



Firebreaks

In certain circumstances it may be necessary to construct firebreaks around a mining operations site (e.g. exploration camp, mining camp, plant area or other such area). The Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) considers such activity to be acceptable provided that it has been planned adequately, applicable approvals sought per mining tenement conditions and relevant standards applied including local Government and Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) requirements.

The aim of a firebreak is to protect personnel and resources from loss due to a wildfire or a programmed burn-off that may be undertaken in the area.

The construction of firebreaks needs to be planned into the proposed operation and approvals sought as for other ground disturbing activity and addressed in Notices of Intent where applicable.

Certain seasons and conditions will be more prone to fire outbreaks than others and firebreaks may not be necessary during short term operations.

FIREBREAK PLANNING

When planning your project and assessing the need for firebreaks please consider the following:

- Location
- Time of year
- Seasonal conditions
- Duration of the project
- Fire history of the area
- Any programmed burn-offs

CONSTRUCTION

In an emergency construct firebreaks as necessary. Otherwise:

- Consult with the Local Government Authority regarding their specific requirements
- On land managed by DEC, consult with them regarding their requirements
- Apply appropriate dieback hygiene management practices
- Undertake surveys to locate rare or endangered flora or fauna or any other environmentally sensitive areas and position firebreak to avoid impacting on these areas
- Seek approval for clearing via the Program of Work – Exploration Form or via the Notice of Intent for the project
- Keep clearing to a minimum
- Clear on the contour as far as possible
- Rehabilitate as for any other surface disturbances

CONTACTS

For further advice regarding fire control practices please contact:

- DEC at www.dec.wa.gov.au or a local DEC office.
- On all other land, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority, Fire Services Division on 08 9323 9300
- The local authority for the area you are operating in regarding their specific requirements

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