

INTRODUCTION TO



# Farm FireWise



**FIREWISE**<sup>TM</sup>

# What is Farm FireWise?

***The key to surviving a bush fire is being prepared. Farm FireWise helps you plan ahead to protect yourself, your family and your property from the potential impact of bush and grass fires.***

## Farm FireWise for your property

Fire protection on your land is your responsibility. With the support of your local Rural Fire Service and the Farm FireWise Checklist, you can identify the best fire protection strategies for your property and your circumstances. How and when you choose to implement those strategies is up to you.

## STEP 1 – Complete the checklist

The Checklist is available from the NSW Rural Fire Service and it will help you identify the fire risks on your property. The Checklist is divided into sections covering:

- *your family and employees;*
- *your home and surrounds;*
- *other farm buildings;*
- *stock and crops;*
- *machinery and equipment;*
- *water sources and vehicle access;*
- *fire history, prevailing winds, slope and aspect of your land.*

## STEP 2 – Develop an Action Plan

Once you have identified the risks you will be able to create a fire protection Action Plan. The plan will help you make decisions about how and when to address those risks. Your Action Plan will include:

- *potential threats to life and property;*
- *your fire protection priorities;*
- *work which you may need to do;*
- *dates to help you implement the plan in a timeframe which suits you.*

## FOR INFORMATION

*The time to prepare for a bush fire is now! Remember, the NSW Rural Fire Service can help you plan for bush fires on your property. Talk to your local NSW RFS brigade or Community Safety Officer in your area or visit [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)*



# HINTS AND TIPS

## Reduce fire hazards on your property:

A bush fire hazard is any combustible material, or fuel. It includes dry grass, dead leaves and branches, and some vegetation. Reducing the amount of fuel can limit the size and intensity of a fire and protect assets such as buildings and equipment. Clearing and burning are the main methods of hazard reduction. You may need to obtain a Fire Permit or environmental approval before carrying out hazard reduction works – contact the NSW Rural Fire Service for advice.

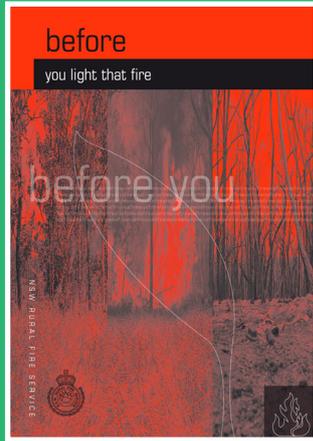
## Prevent bush fires from starting:

- Don't mow and slash on hot windy days.
- Don't use machinery such as angle grinders and welders on hot windy days.
- Keep farm machinery clean and fit spark arresters to exhausts.
- Don't smoke near hay stacks and around fuel sheds.
- Check that all fires are thoroughly extinguished.
- Store fuel and chemicals in cleared areas away from other buildings.
- Keep powerlines and electric fences clear of vegetation.

## Wear the right clothing during a bush fire:

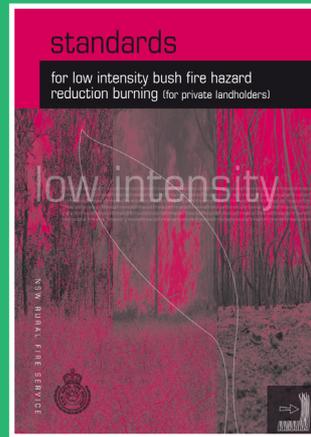
- clothing made from natural materials like cotton and wool.
- long pants and a long sleeved shirt or jumper.
- sturdy leather footwear.
- wide-brimmed hat.
- goggles for eye protection.
- material over nose and mouth to protect airways.
- wet towels to drape over neck.





### Before You Light That Fire

Explains the approvals you may need before using fire for reducing bush fire hazards, removing rubbish or conducting agricultural activities.



### Standards for low intensity bush fire hazard reduction burning (for private landholders)

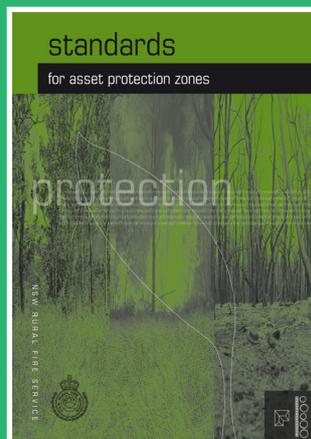
This document explains the best way to carry out low intensity bush fire hazard reduction burning.

*Your property  
Your fuel  
Your responsibility*



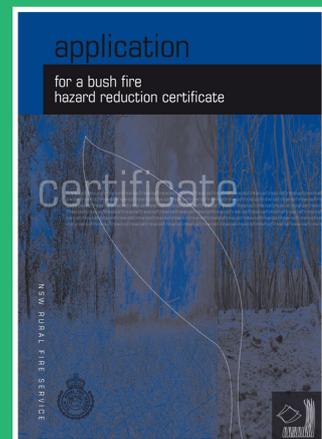
### Standards for Pile Burning

Explains how to safely conduct a pile burn, including notifications and approvals required. A pile burn is the burning of cut and stacked vegetation.



### Standards for Asset Protection Zones

Provides advice on establishing and maintaining an Asset Protection Zone. An APZ is an area surrounding an asset where bush fire fuel has been reduced to a level that protects the asset from the impact of fire.



### Application for a Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Certificate

Step-by-step guide to applying for a Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Certificate to carry out planned hazard reduction works.



## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

NSW RFS WEBSITE: [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)  
or call 1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737)

