



**BUSH FIRES ACT 1954  
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION  
TOTAL FIRE BAN  
Section 22C**

**Lighting or use of fire, or carrying out activity in the open air that causes or is likely to cause fire, during a total fire ban.**

Correspondence No. 12032

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Pursuant to the powers delegated and sub delegated to the DFES Deputy Commissioner, I hereby exempt **Regional Power Corporation (Horizon Power)** under section 22C of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, from the operation of the provisions of sections 22B and 64 of that Act, subject to compliance with the conditions specified hereunder.

This exemption applies to **Horizon Power** employees and its contractors for the conduct of emergency repairs (restoration of essential services), including;

- the “off road” access by vehicles and equipment for the purpose of fault finding,
- the “off road” access by vehicles and equipment to its power network to conduct repairs,
- “hot works” (welding, cutting, grinding and heating) at substations, electricity generating stations and other infrastructure,
- operating the transmission system to ensure security of electricity supply,
- carrying out LV disconnection and re-connection of customer supplies,
- operating the distribution system’s overhead and ground mounted HV and LV switchgear to energise (restoring power), isolating (turning off) the electrical network,
- repairs to fallen poles, wires and substation equipment, and
- removing vegetation contacting overhead power lines,

on their power supply network throughout Western Australia during a total fire ban for the Local Government in which district the work is to be undertaken.

**SPECIFIED CONDITIONS**

**1. FIRE PREVENTION**

1.1 The “off road” conditions listed within this exemption do not apply during a Local Government imposed Harvesting and Vehicle Movement Ban (r.24C) (*i.e. upon the imposition of a Local Government Harvesting and Vehicle Movement Ban, off-road vehicle operations under this exemption cannot continue*).

- 1.2 This exemption only applies for work which cannot reasonably be postponed to a time with safer fire weather conditions.
- 1.3 Horizon Power management is to assess weather conditions and heed warnings, risk assess and limit all activities to that which can be undertaken safely.
- 1.4 The site is to be maintained in accordance with any local government fire break notice.

## **2. NOTIFICATION**

- 2.1 If the work is to be conducted within the Metropolitan area the DFES State Hazards Operations Officer 9395 9201 is to be notified on the day and prior to these activities occurring during a total fire ban.
- 2.2 If the work is to be conducted outside of the Metropolitan area;
  - 2.2.1 the nearest Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) Regional Office, and
  - 2.2.2 the Local Government in which district the work is being undertakenare to be notified on the day of and prior to these activities occurring during a total fire ban.
- 2.3 If the work is to be conducted within 3 kms of State Forest, the respective District Duty Officer of the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) is to be informed on the day and prior to works requiring this exemption commencing.
- 2.4 Where possible the landowner on who's property the work is to be undertaken is to be advised prior to the activity occurring.
- 2.5 Any fire occurring at the work site, whether extinguished or not, must be reported to the DFES Communications Centre on 9395 9210, or immediately via 000 if the fire cannot be controlled and / or suppressed.

## **3. SITES WITHIN GAZETTED METROPOLITAN AREA, REGIONAL CITIES AND TOWNSHIPS.**

- 3.1 Where such works are to be conducted at sites free from any area/s of combustible bush or grassland for a radius of not less than 100 metres.**
  - 3.1.1 Welding screens and/or the wetting down of surrounding area are required to reduce possible spark ignition around the immediate work site.
  - 3.1.2 The provision of two (2) operational fire extinguishers (16 litre knapsack sprays or 9 litre pressurised air/water or a combination of both) to be placed on the ground near the immediate work area in a readily accessible position.

3.1.3 The site is to be fully inspected for any potential fire activity and declared safe prior to their departure.

**3.2 Where such works are to be conducted at sites with area/s of combustible bush or grassland, (of less than 500 square metres and vegetation no higher than 20cm) within a radius of 100 metres.**

3.2.1 Welding screens and/or wetting down of surrounding area are required to reduce possible spark ignition around the immediate work site.

3.2.2 The provision of two (2) operational fire extinguishers (16 litre knapsack sprays or 9 litre pressurised air/water or a combination of both) to be placed on the ground near the immediate work area in a readily accessible position.

3.2.3 A fire suppression unit is to be on site, comprising a minimum of 400 litres of water, with an operational pump and 20 metres of 19 mm diameter hose (minimum), capable of delivering water through an adjustable nozzle.

3.2.4 At least one able bodied person (trained in extinguisher/unit operation) and wearing the appropriate 'Personal Protective Clothing (PPC)' is to be in attendance and dedicated solely to the detection and suppression of any fire.

3.2.5 The site is to be fully inspected for any potential fire activity and declared safe prior to their departure. Supervision of site to remain for 30 minutes after fire risk activity has ceased.

**3.3 Where such works are to be conducted at sites with area/s of combustible bush or grassland, (of greater than 500 square metres and/or vegetation higher than 20cm) within a radius of 100 metres.**

3.3.1 Welding screens and/or wetting down of surrounding area are required to reduce possible spark ignition around the immediate work site.

3.3.2 The provision of two (2) operational fire extinguishers (16 litre knapsack sprays or 9 litre pressurised air/water or a combination of both) to be placed on the ground near the immediate work area in a readily accessible position.

3.3.3 A single, or multiple, fire suppression units are to be on site, comprising a minimum of 800 litres of water, with operational pumps and 20 metres of 19 mm diameter hose (minimum), capable of delivering water through an adjustable nozzle.

3.3.4 Each fire unit is to be crewed by at least two able bodied persons (trained in extinguisher/unit operation) and wearing the appropriate 'Personal Protective Clothing (PPC)' and dedicated solely to the detection and suppression of any fire.

3.3.5 The site is to be fully inspected for any potential fire activity and declared safe prior to their departure. Supervision of site to remain for 30 minutes after fire risk activity has ceased.

#### **4 SITES OUTSIDE OF GAZETTED METROPOLITAN AREA, REGIONAL CITIES AND TOWNSHIP.**

##### **4.1 Where such works are to be conducted at sites free from any area/s of combustible bush or grassland for a radius of not less than 100 metres.**

4.1.1 Welding screens and/or the wetting down of surrounding area are required to reduce possible spark ignition around the immediate work site.

4.1.2 The provision of two (2) operational fire extinguishers (16 litre knapsack sprays or 9 litre pressurised air/water or a combination of both) to be placed on the ground near the immediate work area in a readily accessible position.

4.1.3 The site is to be fully inspected for any potential fire activity and declared safe prior to their departure.

##### **4.2 Where such works are to be conducted at sites with area/s of combustible bush or grassland within a radius of 100 metres.**

4.2.1 Welding screens and/or wetting down of surrounding area are required to reduce possible spark ignition around the immediate work site.

4.2.2 The provision of two (2) operational fire extinguishers (16 litre knapsack sprays or 9 litre pressurised air/water or a combination of both) to be placed on the ground near the immediate work area in a readily accessible position.

4.2.3 A single or multiple fire suppression units are to be on site, comprising a minimum of 800 litres of water, with operational pumps and 20 metres of 19 mm diameter hose (minimum), capable of delivering water through an adjustable nozzle.

4.2.4 Each Fire unit is to be crewed with at least two able bodied persons (trained in extinguisher/unit operation) and wearing the appropriate 'Personal Protective Clothing (PPC)' and dedicated solely to the detection and suppression of any fire.

4.2.5 At least 2 able bodied people are to remain at the work site for at least 30 minutes after the works have been completed to ensure the site remains safe and the site is to be fully inspected for any potential fire activity prior to their departure.

## 5. "Off Road" fault finding

5.1 If proceeding off road for the purposes of undertaking a preliminary assessment of the safety or condition of the power transmission network there must be a minimum of the following present;

- A mobile fire suppression unit, to be crewed by two able bodied and trained persons, comprising a minimum of 400 litres of water, with an operational pump and 20 metres of 19 mm diameter hose (minimum), capable of delivering water through an adjustable nozzle.

## 6. Power Re-instatement of overhead power lines —Non Identified Faults

Where a fault cannot be identified from information received from the public or visually by driving or flying the affected network the following shall apply;

- 6.1 A risk assessment, including inspection of the affected network to identify any faults must be completed prior to any reinstatement of power being conducted;  
or
- 6.2 Reinstatement of power is only to be undertaken on a falling Fire Danger Index (FDI) and not before the FDI falls below 32 (High rating 12 to 31); or
- 6.3 In an emergency, DFES can authorise the reinstatement on advice from the network operator.

## 7. "Off Road" Use of Vehicles

- 7.1 All vehicles and stationary motors are to be inspected prior to leaving any formed road to ensure that the exhaust systems are in a sound condition.
- 7.2 All vehicles and stationary motors are to be refuelled on clear ground and in an appropriate method to avoid the release of static electricity.
- 7.3 The access to the worksite is to be checked to ensure that no vegetation can come into contact with exhaust or catalytic converters fitted to any vehicle.
- 7.4 The vehicles and plant are to be sited/parked in an area free from vegetation and combustible material.

## 7 Period of Exemption.

This exemption is **valid from the date of approval through until 30 June 2018, unless suspended or revoked.**



**LLOYD BAILEY AFSM**

**Deputy Commissioner, Operations of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, as sub-delegate of the Minister under sections 15 and 16 of the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998.***

16 September 2015