



WHAT IS A HARVEST & VEHICLE MOVEMENT BAN (H&VMB)?

A H&VMB is a ban on certain activities which may cause bush fires during high-risk fire weather conditions. H&VMBs are issued based on local weather conditions and are separate from total fire bans. The Shire may issue one of two types of H&VMB;

Type 1: Regulation 24C Bush Fires Regulations 1954.

Apply when a total fire ban has been declared, a H&VMB must be imposed when the fire behaviour index is or exceeds 40 or when the Bush Fire Control Officer deems the use or operation of an engine vehicle, plant, equipment, or machinery powered by an internal combustion engine on land containing vegetation (off-road) is likely to start a bush fire. H&VMBs are usually issued during the day's highest risk period.

Type 2: Regulation 38A Bush Fires Regulations 1954.

Apply during restricted and prohibited burning times and where no total fire ban is declared. If the Bush Fire Control Officer believes engines, vehicles, plant, or machinery may cause or be conducive to the spread of a bushfire

HOW LONG WILL A H&VMB LAST?

H&VMBs are usually in force during the hottest part of the day, but the Shire can extend or cancel the ban if weather conditions change. Visit the Shires website to sign up for SMS notifications on H&VMBs.

ACTIVITIES NOT PERMITTED DURING A H&VMB

- Harvesting operations are prohibited.
- All off-road activity is prohibited, regardless of whether it is for agricultural purposes or work done by business, industry, or public authorities.
- Off-road areas include paddocks, bushland, uncleared land, and land with stubble or long grass.
- Off-road activity includes using anything powered by an internal combustion engine off-road, such as motorcycles, quad bikes, excavators, chain saws, ride-on lawn mowers, and generators.

ACTIVITIES PERMITTED DURING A H&VMB

- Use or operation of any vehicle on "gazetted roads," lanes, driveways, yards, or other areas that provide access to or a parking facility at any residential, farming, or business premises, if the area has been sufficiently cleared of flammable material to prevent fire escape.
- The use or operation of a vehicle to prevent an immediate and serious risk to a person's or livestock's health or safety, and only if all reasonable precautions have been taken to prevent the activity from creating a bush fire danger.
- Off-road activity for urgent work performed by an essential service may continue, but only if the conditions specified in Division 9 of the *Bush Fires Regulations 1954* are met. In the context of the provision of an essential service, urgent works refers to repairs or maintenance required for the service's continued provision or restoration. *Water supply, sewerage or drainage services; electricity or gas services; telecommunications services; public transportation services; and rubbish collection or disposal services are all considered essential.*

For further information on H&VMBs and Total Fire Bans, visit dfes.wa.gov.au/hazard-information/bushfire/total-fire-ban