

Preparing for bushfires

Start preparing for bushfire season

- Have a plan for what you will do on days where the **Fire Danger Rating** is **Extreme** or **Catastrophic**, which might include spending the day in a township or area with a lower risk than your home or property.
- Have a plan for what you will do if a fire starts near your home - consider how it may be different during the week, on the weekend, when individuals who live with you are at school or work, during school holidays or with guests staying.
- Chat to your neighbours, family and friends about your plan.
- Rehearse your plan with those included in it.

Start preparing your home

Basic tasks include:

- Clean out your gutters, removing any leaves and twigs.
- Keep lawns short and gardens well maintained.
- Prune shrubs and cut back trees that hang over buildings.
- Clean up fallen leaves, dead vegetation, twigs and debris around the property.
- Clear or reduce vegetation such as long grass within 20 metres of your home, or within 5 metres of sheds or garages.
- Ember-proof your home by sealing gaps and areas under your home, verandahs or balconies, repair any loose tiles or gaps in your roof, and cover windows and vents with fine wire mesh.
- Ensure all entry points to your property are wide and high enough to fit a firetruck.

If you and your family have the means, consider:

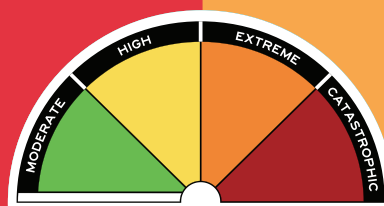
- Installing metal gutter guards.
- Attaching a fire sprinkler system to gutters.
- Ensuring hoses are long enough to reach around your house.
- Planting gardens that with low flammability.
- Installing shutters over windows and window frames.
- Installing metal screens over all doors.

Moderate: Plan and prepare. Most fires can be controlled.

High: Be ready to act. Fires can be dangerous.

Extreme: Take action now to protect your life and property. Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous.

Catastrophic: For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas. If a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost.



EMERGENCY KIT

Having a kit ready to go means less stress if a bushfire hits.

Consider buying one or two items a month between now and the fire season, to ensure you are prepared in case you need to leave your home at short notice, or are cut off from your local town or service area.

- Bottles of water and non-perishable food.
- An overnight bag with change of clothes and toiletries.
- Mobile phone charger.
- A USB stick with any important documents and photos.
- A first aid kit including any medicines or prescription repeats for medicines.
- Battery powered radio (and spare batteries).
- A list of contact numbers including family, friends, neighbours and your local bushfire information line.
- Protective clothing such as long sleeved shirts made from natural material such as cotton, sturdy footwear and P2 masks for each member of the family.
- Woollen blankets (try your local op shop for a low-cost option).
- An up-to-date printed out map of your local area in case your internet goes down and roads are closed.

Don't forget your pets!

- Leash or suitable carrier - it's good to practise getting your pet into these containers before an emergency so it's less stressful for both you and the pet!
- Non-perishable pet food and a bowl for water.
- Vet contact details.
- A familiar toy or treats.

