

Planned burning in the Mt Arapiles area

Wimmera District – Autumn 2017

A number of planned burns have been scheduled in the Mt Arapiles area this Autumn. Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) work to keep communities safe year round by reducing the risk of bushfires across the state.

FFMVic crews include staff from Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Parks Victoria, Vic Forests and Melbourne Water and we work with the CFA to carry out a fuel management program in Victoria's parks and forests.

When and where we do planned burns is guided by our understanding of bushfire risk, informed by local knowledge, science and bushfire modelling technology.

Planned burns can only go ahead when the weather conditions are suitable. The decision to proceed is made on the day of the burn following extensive monitoring of these conditions.

For information about these burns or other fuel management works within the Wimmera District, please contact our Fuel Management Team on (03) 5362 0720 or email wimmeradistrict.planning@delwp.vic.gov.au

Fuel Management Program

The fuel management program includes planned burning, which involves the planned use of fire under carefully managed conditions to reduce fine fuel, such as undergrowth, dead wood, leaf litter, bark and shrubs. Burns are carried out near communities and in remote areas to help reduce the spread and intensity of bushfires and the threat to life and property. Planned burns also help plants and animals that have evolved to depend on fire to survive.

This years planned burns program form part of a broader fuel management program planned for the Wimmera District. Planned burns are prioritised using a risk-based approach to bushfire management according to a number of criteria including; protection to life and property, community requirements, environmental considerations and geographic distribution across the landscape.

Protect your health from smoke

If you live in or are visiting an area where planned burning

is taking place or may be smoke affected area, plan ahead to protect your health.

- If you have a health condition follow the treatment plan provided by your doctor and if you are asthmatic, follow your asthma plan and carry reliever medication with you.

During smoky conditions:

- First check www.emergency.vic.gov.au, if the smoke is caused by a fire, you may be at risk and need to leave. If the smoke is from a planned burn, stay indoors with windows and doors closed.
- You may wish to leave the area if it is affected by smoke.
- If you experience symptoms that may be due to smoke exposure, seek medical advice or call Nurse-on-Call on 1300-606-024.

Find out more at www.health.vic.gov.au

Planned Burn Notification System (PBNS)

The Planned Burning Notification System (PBNS) is an opt-in system that you can customise to suit your particular notification needs. The system notifies people when a planned burn in a park or forest is close to being ignited.

If you subscribe to the system and customise it to suit your particular notification needs – you can register for this automated notification system by visiting www.delwp.vic.gov.au/pbns.

Fire Operations Planning

The Fire Operations Plan (FOP) outlined where and when FFMVic intend to carry out fire management operations on Victoria's public land over the next three years. They include planned burning, slashing, mowing and clearing works creating and maintain fuel breaks and carrying out fire infrastructure maintenance. FFMVic welcome comments all year round and encourage you to have input into all part of the planning process.

Stay Informed

Visit: www.delwp.vic.gov.au/plannedburn

Call: VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

Download: VicEmergency App



PLANNED BURNS SCHEDULED FOR AUTUMN 2017

Name	Location	Planned Area (ha)
Arapiles – Summit Road	8KM SW OF NATIMUK	120

Planned Burning has been scheduled for Mount Arapiles - Toosan State Park. On the day of the burn the Summit Road into the park will be closed, including vehicular access to walking tracks from Summit Road and the Basin Creek area west of Summit Road.

The following areas are **OPEN**:

- Natimuk Golf Links Road
- Central Gully Walking Track
- Pharos Gully Walking Track
- Declaration Crag/Taylor's Rock
- Mitre Rock
- The Centenary Park campground and picnic area

The following areas are **CLOSED**:

- The Summit Road
- The ring road around Arapiles block (McClures Road)
- Bushranger's Bluff /Melville Cave Climbing Area
- Campbell's Kingdom Climbing Area
- The Summit Picnic Area,
- The Bluff Lookout and the Fire Tower Lookout.
- The Bluff Picnic Area,

Traffic management will be set up in the area and surrounding communities and visitors may see and smell smoke.

For more information please see the map attached to this fact sheet or please call Forest Fire Management on 03 5362 0720.