



**! YOUR HOME IS
IN A BUSHFIRE
DANGER ZONE**

**YOU CAN'T OUTFIGHT
IT, OR OUTLAST IT.
SO PLAN TO
OUTSMART IT.**

YOUR **BUSHFIRE PREPARATION** TOOLKIT



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Fire & Emergency Services**



BUSHFIRE WARNING SYSTEMS: HOW AND WHEN TO USE THEM

**DON'T WAIT FOR A TEXT MESSAGE
OR A KNOCK ON THE DOOR**
from the emergency services.



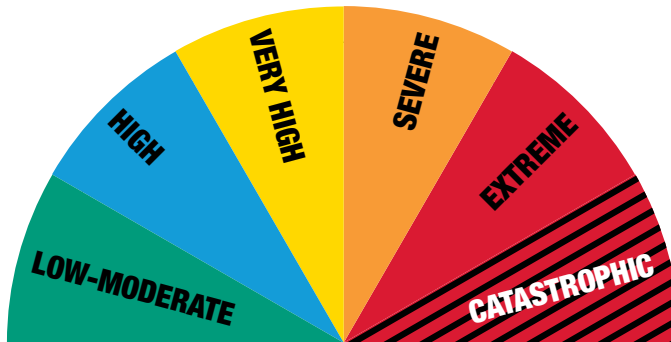
In catastrophic bushfire conditions, a fire can be intense enough to melt metal; the only option is to leave the risk area before it's too late.

If you live in a bushfire risk area you need to understand the Fire Danger Ratings and Bushfire Warning Systems, stay informed, monitor local conditions and make your own decisions.

FIRE DANGER RATINGS:

Use this tool daily during bushfire season to monitor conditions in your area.
Based on forecast weather conditions, the higher the rating, the higher the risk of bushfire.

BEFORE A BUSHFIRE



CATASTROPHIC

The worst conditions for a fire. Homes are not designed or built to withstand a fire in these conditions. The only safe place is away from bushfire risk areas.

EXTREME SEVERE VERY HIGH

Seek out information and be ready to leave or stay and actively defend your property if a fire starts. Only stay if you are 100% prepared.

HIGH LOW-MODERATE

Be vigilant. Check your fire plan and continue to monitor conditions as they can change quickly.

WHERE TO FIND THESE TOOLS AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION



emergency.wa.gov.au
firechat.wa.gov.au
DFES Twitter & Facebook



Local news
from the tv, radio
and websites



DFES emergency
information line:
13 3337



Your surroundings
could be your best
information source.

BUSHFIRE WARNING SYSTEMS:

Similar to a cyclone categorisation tool. The alerts provide information on the severity of bushfires once it has started. The alert level reflects the risk to life and property.

DURING A BUSHFIRE



EMERGENCY WARNING



WATCH AND ACT



ADVICE

EMERGENCY WARNING

An out of control fire is approaching very fast. You need to act immediately to survive. If you haven't prepared your home it is too late. You must leave now if it is safe to do so.

WATCH AND ACT

A fire is approaching and is out of control. Put your plan into action. If your plan is to leave, make sure you leave early. Only stay if you are mentally, physically and emotionally prepared to defend your property and you have all the right equipment.

ADVICE

A fire has started but there is no immediate danger. Stay alert and watch for signs of a fire.

When you understand these warning systems, continue to Step 1.

BE SAFE AND LEAVE EARLY PLAN



The radiant heat from a fire can kill from two football fields away. Plan to Be Safe and Leave Early.

To create your fire plan, print out and fill in the spaces and display the plan where everyone can see it. It could save lives.

OUR BE SAFE AND LEAVE EARLY PLAN



1 WHEN will we leave?

Waiting to see flames before you evacuate is too late. There is only a limited number of fire trucks, so you cannot depend on one being there to defend you and your family. You have to make your own decisions.



2 WHERE will we go?

Choose a safe place, like the home of a family member or friends that live away from the fire zone.



3 WHO will we call?

Make sure you call someone when you are leaving and when you get to your location, so they know you are safe.



4 WHICH way will we go?

ROUTE 1:

ROUTE 2:

ROUTE 3:

Fires can come from any direction and paths can quickly become blocked. Choose more than one route to your safe place. If you don't have more than one route, pick another safe place.

OUR BE SAFE AND LEAVE EARLY PLAN



5 **WHAT** will we take?

Make a list of key items to take with you. Don't forget to consider your pets.
Use **2a B** to help you prepare your Emergency Kit.



6 What is our **BACKUP PLAN** if things don't go the way we planned?

Things don't always go to plan in an emergency.

Most fires start in the afternoon. Think about what you'll do if:

- we're at work?
- our pets run away?
- the children are home alone?
- I'm at home alone?
- the children are at school?
- we have guests over?



7 What is our **BACKUP PLAN** if things don't go the way we planned?

Think about the best place to seek shelter, such as a room that has an internal and external exit like a laundry or an area outside that has already been burnt such as a paddock.



When you've answered all the questions, continue to **2A B**.

PREPARING YOUR **EMERGENCY KIT**

This kit can be used for all types of disasters, not just bushfires. To prepare your Emergency Kit you will need a bag large enough to fit all the items and an easily accessible spot in your home where it can be permanently stored.

Everyone in your household should know where the Emergency Kit is kept.



ESSENTIALS

Prepare before bushfire season

- Drinking water
- Portable battery operated radio with spare batteries
- Waterproof torch
- First Aid Kit
- Candles/waterproof matches
- Woollen blanket
- Emergency contact numbers
- Bushfire protective clothing** (see back)

IMPORTANT EXTRAS

Pack on the day of a disaster

- Wallet, keys and phone with charger
- Medication and toiletries
- Specific requirements for your family members
- Important documents and valuables (in a plastic bag)
- Spare clothes
- Combination pocket knife

PACKING FOR PETS

- Food, water and bowls
- Bedding
- Medication or special requirements
- Registration/microchip information
- Lead

BUSHFIRE PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

It doesn't matter if you're staying or leaving, everyone needs protective clothing.

Radiant heat from a bushfire can kill you from over two football fields away.

CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES

Prepare for everyone in your household before bushfire season and store with your Emergency Kit

- Loose fitting clothing made from natural fibres (wool, cotton, denim)
- Long sleeved shirt
- Trousers or long pants
- Sturdy footwear
- Woollen or cotton socks
- Wide brimmed hat
- Gloves
- Fire protection goggles/glasses
- Wet cloth or face mask



There are some important yet simple things you can do to help protect your home from fire, even if you're not there. Continue to the Property Preparation Checklist (**2A C**) to protect your property.

PROPERTY PREPARATION CHECKLIST



Firefighters will be too busy fighting fires on the frontline to be able to defend your home and property.

You can better prepare your home for a bushfire by completing this Property Preparation Checklist.



SIMPLE AND ONGOING PROPERTY UPKEEP

Set calendar reminders to complete these preparations monthly during fire season

	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
Cut the grass around your property to 10cm or less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prune shrubs so they are not dense	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clean gutters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check gas release valves face away from property	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



MORE LASTING PROTECTION

Set calendar reminders to complete these preparations annually

- Remove any shrubs from against the home
- Keep gas cylinders away from likely direction of fire (i.e. where bush is) and turn release valves outwards
- Remove wood, mulch or any flammable material against or near the house
- Create a minimum two metre gap between your house and tree branches
- Install metal fly wire mesh on all windows, vents and install a protective screen on evaporative air conditioner
- Block any gaps under floor, in the roof spaces, under eaves, external vents, skylights, chimneys and wall claddings
- Install a fire or heat radiant shield such as a solid fence

ADDITIONAL RURAL PROPERTY PROTECTION

- Make sure fire trucks can access and turn on your property
- Check bridge loading and cattle grid loading for fire truck access
- Create fire breaks along paddock boundaries
- Store petrol and gas safely away in a shed
- Install underground water pumps that lead from dams to the house
- If a fire threatens move livestock to a well grazed paddock
- Create a mineral earth firebreak along the boundary of your property

BE PREPARED TO STAY AND DEFEND PLAN



**Fire is frightening; it roars as loud as a jet engine
and the smoke plunges day into night.**

Everyone in your household must be 100% comfortable with the decision to Be Prepared to Stay and Defend. Read this carefully so that you and your family understand what it takes to be completely prepared.

If you are unsure about your decision, you must Be Safe and Leave Early.

1

MANY HOURS BEFORE THE FIRE FRONT ARRIVES

INSIDE

- Relocate other family members especially children and older people
- Turn air conditioner off but leave water running through the system if possible
- Fill all containers/basins with water - check all water supplies
- Find woollen blankets for protection against radiant heat
- Soak towels and rugs in water and lay alongside the inside of external doorways
- Take down curtains and move furniture away from windows
- Place ladder and torch close to manhole to check ceiling for embers

OUTSIDE

- Bring any loose burnable material inside
- Wet down side of house and garden that faces the fire front
- Block downpipes and fill gutters with water
- Regularly patrol around the home for spot fires
- Turn off gas supply

I understand fully what is required and still want to stay

2

AS THE FRONT APPROACHES AND DURING THE FIRE

- Bring all hoses, hose fittings (including plastic tap attachments) and all equipment inside
- Move everyone into the house when you see flames or it becomes too hot
- Frequently check the roof cavity for spot fires
- Stay inside the house until the front passes - usually 10 to 15 minutes
- Have access to drinking water to stay hydrated

I understand fully what is required and still want to stay

3

AFTER THE FRONT HAS PASSED

- When it is safe, check inside and outside for spot fires, including all cavities and gaps
- Patrol your house for several hours checking for small fires and burning embers - embers can travel many kilometres
- DO NOT leave immediately after the front has passed - it can be extremely dangerous
- Listen to the radio or check with local police for when it is safe to leave

I understand fully what is required and still want to stay

4

DON'T WAIT AND SEE!

Waiting to see flames before acting is too late. You must be aware of warning systems and put your plan into action early. And with only a limited number of fire trucks, you cannot depend on one being there to defend you and your family. You need to make your own decisions.



5

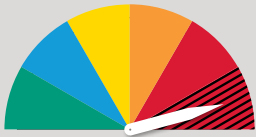
WHEN will we put our plan into action?



6

IF WE'RE TRAPPED

where can we shelter safely?
The best place to seek shelter is a room/area with two entry/exit points, like a laundry.



IF THERE IS A CATASTROPHIC DANGER RATING THE ONLY OPTION IS TO LEAVE.

When you've answered these questions, and everyone in your household is 100% comfortable with the decision to Be Prepared to

Stay and Defend, continue to download **2B B**.

PREPARING YOUR EMERGENCY KIT

This kit can be used for all types of disasters, not just bushfires. To prepare your Emergency Kit you will need a bag large enough to fit all the items and an easily accessible spot in your home where it can be permanently stored.

Everyone in your household should know where the Emergency Kit is kept.



ESSENTIALS

Prepare before bushfire season

- Drinking water
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- Waterproof torch
- First Aid Kit
- Candles/waterproof matches
- Woollen blanket
- Emergency contact numbers
- Bushfire protective clothing** (see back)

IMPORTANT EXTRAS

Pack on the day of a disaster

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- Important documents and valuables (in a plastic bag)
- Spare clothes
- Combination pocket knife

PACKING FOR PETS

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- Bedding
- Medication or special requirements
- Registration/microchip information
- Lead

BUSHFIRE PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

It doesn't matter if you're staying or leaving, everyone needs protective clothing.

Radiant heat from a bushfire can kill you from over two football fields away.

CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES

Prepare for everyone in your household before bushfire season and store with your Emergency Kit

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loose fitting clothing made from natural fibres (wool, cotton, denim) | <input type="checkbox"/> Woollen or cotton socks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long sleeved shirt | <input type="checkbox"/> Wide brimmed hat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trousers or long pants | <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sturdy footwear | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire protection goggles/glasses |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Wet cloth or face mask |



There are some important yet simple things you can do to help protect your home from fire, even if you're not there. Download the Property Preparation Checklists (**2B** **D** **E** and **F**) to protect your property.

ONGOING PROPERTY UPKEEP CHECKLIST



**Firefighters will be too busy fighting fires on the frontline
to be able to defend home and property.**

You can better prepare your home for a bushfire
by completing this ongoing property upkeep checklist.



SIMPLE AND ONGOING PROPERTY UPKEEP

Set calendar reminders to complete these preparations monthly during fire season

	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
Cut the grass around your property to 10cm or less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prune shrubs so they are not dense	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clean gutters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check gas release valves face away from property	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

LASTING PROPERTY PROTECTION CHECKLIST



**Firefighters will be too busy fighting fires on the frontline
to be able to defend home and property.**

You can better prepare your home for a bushfire
by completing this checklist.



MORE LASTING PROTECTION

Set calendar reminders to complete these preparations annually

- Remove any shrubs from against the home
- Keep gas cylinders away from likely direction of fire (i.e. where bush is) and turn release valves outwards
- Remove wood, mulch or any flammable material against or near the house
- Create a minimum two metre gap between your house and tree branches
- Install metal fly wire mesh on all windows, vents and install a protective screen on evaporative air conditioner
- Block any gaps under floor, in the roof spaces, under eaves, external vents, skylights, chimneys and wall claddings
- Install a fire or heat radiant shield such as a solid fence

ADDITIONAL RURAL PROPERTY PROTECTION CHECKLIST



**Firefighters will be too busy fighting fires on the frontline
to be able to defend home and property.**

You can better prepare your home for a bushfire
by completing this Additional Rural Property Protection Checklist.

ADDITIONAL RURAL PROPERTY PROTECTION

- Make sure fire trucks can access and turn on your property
- Check bridge loading and cattle grid loading for fire truck access
- Create fire breaks along paddock boundaries
- Store petrol and gas safely away in a shed
- Install underground water pumps that lead from dams to the house
- If a fire threatens move livestock to a well grazed paddock
- Create a mineral earth firebreak along the boundary of your property

FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST



Fighting a fire can quickly turn into a very dangerous, life threatening situation. There is a very good chance you will be on your own as firefighters may be too busy fighting fires on the frontline to help defend your property, and it is highly likely that the water and electricity to your property will be shut off. The heat will be intense. Think about it; is your life, or the lives of your family worth risking?

You can better prepare your home for a bushfire by completing this Firefighting Equipment Checklist.

Fill out the checklist below to ensure you are completely prepared to stay and defend your home against a fire. [↓](#)

If you are not 100% certain about your decision, you must Be Safe and Leave Early.

FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO BE COMPLETELY PREPARED TO STAY AND DEFEND

- An independent water supply of at least 20,000 litres – the mains are likely to be shut off
- A generator (>1.5kVA) and sufficient fuel to power a pump – the electricity is likely to be shut off
- A firefighting or pressure pump that can operate up to 400lpm and is shielded from high temperature
- At least two hoses with metal hose fittings (so they won't melt) that are long enough to reach all parts of your house
- Ladders for inside and outside the house
- Metal rakes and shovels to break up burning materials
- Knapsack or garden backpack spray to help put out spot fires
- Cotton mops to put out embers
- Metal buckets that you can carry