

## Time to get Fire Ready

South Gippsland Shire Council would like to remind residents that the 2015/16 Fire Season is fast approaching. Now is the time to take action to prevent your property from becoming a fire risk. There has been significant grass growth this year, which is drying off quickly and will become a fire risk if not addressed soon.

In support of the Country Fire Authority (CFA), and in meeting its statutory requirements under the Country Fire Authority Act 1958, Council will soon be implementing its annual Fire Management Inspection Program. These inspections will identify properties that may pose a fire risk to the community. Owners or occupiers of properties that may pose a fire risk will be issued a Fire Prevention Notice under the Country Fire Authority Act 1958. Re-inspections will also be undertaken to ensure that any Fire Prevention Notices issued have been complied with. If the Fire Prevention Notice is not complied with the property owner or occupier may receive an infringement notice (10 Penalty Units or \$1530.00) for not complying and may also incur costs to have the fire hazard(s) removed by Council.

Council's Manager of Regulatory Services, Matthew Patterson, was quite clear about the responsibilities of residents. "As an owner or occupier of property you must maintain your land during the entire Fire Danger Period to ensure it does not pose a fire risk to yourself or others. This may include fire prevention works such as keeping all grass to a height no greater than 100mm and removing all dead vegetation," said Mr Patterson. "I encourage people to take advantage of the green waste amnesty period that's in place until the end of December. Residents can dispose of green waste free of charge at all of our transfer stations across the municipality as they clean up around their properties."

### 10 Tips to ensure you are Fire Ready

1. Ensure grass is slashed over the fire danger period and is kept less than 100mm high.
2. Rake up and remove fine fuels such as dry grass, leaves, twigs and loose bark.
3. Remove any rubbish or material that is likely to cause, maintain, or promote a fire.
4. Store flammable liquids well away from the house.
5. Store woodpiles away from the house.
6. Place metal flyscreens or window shutters over windows.
7. Keep gutters clear of leaf litter.
8. Remove all noxious weeds from your land.
9. Store LPG cylinders securely in an upright position with the outlet away from the house.
10. HAVE A FIRE PLAN – Fire Ready kits are available from the CFA.

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