



## Former WA volunteer firefighter Jourdan Ashford jailed for lighting Bedforddale bushfire

By Joanna Menagh

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**A former volunteer firefighter has been jailed for lighting a blaze in bushland in Bedforddale that his brigade was deployed to extinguish.**

Jourdan Dean Ashford, 21, also admitted making two phone calls to 000 to report non-existent fires.

The offences were committed in August and September 2014, when Ashford was a volunteer with the Bedforddale brigade.

The fire was started about 1:00 am and was put out in about 10 minutes after it had burnt about 10 square metres of bushland.

The District Court heard Ashford was suffering from a major depressive illness at the time and in the lead up to lighting the fire he had drunk alcohol and taken MDMA tablets.

He later told police he had lit the fire because he was "an adrenalin junkie" and probably wanted to get an "adrenalin rush".

Judge Richard Keen said Ashford's offending was serious because fires had the capacity to get out of control and wreak enormous havoc.

He said the offences were aggravated because Ashford was a volunteer firefighter and was "well aware of what he was doing".

While Judge Keen accepted that Ashford was remorseful and that he had taken steps to rehabilitate himself, he said an immediate jail term was the only appropriate penalty.

He sentenced Ashford to 12 months jail telling him that if the fire had got out of hand he would have received a far higher penalty.

Ashford will have to serve six months before he can be released.

**Topics:** fires, police, bedforddale-6112

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**PHOTO:** Former volunteer firefighter Jourdan Dean Ashford has been jailed for 12 months for lighting fires in Bedforddale. (ABC News: Andrea Mayes)

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