



17 March 2008

Extreme caution urged as CFA fire restrictions are lifted early

CFA fire restrictions throughout the Shire of Yarra Ranges, including the areas of Sassafras and Ferny Creek, will be lifted from **1am on Monday, March 17th**.

Brigade Captain John Schauble is asking residents to exercise extreme caution when burning off and also consider the interests of their neighbours.

“Often residents have accumulated huge amounts of debris and garden matter by the end of summer. The temptation is to let the whole lot go at once,” he said. “That often leads to a burn off getting out of control and the next thing you know, the fire brigade is on the way.”

Burning off should only be conducted for genuine fuel reduction purposes, Mr Schauble said. Fires on nature strips or road reserves are not permitted at any time. Never leave fires unattended and always have access to water and some hand tools to help control burn offs.

“Total Fire Ban days may still be imposed even though the restrictions are off,” he added

“There are other ways of dealing with unwanted vegetation, such as shredding, composting and green waste collection,” Mr Schauble added. “Many people resort to burning because it’s quick and easy or simply because they’ve always done it.”

One of the major impacts of burning off is smoke, which has health implications for some people, can be a nuisance and has an effect upon the environment. Burning off is not permitted on EPA smog alert days.

“Think before you burn. Pick the right conditions. Do not burn on hot windy days or when the material itself is too damp to burn quickly and cleanly.”

With the end of the CFA Declared Fire Danger Period, burning in the open will be subject to conditions imposed by the Shire of Yarra Ranges local laws. These currently provide for burning off at the following times in the local area:

At the end of the CFA Declared Fire danger Period to 2 weeks after	Incinerator and open-air burning allowed - Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday between 10am and 6pm
2 weeks after lifting of Declared Fire Danger Period to 30 September	Incinerator and open-air burning - Burning may occur on Thursdays and Saturdays only, between the hours of 10am and 3pm

Source: <http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au>

For more information, contact the Shire of Yarra Ranges 1300 368333 or www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

