

BUSHFIRE SAFETY GUIDE

Prepare to survive with bushfire information and tips including:

Fire danger ratings & alert levels

What to expect on high fire risk days

Preparing yourself and your property

A pull-out Bushfire Plan



BUSHFIRE
WHY RISK IT?



Tasmania Fire Service



Tasmanian
Government

ARE YOU

READY?



LEAVING EARLY IS ALWAYS THE SAFEST OPTION

If you're in a high risk area, such as a property near bushland or grassland, that means leaving before there are any signs of a fire.

Yes, you may leave several times during a bushfire season, just to be safe.



The contents of this booklet could save your life and the lives of those you love.



Create a Bushfire Plan



Prepare an emergency kit



Remove fire-prone vegetation



Report potential fire hazards

STAY INFORMED

It's up to you to keep yourself up to date with current conditions and warnings by monitoring, listening and connecting.



MONITOR

Monitor information at [fire.tas.gov.au](https://www.fire.tas.gov.au) and the weather at [bom.gov.au](https://www.bom.gov.au)

Keep up to date with the news around your area.

Check your surroundings for signs of fire such as smoke, flames or embers. It could be your best information source.



LISTEN

Your local ABC radio station is an emergency broadcaster. Use a radio or the free ABC Listen app on a mobile phone. See the radio frequency table on the back page for your local ABC radio station.

Tip: Power may fail during a bushfire. If you rely on radio, keep a battery-powered radio handy or use a radio app on your smartphone.



CONNECT

Visit the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) website and check for bushfire warnings and alerts: [fire.tas.gov.au](https://www.fire.tas.gov.au)

Follow Tasmania Fire Service on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [X](#)



TAS ALERT

Visit [TasALERT.com](https://www.tasalert.com) for all emergency services alerts.

KNOW FIRE DANGER RATINGS & BUSHFIRE WARNING AND ALERT LEVELS

Don't rely on anyone sending you a warning – it is up to you to check conditions and current warnings. Knowing is key to survival.

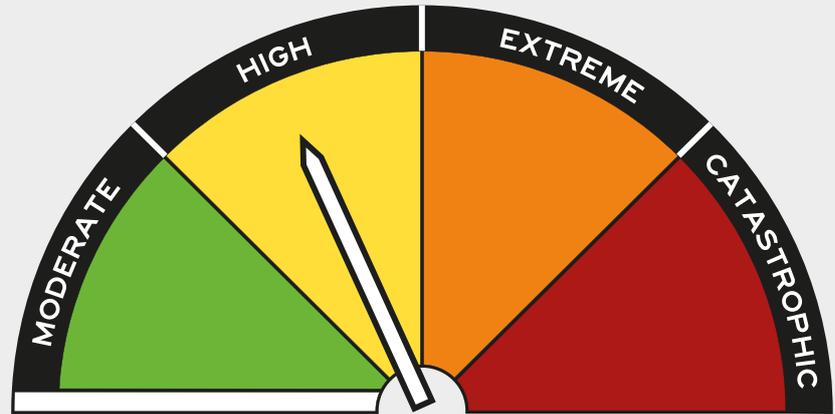
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? Fire Danger Ratings tell you how dangerous a fire would be if one started. Warnings and alerts tell you that a fire has already started.

Fire Danger Ratings (FDR)

Fire Danger Ratings are used on days when there's a risk of fires and you need to take action. The higher the fire danger, the more dangerous the conditions and the greater the consequences if a fire starts.

Fires can start suddenly, and weather conditions can change quickly.

Do not wait until a bushfire starts. Look at the fire danger in your area and use your Bushfire Plan to decide whether you'll leave early. Only stay and defend your property if you are well prepared.



MODERATE:

Plan and prepare.

EXTREME:

Take action now to protect life and property.

HIGH:

Be ready to act.

CATASTROPHIC:

For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas.

Bushfire warnings and alerts

When bushfires have started, these warnings will keep you informed.

Remember, leaving early is recommended as the safest option to protect you and your family's lives. Anyone not staying to actively defend the property should leave early.

Find information about all current warnings at:

- [TasALERT.com](https://tasalert.com)
- [TasALERT and TFS social media pages](#)
- [your local ABC radio station.](#)



ADVICE: A fire is burning. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes. (May also be used to advise that a threat has reduced.)



WATCH AND ACT: A fire is burning and conditions are changing. Start taking action now to protect yourself and others.



EMERGENCY WARNING: An Emergency Warning is the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. **Any delay may put your life at risk.**



SMOKE ALERT: Provides information about smoke from a fire, bushfire or fuel reduction burn that may impact a community or areas of Tasmania.

PLAN TO SURVIVE

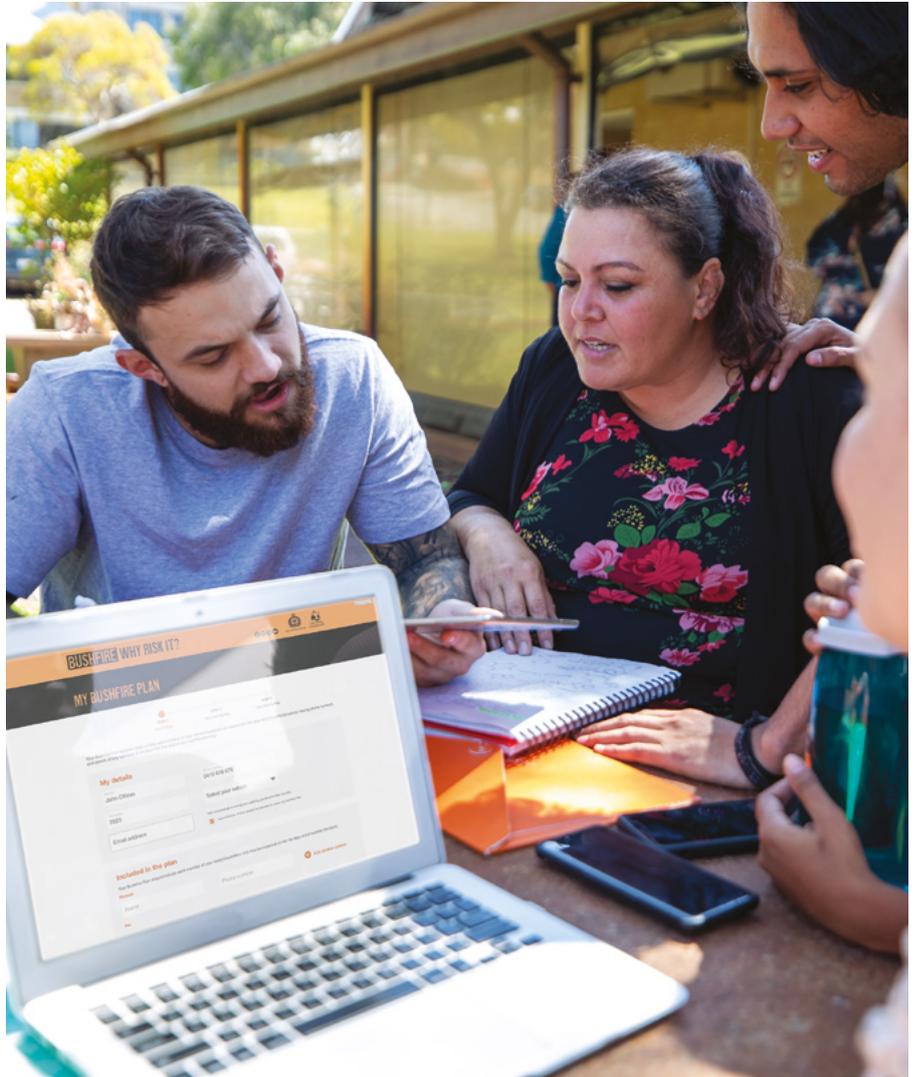
Make your Bushfire Plan right now. It could save you and your family.

Go online to the [TFS website](#) to create your personal plan to suit your family, animals, and property. It is easy to make. You can print copies of your Bushfire Plan, download it to store on your devices or the cloud, and share it with others. You'll get a reminder to update it each year.

If you prefer, there is also a blank pull-out Bushfire Plan in the middle of this booklet that you can fill in.

Your plan will remind you:

- What you can prepare right now
- During bushfire risk conditions – what to do and how early you'll leave
- Who to tell, where to go and several options for how to get there
- What to pack, ready to take with you
- How to prepare your animals
- How to get your property ready, whether you're choosing to leave early or staying to defend it
- About your back-up options for emergencies.



SCAN
TO
PLAN



Use your phone camera or a QR code scanner to scan the code and start your Bushfire Plan now!

BELIEF BUSTERS



BELIEF:

"I'm going to leave early so I don't need a Bushfire Plan."

BUSTED:

You need a flexible Bushfire Plan in case you can't leave.

BUSHFIRE RISK DAYS:

WHAT TO DO

To find out whether it's a bushfire risk day, check weather forecasts or go to the TFS website.

When to leave?

Plan to leave early as a precaution on days of bushfire danger, to avoid being caught in smoke, fire or on roads with other people trying to evacuate. Remember, conditions can change rapidly and it may be extremely hot and windy with poor visibility.

Where to go?

Your **Bushfire Plan**  will have helped you to identify several possible places to go. Choose somewhere with a low fire risk, such as a friend in a location well away from bushland. Take everything you and your family and animals need for at least a 24 hour stay.

How to get there?

Work out several different escape routes because roads might be blocked by falling trees or powerlines, traffic, dense smoke or fire.

PREPARE TO SURVIVE

- **Prepare your protective clothing and emergency kit. Have other items ready in the car, including things your pets will need.** You may need to leave in a hurry, so make sure you know where everything is. See pages 8 & 9 for information.
- **Ensure your property is well prepared and flammable items are removed or put away.** See pages 12 & 13 for detailed instructions on how to prepare your property before and during fire season.
- **Monitor, listen and stay connected.** Keep yourself updated with current weather conditions and warnings. See the inside cover and back page for how to stay informed.
- **Put your pets somewhere they cannot escape from.** This allows you to easily locate them and get them into the car when you need to leave.
- **Ensure your vehicle is ready and accessible.** Remember that mains electricity and water can fail during fires, so if your car is behind an electric roller door, move it out into the driveway.
- **Move livestock to well prepared, safer areas.** Make sure that you know in advance how and when you will move them if they won't be safe on your property.
- **Alert family, friends and neighbours when you leave.** Tell them where you plan to go and update them when you are safe.

Tip: Have a physical copy of your Bushfire Plan ready, ideally with an offline digital copy on at least one device you plan to take with you.

Your **Bushfire Plan**  will help you be prepared for bushfires and bushfire risk days. Do yours now!



BELIEF BUSTERS



BELIEF:

"I'll just leave when I see smoke."

BUSTED:

If you see smoke, your exit might be blocked.

BUSHFIRE RISK DAYS:

WHAT TO EXPECT

Bushfires can be scary and stressful. Emergency services are likely to be busy. You will be responsible for your own safety. Leaving early is your safest option.

Expect disruptions to services

You might lose phone, internet, mains power and water during a bushfire.

If the power fails, you won't be able to use:

- Cordless phones
- Remote control garage doors or electric gates
- Computers and the internet
- Air conditioners
- Electric pumps
- Phone chargers.

What you might experience

- Hot wind, smoke, heat, noise and darkness.
- Embers blowing far ahead of the fire front and starting spot fires.
- Lack of visibility making it hard to know where the fire is – this makes driving very dangerous.
- Fire approaching from any direction, or several directions at once.
- Roads blocked by fallen trees, powerlines or emergency vehicles.
- Embers falling on you.
- Animals and livestock on roads.



Radiant heat is the biggest killer in a fire. To protect yourself from radiant heat:

- Keep as far away from the fire as possible.
- Take shelter behind a building.
- Cover exposed skin with natural fibres.
- Stay away from windows, as glass lets the heat in.

What you might feel during a bushfire:



Fear



Confusion



Difficulty breathing



Thirst and/or hunger



Fatigue

BELIEF BUSTERS



BELIEF:

“My phone and the internet will keep me updated.”

BUSTED:

During bushfires you may lose power or have no connection.

EMBERS

SPREAD BUSHFIRES



Most houses catch fire during bushfires because of embers – burning twigs, leaves and pieces of debris blown ahead of a fire by the wind.

If embers land on or around your property they can start fires in gutters, under your eaves or in small gaps around window and door frames, cladding and roofing. They can also burn rubbish, woodpiles, or household objects you have stacked up against your house.

While embers begin falling before the fire reaches the home, they may continue falling for several hours after the fire has passed.

Often homes exposed to ember attack don't burn down until several hours after the fire has passed.

Properties that have been well prepared before the beginning of summer have a greater chance of surviving an ember attack.

Preparing your property

- Pay attention to anywhere embers might enter your home, through small gaps around window and door frames, eaves, cladding and roofing.
- Seal up small gaps in timber decks and screen larger under-deck areas with non-flammable screens.
- Use non-flammable materials such as pebbles or gravel (not woodchips or bark) close to the home.

See pages 12 & 13 for more on preparing your property for bushfires.

Tip: If you are staying to defend your property, move a ladder and torch inside beneath your ceiling inspection hatch, so you can regularly check whether embers have started a fire in the roof space.

BE PREPARED

WHAT WILL YOU WEAR?

Start your preparation now so you will be ready for bushfire danger days. Having protective clothing ready will save you time when a bushfire is approaching and could save your life.

Bushfire protective clothing

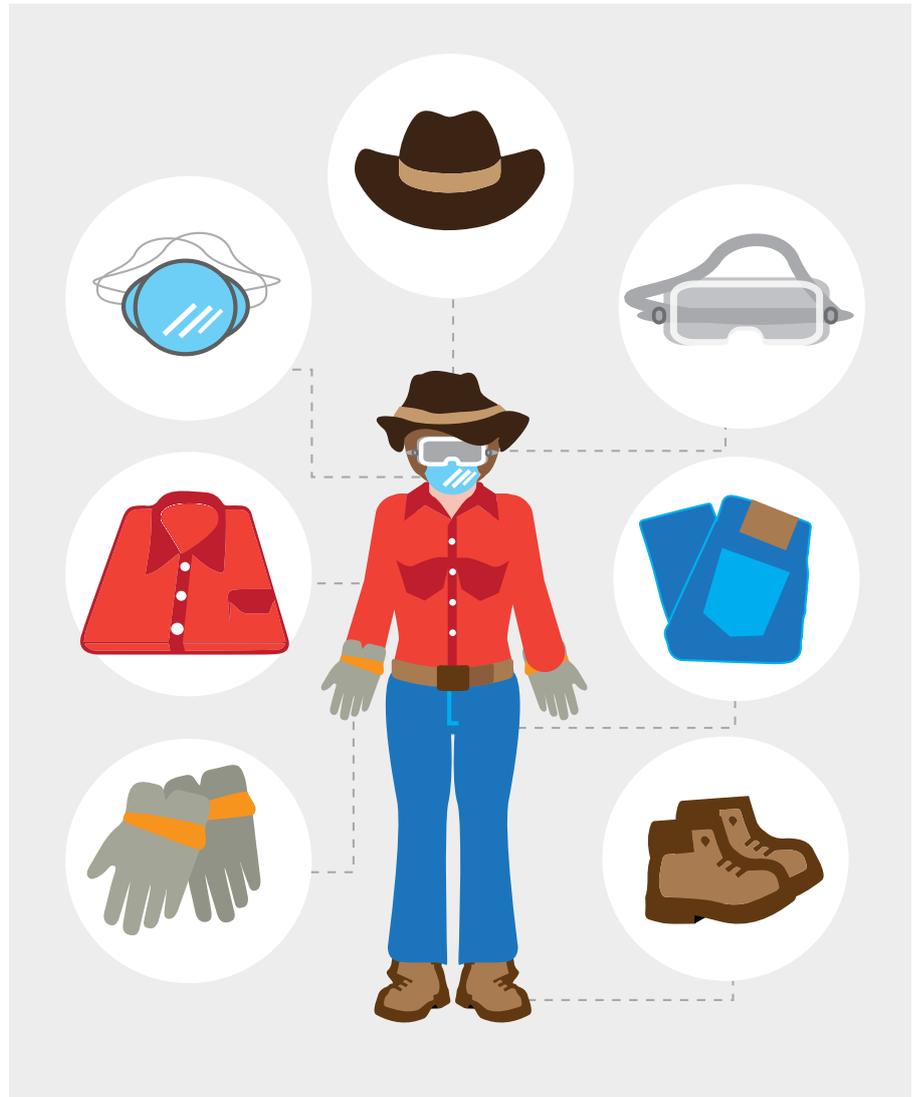
You need to protect your skin, eyes, and lungs during a bushfire.

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

Bushfire protective clothing includes:

- Loose-fitting clothing made of natural fibres (wool, cotton, denim)
- Long-sleeved cotton shirts and full-length trousers or overalls
- Wide-brimmed hat or safety helmet
- Cotton or leather gloves
- Goggles or safety glasses
- A quality dust mask or a damp non-synthetic cloth
- Sturdy, fire-resistant boots or shoes.

On bushfire danger days you should have your protective clothing ready and ensure everyone in your household knows what to wear and where their protective clothing is.



PREPARATION SAVES LIVES

Don't wait to:

- receive a warning
- see or smell smoke
- get a knock on the door.

By the time a fire comes, it may be too late.

BELIEF BUSTERS



BELIEF:

"I don't need to do anything until the TFS warns me."

BUSTED:

Bushfires can spread quickly. You may not get a warning.

BE PREPARED

WHAT WILL YOU PACK?

Having an emergency kit ready will save you valuable time, not only during bushfires, but also during other emergencies. Ensure you have the items you need before it's too late.

Your emergency kit

Things you can prepare now

Consider keeping these essentials in the car during bushfire season:

- Drinking water
- Portable battery-operated radio with spare batteries
- Waterproof torch with spare batteries
- First aid kit
- Candles and waterproof matches
- Woollen or fire blankets in case you get caught on the road.

Other essentials to prepare:

- Emergency contact numbers – saved in your mobile phone and printed out
- Important documents and photos – saved onto a USB stick/external drive/ the cloud
- Bushfire protective clothing for each member of the family
- Pets – microchipped or wearing identification tags
- Pet crates or containers, spare leashes and some pet food – ready to go
- Horses – plans for when and how you'll move them if they won't be safe on your property.

Highly recommended items

Consider having these items ready so you are safe and comfortable even in evacuation places:

- Tent
- Sleeping bags and air mattresses
- Blankets
- Folding chairs
- Sun shelter (gazebo or sun umbrella).



Things to pack when leaving early

Assume you may be away from your home for 1-2 days.

For you and your family:

- Wallet, identification, keys and phone with charger
- Glasses, face masks
- Medication, sanitizer and toiletries
- Specific requirements for family members such as prescriptions, nappies, child's toy etc
- Important documents such as insurance policies, bank details, will, family photos and valuables
- Spare clothes
- Pocket knife
- Adequate amounts of food and water
- Contact information.

For your pets:

- Carry cage or crate
- Bedding
- Favourite toys to reduce stress
- Spare leashes/harnesses
- Food, water, bowls and can opener
- Poo bags or toilet requirements (like kitty litter and tray)
- Registration/microchip information
- Medication or special requirements
- Vet contact information.

WHAT ELSE WILL YOU PACK?

Your [Bushfire Plan](#) has space to add other items to your pack list that are specific to you and your loved ones. **Have you done your Bushfire Plan?**



SURVIVAL OPTIONS

Fires can start and spread very quickly. You should always plan to leave early to avoid being trapped by a fire front. But when plans don't work or conditions change quickly, knowing what to do if you're caught in a fire is key to your chances of survival. These last resort options have a risk of trauma, injury or death.

If caught in a car

Sheltering in a car is extremely dangerous and can result in serious injury or death.

If you are in a car and the road is blocked by smoke, flames or fallen trees and you can't turn around to drive to safety:

- Try to park behind a barrier such as a wall or rocky outcrop to shelter from the heat
- Park away from bush and long grass – try to find a clear area and face the car towards the oncoming fire front
- Move off the road and turn on your hazard lights – car crashes are common in bushfires due to poor visibility
- Park the car safely to minimise exposure to radiant heat.

Stay inside the car and stay low

- Stay in the car and tightly close windows and doors. Run the air conditioner while you can, to remain cool.
- Stay down below window level and cover yourself with woollen blankets to protect yourself from heat coming through the glass.
- When the fire front is close by, turn off the engine and close all air vents, stay down below window level, covered with wool blankets if possible. Be ready to get out of the car as soon as the fire has passed.

As soon as the fire has passed:

- Get out of the car as soon as possible and move to an area that's already been burnt. Be aware car door handles may be hot
- Take blankets and water and protect yourself from radiant heat – shelter behind a solid structure if possible.

If caught in a house or building

You will need to leave as soon as possible when it's safe to do so. If the house or building catches fire, staying inside can result in serious injury or death.

Only take shelter inside a house or building if it is unsafe outside. Shelter in a room that has two exits, one of which lets you get outside, such as a laundry. Where possible, this room should have a window so you can see what the bushfire is doing.

Most bathrooms are not suitable as they often only have interior doors and may have frosted windows, which do not allow you to see outside.

If the house or building catches fire:

- Get out as soon as possible.
- Close all doors between the fire and where you are
- Get low to the floor so you are less likely to breathe in toxic smoke from the house fire.

As soon as the fire has passed

Make sure it is safe to go outside and move to an area that has already been burnt. Check for embers and put out any small spot fires. Try to get behind a solid object such as a wall to protect you from the radiant heat of the fire.

If caught in the open

Taking shelter in one of the following locations may protect you from fire and radiant heat:

- [Nearby Safer Place](#)  (a bushfire place of last resort)
- A stationary car in a clear area
- A ploughed paddock or cleared reserve.

Tip: Drinking fresh water as frequently as possible will help prevent dehydration.

BELIEF BUSTERS



BELIEF:

"I'll outrun the bushfire in my car."

BUSTED:

People die in cars trying to escape.

Leave early

- When the Fire Danger Rating is Extreme or Catastrophic, leaving early is always the safest option.
- Leave early destinations may be the homes of family and friends who live outside the risk area, a nearby town or other built-up area.
- Your Bushfire Plan will give you the opportunity to list the places you will go when you leave early.

Leaving early is always the safest option.



Well-prepared properties

If leaving a bushfire risk area is no longer an option, there may be places close by that could protect you.

For example:

- A well-prepared home (yours or your neighbour's) that you can actively defend
 - A designated Evacuation Centre.
- Think about how you will get there.

Your safety is not guaranteed.



Last resort

If you're caught in the open and no other options are available, taking shelter in one of these may protect you from fire and radiant heat:

- Nearby Safer Place  (a bushfire place of last resort)
- Stationary car in a clear area
- Ploughed paddock or cleared reserve.

Risk of trauma, injury or death.



PREPARING YOUR PROPERTY

Whether you plan to leave early or to stay and defend, your property has a much higher chance of surviving a bushfire if it is properly prepared.

Burning embers can blow far ahead of the fire front. Many homes catch fire when embers blow into spaces and cracks, gutters and eaves, or set fire to flammable material close to the house.

Things you can do to protect your property

Simple things to do regularly during bushfire season:

- Keep grass short around the property
- Prune shrubs so they are not too dense
- Clean gutters
- Move wood, mulch or any flammable material well away from the house.

Be prepared to move all flammable outside equipment, doormats, furniture etc. either inside or away from the house when a bushfire threatens.

More lasting protection to consider:

- Use non-flammable materials such as pebbles or gravel (not woodchips or bark) close to the home
- Relocate gas bottles away from the fire-prone side of the building and turn gas release valves to face away from the building

- Timber decks – seal up small gaps and screen larger under-deck areas with non-flammable screens
- Install metal fly wire mesh on all windows and vents, and install a protective screen to stop embers from getting into air conditioner units
- Block any gaps under floor, in roof spaces, under eaves, external walls, skylights, around windows and doors, chimneys and wall cladding.

Additional rural property protection:

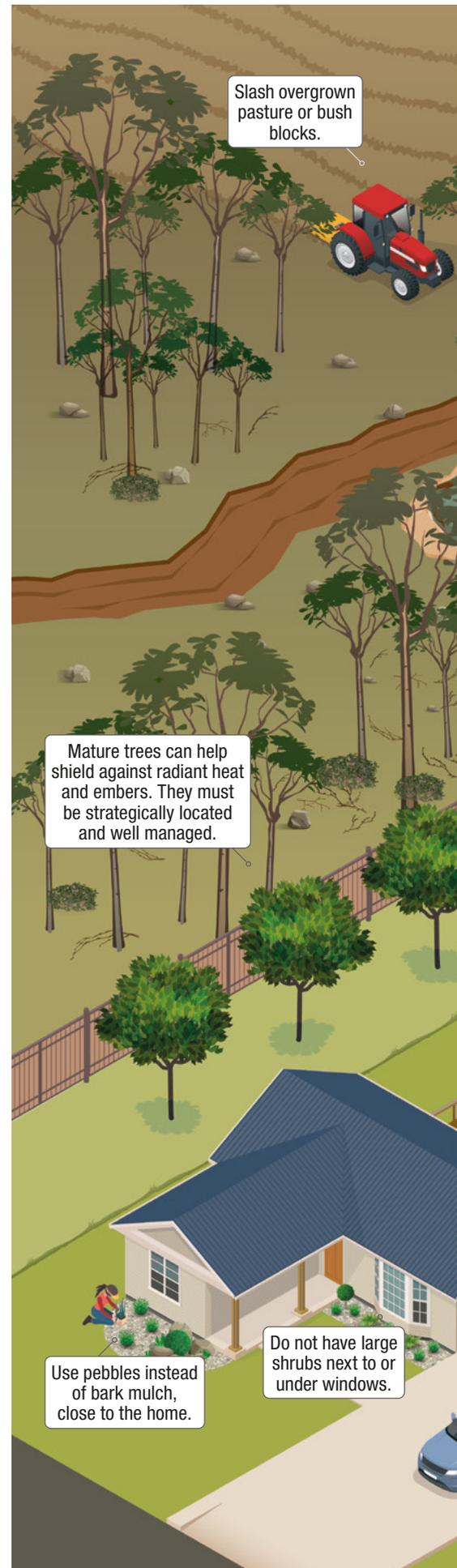
- Locate dams, orchards, vegetable gardens and effluent disposal areas on the fire-prone side of the home
- Make sure fire trucks can enter and turn around on your property
- Check bridge and cattle grid load limits for fire truck access
- Create firebreaks along paddock boundaries
- Store petrol and gas safely away in a shed
- Install diesel-powered underground water pumps that lead from dams to the house
- Create a bare earth firebreak along the boundary of your property
- If fire threatens, move livestock to a well-grazed or ploughed paddock.

DID YOU KNOW?

Tasmania Fire Service's **Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhoods** program visits communities and offers advice about preparing properties for bushfires.

Visit fire.tas.gov.au/brn

IMPORTANT: If you are burning off on your property outside of fire permit period please register your burn by calling **1800 000 699**





Create firebreaks along paddock boundaries.

Prune lower branches of shrubs to separate from ground level fuels underneath.

Cut back overhanging branches – no branches within 10m of buildings.

Have a good reserve of available water.

Have garden hoses at the ready.

Clear gutters of leaf litter.

Store flammable liquid away from house.

Store firewood away from house.

Keep grass short.

Enclose areas under elevated decks and reduce the risk from ember attack.

Remove flammable items from decks and verandahs, such as boxes, furniture and doormats.

Get rid of dry grass, leaves, twigs and loose bark.

Plant orchards and vegetable gardens on the fire-prone side of the home.

USING FIRE OUTDOORS

As the weather gets warmer many people like to get out and enjoy activities such as camping, working outside, cooking for and entertaining guests outdoors – all of which can potentially cause a bushfire.

Total Fire Bans

On Total Fire Ban days, you're not allowed to light any fires outside, even if you have a fire permit.

Total Fire Ban days are advertised in daily newspapers, on the TFS website, and TFS social media pages. They will be declared based on local government areas and usually last for 24 hours.

You should carefully read Total Fire Ban declarations to find out what restrictions may apply to you.

Fire Permits

Permits are free and can be obtained by calling the Tasmania Fire Service on 1800 000 699.

You need a permit to burn vegetation larger than 1 cubic metre during a declared Fire Permit Period.

Fire Permit Periods will be advertised in daily newspapers, on the TFS website, and TFS social media pages.

Campfire Safety

Remember that campfires **must not** be lit during a Total Fire Ban.

While fire permits are not required for campfires, ensure campfires are permitted in the area you intend to set up camp. Don't leave campfires unattended.

When leaving your campsite, make sure your fire is completely out.

Use water to make sure your fire is completely extinguished. Do **not** use soil or sand. Fires can still smoulder under soil and sand and can stay hot for more than eight hours.

If using a fire pot take all coals home with you. If you need to empty onto the ground then you must ensure all coals are wet and cold.

Soak it. Stir it. Soak it again.
Make sure your campfire fire is out.

On Total Fire Ban days, you may not:*



- Light a fire in the open, including campfires, vegetation fires, and bonfires



- Use any outdoor cooker, stove, barbecue or pizza oven etc. that uses wood, charcoal, heat beads or other solid or liquid fuels



- Do work in the open that creates sparks, such as grinding, welding or cutting metal.

You may:

- Use electric-powered or LPG (Butane or Propane) outdoor cookers or stoves so long as you have cleared all flammable material away for at least one metre.

*Carefully read Total Fire Ban declarations to find out what restrictions may apply to you.



Tip: Read our 'Using fire outdoors' booklet at fire.tas.gov.au for more.

REMEMBER:

Your fire is your responsibility

Fires must not be left unattended at any time of the year

To report a fire, dial emergency on triple zero (000)

If you see any suspicious activity where a fire has occurred, contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000

CRIME STOPPERS
com.au
1800 333 000

REGISTER YOUR FIRE BEFORE LIGHTING ANY FIRE OUTDOORS

1800 000 699

BUSHFIRE INITIATIVES

BY TASMANIA FIRE SERVICE



Community Bushfire Protection Plans

Check to see if the area where you are, or the places where you spend your leisure time, have a Community Bushfire Protection Plan.

These plans have been developed by the Tasmania Fire Service for some bushfire prone areas, and give you:

- A map of the area showing you the roads in and out
- Local radio frequencies for bushfire alerts
- Locations of some nearby safer places, a place of last resort.

This information can help you to make your own Bushfire Plan and work out:

- Where to get up-to-date information about an approaching bushfire
- What are the major evacuation routes out of your area
- Where to find a Nearby Safer Place, a place of last resort.

You can find all available plans at fire.tas.gov.au or freecall 1800 000 699



Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhoods

Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhoods (BRN) helps high risk Tasmanian communities to work together to prepare for bushfires.

The program focuses on building a 'shared responsibility' approach to bushfire preparedness by recognising that individuals, communities and the Tasmania Fire Service all play a part.

The program's aim is to build resilience and capacity in bushfire prevention and preparedness in Tasmanian communities most at-risk to bushfire.

Some of the community bushfire activities by BRN are:

- Information sessions
- Community forums
- Workshops
- Field days
- Bushfire practice exercise
- Women's programs
- Bushfire-ready neighbourhood groups
- Property assessments.

Check the BRN website at fire.tas.gov.au/brn to view and register for upcoming events.

Volunteer Firefighters

Other than our staffed career brigades, all other brigades in Tasmania's stations are made up of very skilled and dedicated volunteers drawn from the local community.

Volunteer brigade members respond to emergencies – including bushfires. They also undertake hazard reduction burns and take part in community fire safety education.

Want to become a volunteer firefighter? Learn more at fire.tas.gov.au

Red Hot Tips

A free one-stop service for farmers and rural landholders.

The Red Hot Tips program educates, engages and supports farmers and landholders in rural Tasmania to actively manage their bushfire risk. It encourages collaborative vegetation fire management and ecological sustainability across the landscape.

Learn more at sfmc.tas.gov.au/RedHotTips

Fuel Reduction Program

This is a program of controlled fuel reduction burns in areas that pose the greatest risk of bushfire, reducing the long-term risk of catastrophic fires.

Key partners of the program are TFS, Parks and Wildlife Service and Sustainable Timber Tasmania. Local councils and private landowners are also involved in implementing the program.

Learn more at fire.tas.gov.au

Stay informed with ABC Radio

For warnings and alerts, tune into your local ABC as the emergency broadcaster.

Southern	North West
Hobart 936 AM DAB ABC Radio Hobart	Burnie 102.5 FM
Maydena 936 AM / 89.7 FM	Devonport 100.5 FM
East Coast	King Island 88.5 FM
Bicheno 89.7 FM	Lileah 91.3 FM
Fingal 1161 AM	West Coast
Orford 90.5 FM	Queenstown / Zeehan 90.5 FM
St Helens 1584 AM	Rosebery 106.3 FM
Swansea 106.1 FM	Savage River / Waratah 104.1 FM
St Marys 102.7 FM	Strahan 107.5 FM
North/North East	Waratah 103.3 FM
Flinders Island 91.7 FM	
Launceston 91.7 FM	
NE Tasmania 91.7 FM	
Weldborough 97.3 FM	



You can also tune in to your local radio station anywhere on the free **ABC listen** app.

In an emergency...

If you find yourself in an emergency which is either life threatening or where time is critical, you can contact fire services, police or ambulance by phone on **triple zero (000)**.

- Ask for Fire, Police or Ambulance.
- Stay calm, don't shout, speak slowly and clearly.
- When asked, give as much detail about your location as you can.

If you are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech impairment, there are a number of ways to contact emergency services through the National Relay Service.

Chat: nrschat.nrscall.gov.au

Captions: nrscaptions.nrscall.gov.au

SMS relay: **0423 677 767** ask for 000

Video relay: skype NRS ask for 000



SCAN TO PLAN

Scan the QR code with your phone camera or a QR code scanning app to start planning online today! It could save your life and the lives of those you love.



Alternatively, tear out the plan inside this book and keep the finished plan accessible.

Visit

fire.tas.gov.au



Phone

1800 000 699



Interpreter

13 14 50

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While the State Fire Commission has made every effort to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information contained in this booklet, the State Fire Commission does not accept any responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or relevance to the reader's purpose, of the information contained in this booklet and those reading it for whatever purpose are advised to verify its accuracy and to obtain appropriate professional advice. The State Fire Commission, its officers, employees and agents do not accept any liability, however arising, including liability for negligence, for any loss or damage resulting from the use of, or reliance upon, the information contained in this booklet.

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Tasmania Fire Service



Tasmanian
Government

MY BUSHFIRE PLAN

BUSHFIRE WHY RISK IT?

Making a choice to leave or stay when a bushfire threatens is too late.

You and your loved ones' safety and survival during a bushfire will depend on how prepared you are and the decisions you make. TFS recommends having a Bushfire Plan and sharing it with household members, neighbours and friends. Don't wait, create your Bushfire Plan now.

For more information on bushfire planning, visit fire.tas.gov.au

STEP 1: My details

Your Bushfire Plan outlines what actions each member of your family/household will take on bushfire risk days and if bushfire threatens. Having phone numbers and details of key contacts is an essential first step of any bushfire planning.

Name

Date

Suburb

Postcode

Email address

Phone number

Included in the Bushfire Plan

Your Bushfire Plan should include each member of your family/household who may be impacted on bushfire risk days and if bushfire threatens.

Name	Phone Number	Pets (name and type)



Call triple zero - 000 - in an emergency.
Ask for Fire, Police or Ambulance. Stay calm,
don't shout, speak slowly and clearly.



Tasmania Fire Service



Tasmanian
Government

MY BUSHFIRE PLAN

STEP 2: My plan to leave

Tasmania Fire Service recommends that you plan to leave early on days with a Fire Danger Rating forecast of Extreme or Catastrophic.

My Triggers

These are the signs that will help you decide that it is time to leave early.

- Weather conditions - Hot, windy and dry
- Fire Danger Rating
- Safe to leave - time to exit safely

NOTE: Tasmania Fire Service recommends you tick all of the triggers above.

Other triggers

Where will I go?

On bushfire risk days, your safest option is to visit friends, family or sites away from fire areas. It's a good idea to list some alternatives.

Who to tell

Key people you need to inform that you are leaving your property, where you are going and how you are getting there.

Contact	Phone Number

What will we take?

- Mobile phone/charger
- Emergency Kit (fact sheet available on the bushfire.tas.gov.au home page)
- Water
- Medications (and prescriptions)
- Important documents (passports, banking, insurance etc.)
- External hard drive (scanned documents/photos)
- Laptop and/or tablet
- Personal treasures

NOTE: Tasmania Fire Service recommends you tick all of the items above.

Other items

MY BUSHFIRE PLAN

STEP 2: My plan to leave

My plan for pets and livestock

If you have any pets or animals, note down here what you will do with them.

For more information, visit nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-welfare/animals-and-bushfire

STEP 3: My plan to stay & defend

Only stay and defend on days of elevated bushfire danger if you are well prepared and your home is properly constructed and prepared to the highest level. Tasmania Fire Service always recommends that leaving early is the safest option.

Before the bushfire season

I will:

- Create a clear space around my house
- Ember proof my home
- Clear leaves from roof gutters, decks and lawns
- Have a water supply for firefighting (minimum of 10,000 litres is recommended)
- Provide access for firefighters to my property
- Have the appropriate firefighting equipment and have tested it
- Have appropriate non flammable clothing to protect my skin

NOTE: Tasmania Fire Service recommends you tick all of the actions above.

Other actions



Leaving early is always the safest option

Most people who die in bushfires are caught in the open, either in their car or on foot, because they've left their property too late when the fire is approaching. Staying to defend a well-prepared property during a bushfire always carries the risk of injury or death.

If you are unsure about your preparedness to defend your property, you should always leave early.



Does your area have a Community Protection Plan?

Community Protection Plans include a map of the area with roads in and out, local radio frequencies for bushfire alerts and locations of nearby safer places where they exist.

Completed plans are available at fire.tas.gov.au/ProtectionPlans or freecall 1800 000 699

MY BUSHFIRE PLAN

STEP 3: My plan to stay and defend

Before the bushfire arrives

Outside my home, I will:

- Check property for spot fires to extinguish
- Plug drains and fill gutters with water
- Remove flammable material, outdoor furniture, doormats and hanging baskets
- Start pump for fire hose and/or roof sprinklers
- Wet down all areas on the side of the house facing the direction of the fire

Other actions

Inside my home, I will:

- Bring pets inside
- Dress in non flammable, skin covering clothing
- Fill bath, sinks and buckets etc with water
- Place wet towels in any crevices, such as gaps under doors etc
- Shut all doors and windows
- Take curtains down and push furniture away from windows
- Bring ladder and torch inside

Other actions

NOTE: Tasmania Fire Service recommends you tick all of the actions above.

When the bushfire arrives

I will:

- Have buckets, hoses, mops and tap fittings etc. inside
- Check ceiling cavity
- Drink plenty of water
- Shelter inside but continually check your surroundings for any signs of fire
- Extinguish fires in and near the home
- Reassure family and pets

Other actions

NOTE: Tasmania Fire Service recommends you tick all of the actions above.

MY BUSHFIRE PLAN

STEP 3: My plan to stay and defend

After the bushfire arrives

I will:

- Continue drinking plenty of water
- Return outside when safe to do so
- Let family and neighbours know we're okay
- Check my property for fire over the coming days

Other actions

NOTE: Tasmania Fire Service recommends you tick all of the actions above.

Everyone must have a backup plan

Even the best plans can fail. Remember, leaving late can lead to death or serious injury. You must know a number of places of last resort in your area including Nearby Safer Places that you can relocate to at very short notice if all else fails.

Nearby Safer Places If my plan to stay doesn't work out, these are my places of last resort:



Every year circumstances change

Tasmania Fire Service encourages you to review and update your Bushfire Plan before the bushfire season starts.



SCAN TO PLAN ONLINE

Use your phone camera or a QR code scanner to scan the code and start your Bushfire Plan now!

Visit
fire.tas.gov.au



Phone
1800 000 699



Tasmania Fire Service



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