



serpentine jarrahdale shire

# Emergency Ready

## Garden Refuse Burning

ESINFO02

These standards explain how to safely conduct a Garden Refuse burn and give due consideration to the effects of the garden refuse burn on the environment.

## CONDUCTING GARDEN REFUSE BURNS

Burning of raked leaves, cut and stacked dry vegetation, one cubic metre or less, is referred to as a garden refuse burn.

Garden refuse burns may be carried out, in accordance with local government requirements, to dispose of vegetation resulting from:

-  removal of bush fire hazards and fuels from around the home and property,
-  bush regeneration/weed removal,
-  fire prevention property maintenance.

In order to prepare for a garden refuse burn you may need to seek a number of approvals, depending on the type of work and when and where you are planning to do it.

If the work is planned as part of bush fire prevention or hazard reduction, you should seek advice from the Serpentine Jarrahdale Shire to determine whether you need a permit to burn or other approvals.

If the garden refuse burn could be of danger to a building (at any time of the year) or the burn is during the Restricted Burning Period, you must have a Fire Permit issued by your local volunteer Bush Fire Control Officer or local government Fire Control Officer.

***REMEMBER*** *there is a Total Fire Ban in place for all garden refuse and general burning between the 1<sup>st</sup> December and the 31 March each year, that is NO burning under any circumstances.*

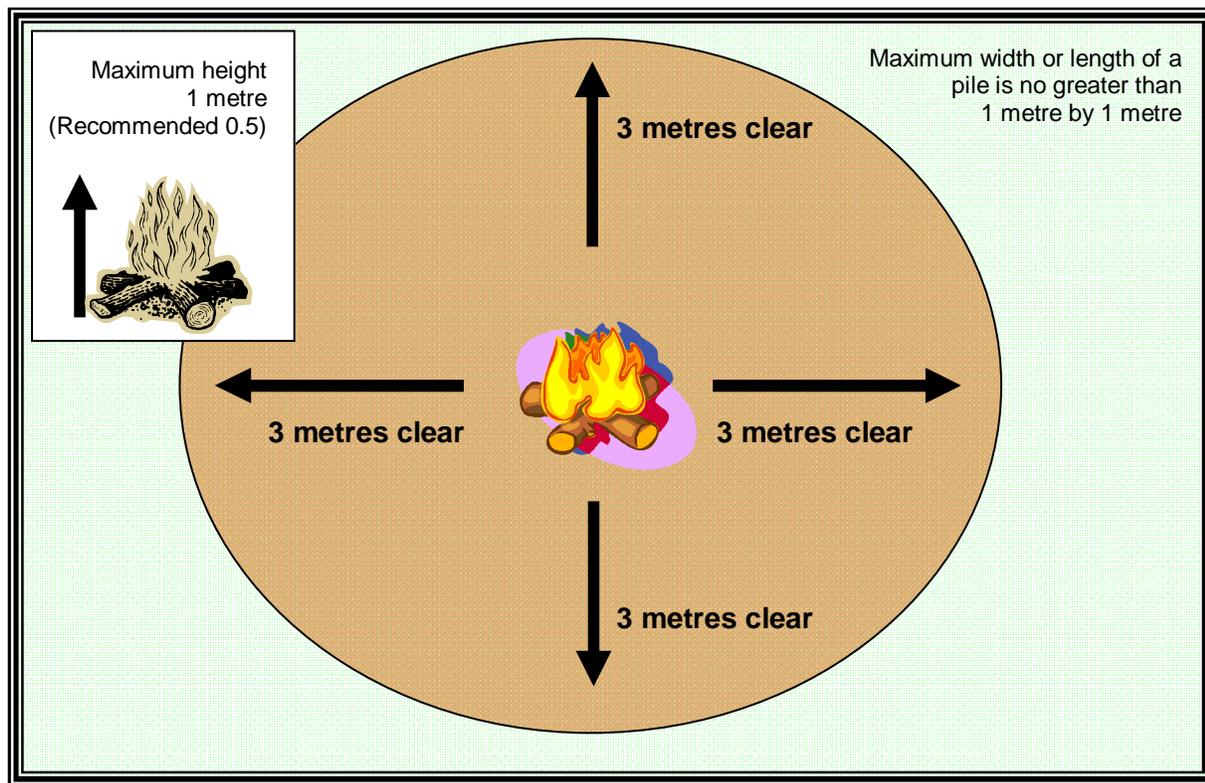
## CONSTRUCTION OF PILES

The following standard provides a procedure for the construction of vegetation piles in order to allow safe and efficient burning:

-  Material that is to be burnt must only be vegetation from the locality, not household or building material such as plastics, wooden pallets, old cupboards or cardboard boxes (please note, it is illegal to burn treated timbers, plastics or tyres).
-  Construct low and wide piles rather than excessively high piles. Piles that are too high produce more intense heat and retain heat for longer.
-  Piles should not be greater than one metre in length or width, and must not be greater than one metre high.
-  Logs over 150 mm in diameter should not be added to piles – instead they could be mulched or laid on the ground to prevent erosion and provide habitat.
-  If practical, place vegetation in an area where it will receive direct sunlight to allow the pile to dry out.
-  All material must be dead and dry before being burnt.

**No soft green weeds, grasses or vegetation** should be added to a pile burn. These are most effectively disposed of by composting. Woody weeds that are dry and have no moisture are suitable. All noxious weeds must be treated and disposed of in accordance with the Department of Agriculture guidelines.

## Example of how to prepare to burn



## NOTIFICATION

As a courtesy, you must notify all residents who adjoin the site of the garden burn at least 72 hours prior to the burn. Where practicable, other residents who might be inconvenienced by the pile burn, should also be notified.

## BURN SAFETY MEASAGES:

- ✂ Before lighting the pile, ensure that you have suitable tools handy (rakes and shovels) to conduct the burn and control any possible spot fires.
- ✂ Accelerants (such as petrol) must never be used in the pile.
- ✂ Ensure that there is a sufficient water supply to extinguish the burn and that you have a hose with appropriate water pressure that can reach around the pile.
- ✂ Ensure that you wear protective clothing such as heavy cotton pants, a long-sleeved shirt, leather work boots, work gloves and a wide-brimmed hat.
- ✂ Disturb piles immediately prior to lighting to scare away animals such as lizards and snakes which may be taking refuge within the pile.
- ✂ Supervise the burn constantly after lighting to ensure there are no flare ups in surrounding vegetation.
- ✂ You are required by law to completely extinguish the pile immediately after the burn is finished. The spreading of burnt material after the burn also assists in allowing for smouldering material to be extinguished.
- ✂ The fire can not be lit before 6pm at night and must be fully extinguished by 11pm on the same night.

Only burn one pile at a time. If you would like to burn more than one pile at a time you will need a permit from your local Volunteer Fire Control Officer and you will be required to provide adequate equipment, resources and operators, as well as ensure there are personnel present at each pile. You should also give consideration to the amount of smoke being produced if multiple pile burns are being conducted.