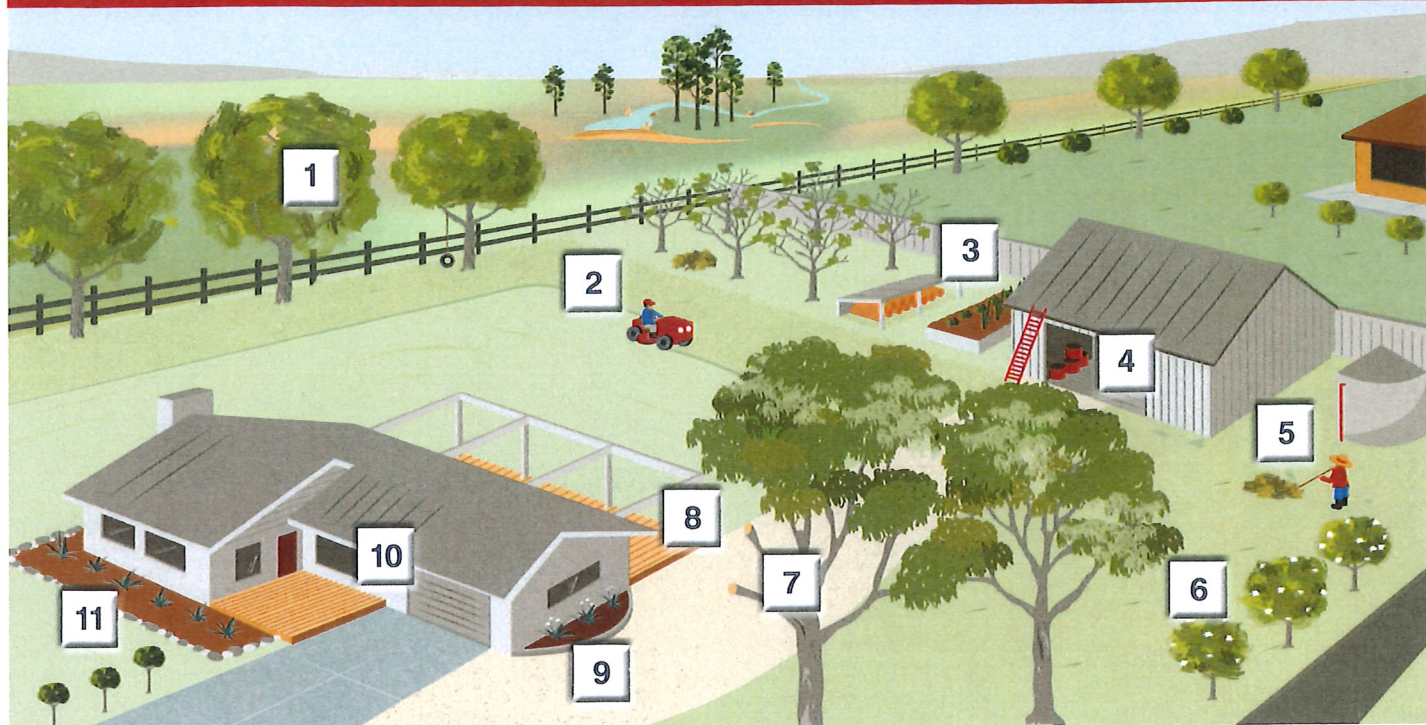


# It's not too late to **prepare** **your property for fire.**



Everyone in Victoria who lives near dense forest, bush, grassland or the coast needs to protect their property against fire.

- 1 Mature trees can help shield against radiant heat and embers.
- 2 Keep grass cut to less than 10cm.
- 3 Keep wood piles away from your property.
- 4 Store flammable liquids away from your property.
- 5 Get rid of dry grass, leaves, twigs and loose bark.
- 6 Prune shrubs well away from tree branches and prune lower branches of shrubs to separate from surface fuels underneath.
- 7 Cut back overhanging branches.
- 8 Remove flammable items from decks and verandahs, such as boxes, furniture and doormats.
- 9 Do not have large shrubs next to or under windows.
- 10 Keep gutters clear of leaf litter.
- 11 Use pebbles or rocks in your garden (not flammable mulch).

For more property preparation advice visit [cfa.vic.gov.au/prepare](https://cfa.vic.gov.au/prepare)



# Are you burning-off safely?



For many people, burning-off vegetation is an effective way to prepare and maintain properties. Unfortunately each year CFA crews are called out to help people who lost control of their burn-off.

Here is some simple advice to stay safe when burning-off.

## FIRE DANGER PERIOD

You can only burn-off if you have a written permit issued by the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer or the CFA District Office.

## TOTAL FIRE BAN DAYS

All fires in the open air are banned during Total Fire Ban days. Any permits are suspended for the duration of any Total Fire Ban days.



Have you checked your council's local law regarding when and where you can burn off?

You need to check your council's website for local laws to ensure you're allowed to burn off. Your council may have regulations and certain days that you can burn.

If CFA has declared the Fire Danger Period for your municipality, open air burning is prohibited unless a specific permit is obtained. Fines for burning off during this time without a permit can be up to 120 penalty units and/or up to 12 months' jail.

Have you checked the weather?

Check weather forecasts for the day of your burn-off and a few days afterwards. If more than light winds you should postpone your burn-off.

Also check it won't be too windy on following days, as the wind can reignite your burn.

Do you have an adequate water supply?

You need to have enough water to extinguish a possible outbreak. For small fires, it's recommended you either have access to a hose or at least 10 litres of water. For larger fires appropriate firefighting equipment and/or machinery may be required.

Clean up around your burn site.

Create a 3-metre clearance of all flammable material around your whole burn-off site, including underground tree roots.

Have you registered your burn-off?

Register your burn-off by calling **1800 668 511**. This will ensure CFA won't be called out unnecessarily to your burn-off.

Have you notified your neighbours?

Ensure you are considerate of your neighbours when burning off. Notify them if you are in close proximity and the smoke may affect them. Also burning items that are wet or green may cause excessive smoke.

Have you put it out properly?

Make sure there are enough people to monitor, contain and extinguish your burn-off safely and effectively. Ensure that your burn-off is completely extinguished before you leave it. Underground tree roots can continue to smoulder for days.