

You need to upgrade your equipment to keep up with the changing world: Stihl BR 800 for real blowing power

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“Climate change is expected to increase temperatures over parts of the interior of South Africa by as much as three degrees to five degrees Celsius by the end of the century. Longer dry spells may also occur more frequently during all seasons. Increasing temperatures and increased drought frequencies combine to exacerbate the incidence of fire risk.”

~ Working On Fire

“I have been a fire fighter for many years and from experience I know that you need equipment that you can trust in a tricky situation. There’s no point in having a blower that isn’t up to the job, for example, which is why I have always relied on Stihl blowers, upgrading through various models over the years.

A powerful blower is a must-have. It’s great as part of a fire management programme, even

though any blower, even the BR 800, cannot be expected to manage a fire on its own but it is very useful for clearing areas of organic material like leaves and grass etc. I also use it for blowing machinery clean.

I prefer a backpack blower as Stihl’s design and focus on user comfort means that it can be used for extended periods with less fatigue and reduced tiredness from aching back and shoulders. The BR 800 has an excellent power-to-weight ratio and an anti-vibration system as well.

The BR 800 is the most powerful Stihl backpack blower so, naturally, it has plenty of power. It delivers more than 1 700m³/h of air volume and has a wind velocity of over 230kph. This model is a completely transformed machine, not just an upgrade of the BR 700. It features a new blower housing and impeller in addition to the 80cc engine.

An enhancement that’s really useful is that the BR 800 has side-start technology so that the operator no longer has the hassle of removing the backpack to



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restart. Thanks Stihl, this is much easier when in a hurry! Plus, the telescopic tube is easily adjustable for various user heights without any tools for extra convenience.

I trust in the BR 800 for the following reasons:

- It quickly clears areas that would otherwise have to be cleared manually, which is time-consuming and labour-intensive and sometimes, in the field, there simply isn't time to do it by hand.
- Also, a blower like the BR 800 uses less water when constructing firelines. Please remember that a blower, no matter what model, cannot replace water on a fire line!
- In controlled burning, where the fuel load is light, blowers are effective in blowing the fire back on itself.
- If you've ever worked with a beater or other hand-held tools, you'll be grateful to have a powerful blower like the BR 800 on your back. Backpack blowers are more comfortable and effective than hand-held tools, no argument!
- High-powered models are incredibly useful when managing fires: use the blower air to cool down flammable gasses so they are less likely to ignite and also dilutes the gases. The high speed of air from the blower forces other gasses away from the area.

The Stihl BR 800 is a high performance blowing tool that is ideal for use as a fire management tool. But please, as when using any power tool - you need expert guidance, as you'd get from your Stihl dealer when buying any Stihl product. If you plan on using a blower for fire management purposes, you need to get in touch with your local fire protection agency for correct procedures as well as what personal protective equipment should be worn. And please ensure that any operator is properly trained when using any equipment.

I hope that this will assist with what could be a challenging fire season in 2021!" 

