

 <small>DISTRICT COUNCIL of TUMBY BAY</small>	<b>Voluntary Code of Practice Local - Burning Outside the Fire Danger Season, Stubble Slashing and Snail Cabling</b>	Version No:	<b>2</b>
		Issued:	<b>October 2017</b>

### **Burning off Outside the Fire Danger Season**

Prepare clean fire breaks at least 4 metres wide around the area to be burnt.

1. Obtain a weather forecast, especially for local winds before a burn-off.
2. Give adequate notice to neighbours of your intention to burn.
3. Ensure a sufficient water supply for fire fighting is available at all times during the burn off.
4. Do not attempt to burn any more area than can be controlled with the people and equipment available. Ensure a sufficient number of people are present at the site from the time the fire is lit until the time it is completely safe and/or contained.
5. Be methodical. Plan the burn-off operation. Where appropriate burn downhill and adopt the strip burning method.
6. Always light the fire on the leeward side of the land to establish a protective break and then light from the windward side of the land.
7. Be aware of sudden changes in weather conditions, especially wind speed and direction.
8. Always make sure the fire edge is blacked out progressively to a distance of 20 metres into the burn area.
9. Have access to a UHF, CB or mobile phone throughout the fire operation.
11. Have a well maintained firefighting unit with a minimum of 400 litres of water connected to a pump powered by an internal combustion engine in the paddock area where burning off is to occur. To ensure against rekindling after the operation is completed, patrol the burn-off area for a number of days.

### **Stubble Slashing**

1. Compliance with Division 8, Subdivision 6, Section 89, Regulation 38 of the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 . That is during the fire danger season, an operator must not operate an internal combustion engine in connection with cutting flammable bush or grass unless:-
  - a. The land immediately around the land where bush or grass is to be cut is cleared of all flammable material for a distance of at least four (4) metres; OR a shovel or rake, and a portable water spray in good working order is at hand.
  - b. Any exhaust pipe is fitted with a spark arrester in good working order.
2.
  - a. There will be no slashing on total fire ban days.
  - b. That no slashing take place on days of high fire risk. As wind and temperature conditions deteriorate consult all neighbours on discontinuing slashing by UHF, CB or other means.
3. Maintain machinery in good working order and keep residue build up to a minimum.
4. Keep the slasher height up, to avoid contact with stones and other obstacles.
5. Maintain a watch on local conditions as they may be severe enough to warrant ceasing of stubble slashing operations even though a total fire ban has not been issued. Therefore, as conditions deteriorate, increased maintenance and enhanced vigilance should be practised.
6. Have a well maintained firefighting unit with a minimum of 400 litres of water connected to a pump powered by an internal combustion engine in the paddock area where slashing is to occur.
7. Have access to a UHF, CB or Radio or mobile phone.

## **Legislative Requirements**

1. Compliance with Regulation 37 under the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 regarding the use of stationary engines to auger a crop. That is, an operator must clear the space immediately around and above the engine to a distance of at least four (4) metres, or a person who is able to control the engine is present at all times while the engine is in use. The operator must also carry a shovel or rake, and a portable water spray in good working order, and ensure that engine or exhaust system complies with Fire and Emergency Services Regulation 32(2) and (3).
2. Compliance with Regulation 38 under the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 regarding the use of internal combustion engines to harvest or move a flammable crop. That is, an operator must carry a shovel or rake, and a portable water spray; and ensure that engine or exhaust system complies with Fire and Emergency Services Regulation 32(2) and (3).

## **Fire and Emergency Services Regulation 32**

1. For the purposes of this Division, an engine or vehicle exhaust system complies with this Division if:
  - (a) all engine exhaust emitted by the engine or vehicle exits through the system; and
  - (b) the system, or a device or devices forming part of the system, is designed to prevent the escape of burning material from the system; and
  - (c) the system, or a device or devices forming part of the system, is designed to prevent heated parts of the system from coming into contact with flammable material; and
  - (d) the system is in good working order.
2. For the purposes of subregulation (2)(a), engine exhaust emitted by a turbocharged engine, or a vehicle fitted with a turbocharged engine, by means of a device of a kind commonly known as a waste gate will be taken to exit through the exhaust system of the engine or vehicle.

## **Required Practices**

1. Suspend grain harvesting operations when the **local actual GFDI exceeds 35**.  
The local actual GFDI can be determined:
  - By a local committee, in consultation with local farmers
  - As measured or calculated by the harvesting operator.
2. Ensure crop residues on machines are kept to an absolute minimum, especially in areas of potentially high fire risk, such as engines, exhausts or brakes.
3. Adopt a regular maintenance program, both before and during grain harvest operations, paying particular attention to wearing parts and bearings.
4. Operators being aware of the construction materials on harvesting machines and taking reasonable steps to reduce any potential build up of static electricity through harvesting operations.
5. Have immediate access to a UHF CB radio or mobile phone.

### **Recommended Practices**

1. As conditions deteriorate, increased maintenance and vigilance should be practiced.
2. As conditions deteriorate, actively seek information on voluntary harvesting bans.
3. Prior to harvesting commencing, establish a minimum 4 metre fuel break around the perimeters of crops or paddocks to be harvested. This may consist of a 4 metre mown or chemical break with a 2 metre ploughed strip incorporated within it. Alternatively, review your property lay-out and establish a series of strategic fire breaks around groupings of paddocks.
4. Maintain maintenance records.
5. Have a well-maintained and fully operational farm fire-fighting unit with a minimum of 400 litres of water located in the paddock area where harvesting or grain handling operations are occurring. Refer to the Joint Guidelines for operating Farm Fire Units. (found at [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au))
6. Operators should monitor media fire ban information advice, or consult the Bureau of Meteorology through their various information methods.
7. All operators of harvesting equipment should be bushfire ready by having appropriate fire fighting clothing and a plan for the protection of themselves, their equipment and the community.
8. Inexperienced operators should undergo instruction and training.
9. Establish a fire prevention and emergency response strategy in regards to fire safety for staff, contractors and machinery operators.

### **Snail Cabling**

1. All vehicles used in snail cabling shall have exhaust pipes fitted with spark arresters in good working order.
2. The land immediately around the land to be cabled is cleared of all flammable materials for a distance of at least 4 metres.
3. There will be no cabling on total fire ban days.
4. Maintain a watch on local conditions as they may be severe enough to warrant ceasing of snail cabling operations even though a total fire ban has not been issued.
5. Have a well maintained firefighting unit with a minimum of 400 litres of water connected to a pump powered by an internal combustion engine in the paddock area where snail cabling is to occur.
6. Have access to a UHF, CB Radio or a mobile phone.

***Further information can be obtained from:-***

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