban will only be communicated via SMS and Facebook as the ABC does not communicate the lifting of bans.

***When does ABC radio provide an update on Fire Bans?***

ABC radio has designated times for listeners to tune in and learn if a TFB or a Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban is in place within their shire.

**Weekdays – 10:05am, 12:35pm and 2:05pm (1:05pm in the Perth metro area)**

**Weekends – 12:35pm & 2:05pm.**

You can also call the Shire at any time to find out if a Ban of either type is in place. Call 9831 2400.

