



PRESS RELEASE

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TO: Media Contacts

Backyard fires put community at risk

Residents are flouting fire laws, despite the fact that a single spark or ember from a fire in a backyard could have devastating consequences for our loved ones and our communities.

There have been at least five incidents in the past two weeks where residents have lit backyard fires that were attended by Shire of Collie rangers and volunteer bushfire brigades.

The entire Shire of Collie, including campgrounds and backyards are in the midst of the Prohibited Burn Period, which runs from 15 December 2017 until 14 March 2018.

The Prohibited Burn Period means no fires or campfires are to be lit, including incinerators, wood fired BBQs and fire drums. Devices that do not have an open flame, such as gas barbecues, are permitted although care should be taken during use and they should not be left unattended.

Collie's bushfire brigades and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions carry out around-the-clock patrols throughout the hottest months of the year.

Shire of Collie President Sarah Stanley urged community members to "just do the right thing".

"Our volunteer fireies are doing a fantastic job because they love their community," Cr Sarah Stanley said.

"But please remember that attending to these easily avoidable fires takes their valuable time away from their families and work."

On-the-spot fines of \$250 are applicable for offences relating to the lighting of fires in prohibited burn periods and can carry a maximum penalty of \$250,000, 14 years imprisonment, or both if charges are laid.

If fires are spotted during the Prohibited Burn Period, residents and visitors should ring 000 and report the location immediately.

ENDS

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