

Reducing fuel load around the shelter

Your spring visit is the perfect time to focus on reducing fire risk at your campsite, and around any wooden structures on your section. Reducing fuel loads around a structure will increase its likely survival from a bushfire by preventing direct flame contact and reducing the potential radiant heat impact.

While we recognise that shelters often have overhanging vegetation and close undergrowth, the guiding principles to achieving protection are:

- Clear the vegetation for 2m from around all wooden structures including the shelter, toilet, any steps, and under bridges.
- Beyond the 2m zone, prune scrub around buildings so that it is not dense nor has fine dead material in the crown of the scrub
- Rake up leaf litter and twigs under trees, and remove trailing bark within a 5m radius
- Prune lower tree branches (up to 2m off the ground) to stop a surface fire spreading to the canopy of the trees
- Dispose of all material as far from the wooden structure as practicable; 30-40m might be necessary in the case of large quantities from around a shelter
- Ensure firewood is stored away from the shelter
- Keep gutters and roofs free of leaves and other combustible material as far as possible. Sectional volunteers are not permitted to climb on the roof, so we recognise that there is very limited ability to inspect and clear gutters from the ground (eg. using a broom or rake). We are currently developing further guidelines for volunteers with respect to this task.

If you have any concerns about the fire risk to your campsite or wooden structures, please email maintenance@bibbulmuntrack.org.au. Give clear information, including photos and location.