

# FARM FIRE SAFETY



Prevention and preparedness activities can help save lives, property and the environment by:

- Minimising the chance of a fire starting.
- Controlling the spread of bush fires.
- Reducing the damage done by fires.
- Knowing what to do in the event of a bush fire.

Undertaking the following steps will improve your chances of preventing the devastating effects of fire on you, your family and employees, and your farm:

- Create a 20 metre fuel free zone by clearing away timber, vegetation and rubbish from around house, sheds and outbuildings.
- Keep grass around the house short and green.
- Remove branches which overhang the roof.
- Clean out gutters to remove leaves and litter.
- Spark-proof your house, fit wire screens to windows and doors, and enclose eaves.
- Keep timber surfaces on the outside of all structures well maintained.
- Store flammable liquids safely away from the house and clearly label the containers.
- Check appropriate fire fighting equipment and have it easily accessible in or immediately adjacent to the house.
- Plough and maintain a fire break around the house paddock.
- Keep paddocks near buildings well grazed.
- Access to water supplies must be clear and well signposted.
- Clear scrub and other growth away from power lines and poles.
- Contact your regional power authority for safety advice or if vegetation is getting too close to lines.
- Keep farm machinery free of dust and vegetation. Fit spark arresters on exhausts.
- Check the underside of farm vehicles for build up of straw and vegetation, particularly around exhaust system and catalytic converters.
- Carry appropriate fire extinguishers in vehicles, harvesters and other mobile plant.
- Always comply with total fire ban orders, if in doubt check with your rural fire service.
- Dial **000** to report fire emergencies.

