



SASSAFRAS-FERNY CREEK FIRE BRIGADE

PO Box 8, Ferny Creek, Victoria 3786 **Telephone** 9755 1078 **Fax** 9755 3016
Email: secretary@sassafrascfa.org.au **Website:** www.sassafrascfa.org.au

10 June 2008

New Open Air Burning Local Law

Changes to the local law governing burning off in the open will come into effect in the Shire of Yarra Ranges on 1 July 2008.

Sassafras-Ferny Creek Fire Brigade Captain John Schauble is urging local residents to familiarise themselves with the new provisions. The new local law includes some significant changes, including a total prohibition on burning in June and July.

“Burning off should be restricted to genuine fuel reduction, not just getting rid of garden refuse. There are alternatives, such as green waste collection and mulching to consider,” he said.

“What tends to happen is that the fire brigade becomes the umpire in neighbourhood disputes over burning off, usually because residents aren’t aware of their obligations,” he added.

The brigade has been called out a number of times in recent weeks to unattended burn offs, particularly at night. “It’s just a nuisance as far as our volunteers are concerned that could be easily remedied by people being a little more responsible,” Mr Schauble said.

The new local law is the result of two years of consultation between the Shire, residents and interested parties including local CFA brigades.

The following restrictions apply to residents living in Residential Bushland areas (including Sassafras and Ferny Creek):

- No burning in June and July
- No burning on a Sunday
- No burning on a CFA declared Total Fire Ban Day
- No burning during the Declared Fire Danger Period, including use of incinerators, without a permit.
- No burning on EPA declared Smog Alert Days

For all other times, the following regulations apply:

- Burning off for fire reduction purposes is only allowed on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 8am to 6pm.

Under the new local law, burning off is permitted for fuel reduction purposes only. Never burn when the wind speed is more than 15km/hour. Fires must be supervised at all times by an adult. A reticulated water supply or vessel containing at least 10 litres of water must be available at the site of the fire. A fire must not cause nuisance through excessive smoke outside of a property boundary or create a hazard on a public highway.

For more information, visit the Shire website <http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au> or contact the Shire on 1300 368 333

