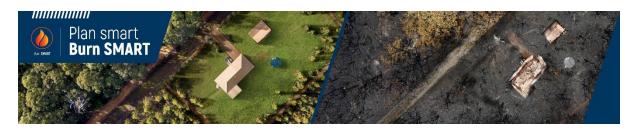# Burn SMART

How to use Burn SMART

The **Burn SMART** campaign aims to educate community members about planned burning on private land. It has been designed in response to a report from the Office of Bushfire Risk Management regarding escaped burns in the South West and Great Southern regions in May 2018.

Planned burning on private property is an essential part of reducing bushfire risk, however, escaped burns increase the risk of impacting property and lives, and put a strain on firefighting resources.

The Burn SMART resources have been designed to help landholders to better understand planned burning and reduce the risks of their burns escaping.

Key Resources

Burn SMART Guide

Burn SMART – a planned burning guide for small landholders replaces the previous Winter Burning Guide, and has been expanded to apply to landholders with properties

- located in the Swan Coastal Plain, Jarrah Forest and Warren biogeographic regions of Western Australia*
- up to 2 hectares or 20,000m^2 in size

Two hectares is considered the maximum property size that landowners should be managing fuels utilising planned fire without engaging assistance of local brigades.

*A detailed map is available on the Volunteer Hub and Intranet.

Burn SMART Checklist

The checklist is a great resource to help educate your local community on the necessary steps required in order to Burn SMART. The checklist references page numbers in Burn SMART - A planned burning guide for small landholders and as such they should be used together.

Burn SMART Factsheet

The planned burning fact sheet explains what planned burning is and why it's important, and directs community members to information online to help them Burn SMART.

What if landholders fall outside of the Swan Coastal Plain, Jarrah Forest or Warren biogeographic regions?

It is important to note that environmental sensitivities and fire behaviour characteristics for vegetation outside the Swan Coastal Plain, Jarrah Forest or Warren biogeographic regions are not covered in the Burn SMART guide. However, the general principles covered in Burn SMART can be applied to all planned burns for small landholders in WA - they must prepare, check weather conditions, monitor the fire and ensure it is extinguished properly.

In future the campaign may expand to provide specific resources that are applicable to the vegetation types and mitigation methods of other regions. Until then, please consult your local government, for region specific information and support.

What if landholders have a property bigger than two hectares?

- The general principles from the Burn SMART guide apply for properties bigger than 2 hectares.
    - Under planning and conducting their burn, given the property is larger it is recommended that they divide their property into more burn patches.
- Despite this, people on properties larger than 2 hectares are strongly encouraged to seek guidance, advice and assistance from their local government and local brigade to plan and undertake planned burns

What to do

Before handing over the Burn SMART resources to residents, take the time to find out if they live on or own a property that matches the Burn SMART criteria.

If they fit the criteria, encourage them to visit the planned burning section of the DFES website (www.dfes.wa.gov.au/plannedburning). Provide them with a fact sheet, which contains introductory information to planned burning and the web address. This will help them to find the website and take action once they return home.

If you feel that they might have trouble accessing the website (low coverage area, not comfortable with computers etc.), it is best to give them a hard copy of the guide, instead of the fact sheet.

For those who have a good understanding of planned burning, but would like the checklist to create their burn plan, you can give them a copy of the checklist. Note – if you give them a physical copy of the guide, this already contains the checklist.