

CFS FACT SHEET - INFORMATION COLLECTION

No. 30 | May 2010 | Page 1 of 8



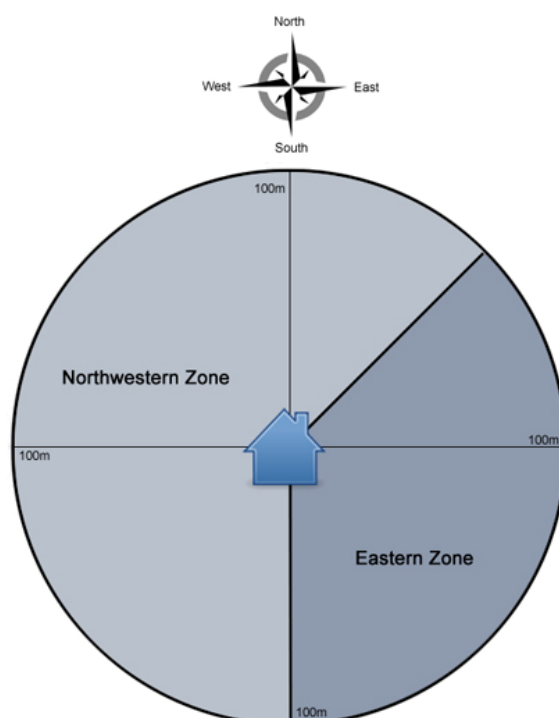
This collection of fact sheets has been produced to assist you to collect information required to calculate the minimum required distance to achieve a defensible space for your home.

The information needs to be as accurate as possible to ensure the best result.

There are five important factors that must be considered when determining the amount of defensible space your house requires:

1. Vegetation type
2. Distance to your property boundary
3. The slope-upslope/flat ground/downslope
4. The degree of slope
5. Distance to other flammable objects

The 100 metre area around your house has been divided into two zones: The Northwestern zone, and the Eastern zone. You will need to take into consideration all vegetation types that are located within a 100 metre distance of each side of your house for both of these zones. (This may require you to take into consideration vegetation on neighbouring properties).



CFS FACT SHEET - INFORMATION COLLECTION

No. 30 | May 2010 | Page 2 of 8



Identifying types of vegetation around your property is critical to determining bushfire risk. You will need to assess the vegetation type correctly.

Use the following descriptions and images to determine the vegetation type that you have, out to a distance of 100 metres from all sides of your home for both the Northwestern and Eastern zones.

Do you have Cultivated Garden (any tree height)?

☐ **Northwestern Zone**

Eastern Zone ☐

Description

- Highly managed urban or horticultural areas
- Typically these feature exotic and native vegetation in garden beds separated by open spaces of grass



Example A

- Urban/rural interface. Residential subdivisions with small house lots
- Cultivated gardens with mown or slashed grassed areas
- Scattered eucalypts, which are usually mature remnants of the original vegetation
- No regeneration of the forest
- Access by constructed roads or paths



Example B

- Rural township or bushland setting with larger residential lots
- Cultivated gardens with mown or slashed grassed areas
- Scattered eucalypts, which are usually mature remnants of original vegetation
- No regeneration of the forest
- Access by constructed roads and paths (sealed and unsealed)

CFS FACT SHEET - INFORMATION COLLECTION

No. 30 | May 2010 | Page 3 of 8



Do you have Grassland with Minimal Trees (any tree height)?

☐ **Northwestern Zone**

Eastern Zone ☐

Description:

- Includes areas of grazed paddocks, with or without occasional trees
- Commonly rural residential areas, hobby farms or broad acre grazing properties



Example A

- Isolated, scattered or clumped eucalypts, usually mature remnants of the original forest
- Open grassy paddocks grazed or slashed
- May have some regeneration of canopy or understorey trees that have been selectively retained
- Easy to walk through in any direction

Example B

- Isolated, scattered or clumped eucalypts, usually mature remnants of the original forest
- Open grassy paddocks grazed or with crops
- No regeneration of canopy trees
- Easy to walk through in any direction



CFS FACT SHEET - INFORMATION COLLECTION

No. 30 | May 2010 | Page 4 of 8



Do you have Low Forest (tree height 10 metres or lower)?

☐ **Northwestern Zone**

Eastern Zone ☐

Description:

- Tree heights less than 10 metres and canopy cover greater than 30%.
- Commonly found on sites of poor, rocky or sandy soils, lower rainfall or areas exposed to extreme weather such as mountainous ridges or coastal areas.



Example A

- Very few shrubs, mostly grasses and other tussock plants in the understorey
- Moderate levels of leaf and twig litter
- Moderately easy to walk through
- Generally low rainfall, poor soils

Example B

- Eucalypt canopy trees of usually multi-stem mallee habit
- Very few shrubs, grasses and other plants in the understorey
- Low to moderate levels of leaf and twig litter
- Easy to walk through
- Generally low rainfall, poor soils



CFS FACT SHEET - INFORMATION COLLECTION

No. 30 | May 2010 | Page 5 of 8



Do you have Medium Forest (tree height 10 - 30 metres, canopy cover greater than 30%)?

☐ **Northwestern Zone**

Eastern Zone ☐

Description:

- Canopy cover of the trees is less than 30%, regardless of the height of the trees
- There will be distinct spaces between the crowns of the trees



Example A

- Highly modified remnant vegetation with extensive tree removal, no shrubs and only occasional tussock plants
- Intensively mown with no shrub or tree regeneration
- Very few leaves and twigs or mulched from frequent moving or slashing
- Easy to walk through 'park-like' setting
- Generally moderate to high rainfall and deep soils



Example B

- Sparse or patchy cover of shrubs, often spindly
- Grass covers sparse and patchy to negligible areas
- Low levels of leaf and twig litter separated by patches of bare earth
- Easy to walk through
- Generally low to moderate rainfall and poor soils

CFS FACT SHEET - INFORMATION COLLECTION

No. 30 | May 2010 | Page 6 of 8



Do you have Shrub and Heath (no trees)?

☐ **Northwestern Zone**

Eastern Zone ☐

Description:

- Generally shrubs less than three metres high, but ranging up to six metres
- Most plants tend to be tough, wiry and scratchy with small leaves
- There may also be occasional trees, but these are isolated
- Commonly found in coastal areas or damp locations associated with waterways or in poorly drained areas



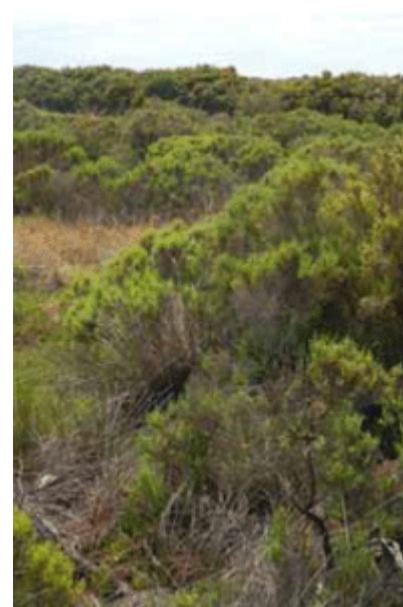
Example A

- Dense cover of mostly prickly shrubs which form the canopy
- May have some ferns and tussock plants underneath the canopy
- Very difficult to walk through or impenetrable
- Generally poorly drained (swampy) areas



Example B

- Dense cover of mostly prickly shrubs which form the canopy
- May have some tussock plants in the understorey
- Very difficult to walk through or impenetrable
- Coastal areas on sandy soils



Example C

- Dense patches of low, prickly shrubs that may be separated by patches of tussock plants
- Moderately difficult to walk through
- Generally poor soils and/or poor drainage
- Frequently on exposed sites

CFS FACT SHEET - INFORMATION COLLECTION

No. 30 | May 2010 | Page 7 of 8



Do you have Medium Forest (tree height 10 - 30 metres, canopy cover greater than 30%)?

☐ **Northwestern Zone**

Eastern Zone ☐

Description

- Generally eucalypt trees 10 to 30 metres in height and a canopy cover greater than 30%
- Commonly with stringy bark, peppermint and box bark eucalypts
- May have a shrubby or grassy understorey
- Common vegetation type in fertile valleys, foothills and mountain areas



Example A

- Scattered shrubs with grasses in between them
- Easy to walk through
- High levels of twig and leaf litter
- Generally poor, shallow soils



Example B

- Dense, prickly shrub cover to 3 metres with some grasses
- High levels of leaf and twig litter
- Difficult to walk through
- Generally poor soils

CFS FACT SHEET - INFORMATION COLLECTION

No. 30 | May 2010 | Page 8 of 8



Do you have Tall Forest (tree height 30 metres or more, canopy cover greater than 30%)?

☐ **Northwestern Zone**

Eastern Zone ☐

Description:

- Eucalypt trees 30 metres high or more, and canopy cover greater than 30%
- May be stringy bark, peppermint or smooth gum bark eucalypts
- Typically with small trees, large shrubs and ferns in the understorey
- Common in medium to high altitude areas, along waterways, or where there is high rainfall and/or well-protected sites such as in gullies



Example A

- Small trees and tall shrubs in the understorey, often with tree ferns and large tussock plants (sedges)
- Creepers and grasses climbing in the large shrubs and small trees
- High levels of leaf, twig and loose bark litter
- Difficult to walk through
- High rainfall, deep soils



Example B

- Small trees and tall shrubs forming a dense understorey
- Sometimes with ferns, but usually with grasses, sedges and other tussock plants
- High levels of twig and leaf litter
- Difficult to walk through
- Generally moderate to high rainfall, deep soils