

MEDIA RELEASE | 3 October 2023

Council commences property inspections ahead of Fire Danger Season

The City of Victor Harbor's Fire Prevention Team have begun inspecting a number of township properties and rural allotments to assess fire danger risks.

Bushfire prevention is a year-round responsibility for property owners in Victor Harbor, and it is especially important in the lead up to Fire Danger Season.

Council encourages all property owners and occupiers to prepare for the Fire Danger Season by cleaning up around their homes.

Landowners are responsible for preparing their property and taking all reasonable steps to reduce the risk of fire starting or spreading through their land. This responsibility is provided for within the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005.

A Hazard Reduction Notice (Section 105F Notice) may be issued if a landowner fails to reduce the fire hazard or to protect a property from fire, or prevent/ inhibit the outbreak of fire or the spread of fire through the land.

City of Victor Harbor Mayor, Dr Moira Jenkins, said fire prevention requires a whole-of-community approach.

"This year, I'm calling on the Victor Harbor community to work together and reduce fire danger risks," said Mayor Jenkins.

"If you own or live on a property in Victor Harbor, there are things you must do to prepare. Cleaning up your yard and gutters is a great place to start."

"Once you've got your property ready, check in on your neighbours and see if they need any help. If you're able, lend a hand to those around you!"

To help protect your property and the wider community, you should:

- Reduce all grass, weed plants and undergrowth to a maximum height of 10cm
- Prune low tree branches from ground level up to two metres in height
- Cut back overhanging trees and remove leaves and other debris from gutters
- Remove bark, mulch, woodpiles and other flammable materials away from structures
- Ensure your property allows clear and unimpeded access for fire fighting vehicles.

Rural and large blocks also need to establish a fire break at least five metres wide as near as practicable to the boundary and within 20 metres of any dwelling (greater if on a slope) and within five metres of any sheds and garages.

Mayor Jenkins wanted to thank the community for their efforts to reduce fire risk each year.

“I know our community is serious about limiting the risk of fire. We’re fortunate to live in a stunning regional city, but our location is also what makes us vulnerable to bushfires.”

“Let’s keep working together to prevent the outbreak of fire in our region.”

City of Victor Harbor Chief Executive Officer, Victoria MacKirdy, said her team has been preparing for the Fire Danger Season for several months.

“We’ve known for some time that this summer is forecast to be hot and dry, and we’ve been preparing accordingly. Council undertakes a slashing program that considers fire risk, seasonality and vegetation type,” said Ms MacKirdy.

“Slashing is carried out regularly for all Council-owned reserves and roadside vegetation. All sites are monitored so slashing and maintenance can be undertaken as required.”

“We are here to help. If you have questions about your fire prevention responsibilities, I encourage you to contact Council’s Fire Prevention Team on 8551 0500.”

For more information about how to prepare ahead of Fire Danger Season, visit www.cfs.sa.gov.au