

INFORMATION SHEET

Box Ironbark

Domestic Firewood Licence System

Falling Green Standing Firewood

Moving Towards Green Firewood

Firewood is a limited resource in central Victoria and appropriate management is required to ensure firewood is available to residents into the future. Harvesting firewood green will assist making it a sustainable resource available for use by local residents. Leaving firewood in the forest to dry means it is more susceptible to theft and fire. Green firewood will also reduce the fire hazard associated with dry firewood systems.

The Department of Sustainability and Environment is moving towards supplying mostly green firewood from 2008 onwards to local residents.

Green Standing Firewood

To ensure that domestic firewood licensees employ safe working practices, the Box Ironbark Firewood Taskforce recommended that only individuals with an appropriate falling accreditation be allowed to fall standing trees.

From 2007 onwards, only domestic licensees who have a recognised tree felling accreditation will be able to fall their own firewood.

Note that the cost per stacked cubic metre of felled green firewood is only approximately \$3.00 more than standing green firewood. This cost may be more than offset by the cost of obtaining accreditation, and the extra cost and difficulty of falling your own firewood. The Department is managing the forest thinning program to ensure that adequate firewood will be available on the ground to meet future demand in each Community Firewood Supply Area.

Tree Falling Accreditation

Domestic licensees wishing to fall green standing trees will be required to successfully complete the nationally accredited chainsaw course

FPIFGM110A Fall Trees Manually - basic (non-commercial/non-production). Some of the topics covered in the course include; identifying falling requirements; preparing and maintaining falling equipment; assessing conditions and surroundings; assessing trees and planning for falling; preparing surroundings; and falling trees. If you intend getting your fallers accreditation make sure you enrol in training prior to the start of the firewood season. Contact your nearest provider for more information about the training and costs.

Bendigo TAFE

Ph: 1300 554 248

Victorian Timber Industry Training Centre, Creswick

Ph: 5345 2018

Forest Training Services, Gordon Hunt

Ph: 0404 447 311

Karl Liffman, Maldon

Ph: 5475 2114

Mobile: 0428 507 610

The current prices for 8 cubic metres of green standing firewood are \$138.40 and \$79.60 concession.

Drying and Storing Green Firewood

The use of green firewood requires some planning. Firewood needs to be dried properly before use. Burning firewood that isn't dried properly will produce less heat and more smoke and pollutants. Shorter lengths and split firewood dries faster but it must be stored correctly. Store green firewood in an area of direct sunlight and good air circulation. During wet weather cover the green wood with tarpaulin or plastic sheets. Once the wood has dried it should be stored under cover.

For further information ring the Firewood Hotline on 5430 4666.

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For more information contact the **DSE Bendigo Firewood Hotline on (03) 5430 4666**.

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