

It's a fact. If you and your family home are well prepared, you stand a better chance of surviving a bushfire. Join with everyone else in ensuring that your home and family are protected by following the four simple steps to getting ready for a bush fire.

FOUR SIMPLE STEPS TO CREATING YOUR BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLAN



WORKING TOGETHER
www.esa.act.gov.au



By taking 20 minutes with your family to discuss what you'll do during a fire, you could save their lives, as well as your home.

STEP 1 DISCUSS

What will you do in a bushfire?
Get the whole household together and discuss your plan.



Use the fold-out on the reverse page to take you step-by-step through the process.

DECIDE TO STAY, BUT BE PREPARED

EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

Defending your home from a bushfire can be challenging and you will need the right equipment. If you decide to stay with your property, it's your responsibility to be prepared.

FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT WE WILL NEED	
	Hose that can reach all round the house
	Water Supply of at least 10,000L e.g. Water tank, dam, pool
	Petrol/diesel water pump and fuel, safe and accessible
	Ladders to access inside the roof
	Buckets and mops
	Shovels and metal rakes

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING	
	Wide-brimmed hat
	Eye protection goggles
	Protective mask - P2 is recommended
	Loose, long sleeved cotton shirt/Long pants or jeans
	Gloves
	Sturdy leather shoes or boots

! IMPORTANT
If you have not ticked **ALL** of the items listed you are **NOT PREPARED** to tackle a major fire.

Around 90 percent of homes destroyed in a bush fire are lost because of burning embers.

ACTION CHECKLIST

Defending your home can be physically and mentally demanding. It's important that everyone knows exactly what to do if a fire happens.

BEFORE THE FIRE HAS ARRIVED	
	Turn off gas mains/bottle
	Move flammable items away from the house
	Block drains with sand filled socks and fill gutters with water
	Have a plan for animals and pets
	Patrol the house before the fire arrives for embers
	As the fire approaches wet down the house and garden
	Move firefighting equipment to a safe place inside

DURING - AS THE FIRE IS UPON YOU	
	If flames are on top of you or the heat becomes unbearable move inside until the fire front has passed (usually 5-10 minutes)
	Patrol the inside of the house, including roof space, looking for sparks and embers.
	Shelter in a room on the opposite side of the house from the approaching fire front and ensure you have clear access to an exit.

AFTER - IMMEDIATELY AFTER	
	Check the house inside and out for fires. Including roof cavity, under house etc.
	If possible and safe to do so, check that your neighbours are OK.
	Alert relatives or friends to tell them you are safe.
	Patrol your home for several hours, looking for small fire and burning embers.

STEP 2 PREPARE

There are some simple things you can do around your home to prepare it for bushfire. You need to prepare well beforehand as leaving it to the last minute is too late.

THE TOP 5 ACTIONS TO MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER



1. TRIM

Trim overhanging trees and shrubs. This can stop the fire spreading to your home.



2. MOW

Mow grass and remove the cuttings. Have a cleared area around your home.



3. REMOVE

Remove material that can burn (e.g. door mats, wood piles, leaves, paint, furniture).



4. CLEAR

To prevent embers setting alight clear and remove debris and leaves from gutters on your home.



5. PREPARE

A sturdy hose or hoses that will reach all around your home. Be sure to have a reliable source of water.

STEP 3 KNOW

If there is a fire in your area you will find its alert level on the ACTESA website, the radio & the 'Fires Near Me' App.

STEP 4 KEEP

In a bushfire it's important that you stay up to date on conditions in your area.

KNOW THE BUSHFIRE ALERT LEVELS

You need to keep track of alert levels so you know how to respond.



ADVICE

A fire has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.



WATCH AND ACT

There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing. Start taking action to protect you and your family.



EMERGENCY WARNING

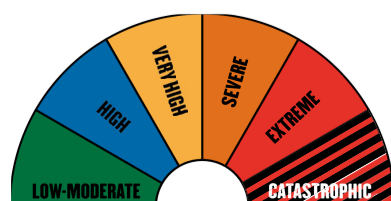
Emergency Warning is the highest level of alert. You may be in danger. Take action immediately. Any delay now risks your life.

FIRE DANGER RATINGS

SEVERE: Only stay if your home is well prepared and you are ready to defend it.

EXTREME: Only stay if your home is prepared to the highest level and is built to survive a bushfire.

CATASTROPHIC: Leaving is your only safe option



KEEP KEY INFORMATION

The ACT Rural Fire Service strongly advises saving these numbers, links and App now.

	In an emergency call: Triple Zero (000) For information on bushfires call Access Canberra: 13 22 81
	For Fire Danger Ratings visit the ACT Emergency Services website: esa.act.gov.au
	Install the smartphone ' Fires Near Me ' App
	Local radio, local ABC/emergency broadcaster frequency, TV and news websites.
	Stay up to date at: facebook.com/ACTESA and twitter.com/ACTESA

Do not rely on just one source!

LEAVING EARLY OR PREPARING TO STAY?

One of the most important things to do before a bushfire is to decide what you'll do if one should start. This guide can help you make that decision, and assist you with the steps in preparing yourself, your home and your family. Once you've had the discussion and made a decision, get your family to sign this document.

20 minutes to review and decide

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

LEAVE EARLY. YOUR SAFEST CHOICE

WHAT WILL BE OUR TRIGGER TO LEAVE?

What will be your sign to leave? It could be smoke in your area, or as soon as you find out there's a fire near you.

WHERE WILL WE GO?

Where's a meeting place that's safe and away from a fire area? It might be a friend or relatives house, or even a shopping centre.

HOW WILL WE GET THERE?

What road will you take? What's your backup plan in case the road is blocked?

WHAT WILL WE TAKE?

Make a list of items you will have pre-packed to take with you in the event of a fire. Remember to include pets, identification, medications and irreplaceable items i.e. photos and documents.

WHO WILL WE CALL?

Who will you call to let them know you are leaving and that you have got there safely.

WHAT IS OUR BACKUP PLAN?

What if things don't go to plan? Identify a safer location such as a well prepared neighbour, or place of last resort.

We have discussed and agreed with the entire household, in the event of a bushfire we will:

LEAVE EARLY

PREPARE & STAY

DECIDE TO STAY. ONLY IF YOU ARE WELL PREPARED

BEFORE YOU START, ASK YOUR HOUSEHOLD:

- > Is your home well prepared to make it as safe as possible during a fire? Check the STEP 2 property protection checklist
- > Are we putting anyone in our family at risk by staying? For example children, the elderly, or people with asthma.
- > Will we cope in an emergency situation? In a fire, it will be hot, smoky and physically draining. Even trained firefighter can find it challenging.
- > **If you're not sure or are not prepared, you should leave early.**

DO WE HAVE ALL THE EQUIPMENT WE NEED?

Go through all the items on the Decide to Stay checklist and see what's missing. Make a commitment to get all equipment by a specific date.

WHEN THERE IS A FIRE, WHAT IS OUR SIGN TO START DEFENDING OUR HOME?

It could be as soon as you find out there's a fire near you. Do not wait for an official warning.

DO WE KNOW WHAT TO DO BEFORE DURING AND AFTER A FIRE?

Study the Decide to Stay action checklist.

DO ALL MEMBERS OF OUR HOUSEHOLD KNOW WHAT TO DO IN ALL SITUATIONS?

Give specific roles to each person.

WHAT IS OUR BACKUP PLAN?

Consider unexpected events such as if we are home alone, if we aren't home, if the fire moves faster than expected or if the phone lines and electricity are down.

It's not safe to stay with your property under some circumstances, such as:

- > If the fire danger rating is catastrophic.
- > There is an extreme fire danger rating and your home is not designed or constructed for bushfires.
- > Your property is not well maintained
- > You or the people in your home are not mentally or physically ready.

Under these circumstances, you should leave early.

Remember that bush and grass fires can move quickly and catch you off guard. If you are caught in a fire, protect yourself from the heat. The safest option is to leave early before the fire reaches you.

In the event that an evacuation order is given, evacuation centres will be established at safe locations within the local area away from fire. Locations will be broadcast regularly on radio and TV.

Details will also be available at esa.act.gov.au and also Access Canberra 13 22 81

4 SIMPLE STEPS

Preparing for a bush fire is easier than you think. It's your responsibility to prepare yourself, your home and your family. **There are four simple steps to get ready for a bush fire:**



1 DISCUSS

What to do if a bush fire threatens your home.



2 PREPARE

Your home and get it ready for bushfire season.



3 KNOW

The bushfire alert levels.



4 KEEP

Bushfire information, numbers, websites, and the App.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR RISK?

Where you live is one of the things that determines if both you and your home are at risk of bush fire, and what kind of fire you might experience. **Think about the area you live in:**



BUSH

If you live in an area that's close to or surrounded by bush you're at risk. Bushfires can be hot, intense and throw burning embers towards your home.



GRASSLANDS

If you live in an area where grasslands meet built up areas or homes, you're at risk. Grass fires can start easily and spread quickly.



PADDOCKS

If you live on the outskirts of the city or near paddocks, you are at risk. Fires can spread quickly over great distances.



ON A HILL

If you live at the top of a hill, you're at risk. Fires travel uphill faster. For every 10 degrees of slope, the fire can double in speed.