

Get ready for bushfires

How to keep your family and home safe

Easy Read version



Bushfires



Australian Government

**National Emergency
Management Agency**

How to use this document



We are Get Ready Australia.

We wrote this document.



We wrote some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.

There is also a list of these words on page 24.



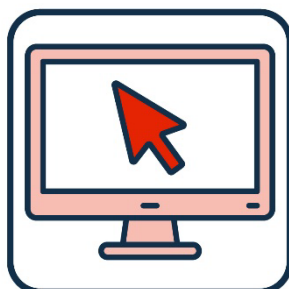
You can ask someone you trust for support to:

- read this document
- find more information.



This is an Easy Read summary of another document.

It only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other document on our website.

getready.gov.au

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What is a bushfire?



A **bushfire** is a very bad fire that burns through grass and forests.



A bushfire can be an **emergency**.

An emergency is a dangerous situation when people need help straight away to stay safe.

Bushfires are dangerous and can harm:



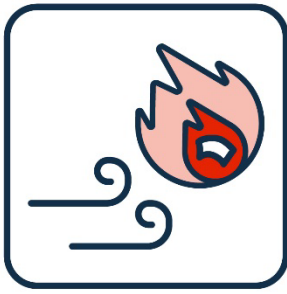
- people



- property – like your house



- the environment.



Bushfires cause **ember attacks**.

An ember attack is when small burning pieces from a bushfire blow in the wind and spread the fire.



Ember attacks can spread a bushfire far from where it started.



They can also get into small spaces in your home and start fires.

For example, gaps in your roof or gutters.

What should you do in a bushfire?



You should leave your home if you don't feel safe.



You don't need to wait for someone to tell you to go.



Bushfires can block roads and make it harder for you to leave.

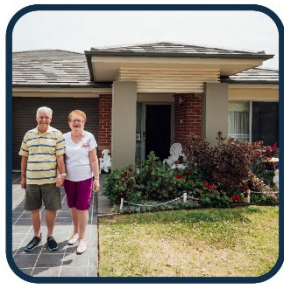


So you should check if the roads are blocked before you leave.



You should find a safe place to go.

This might be:



- with friends and family who live away from the bushfire

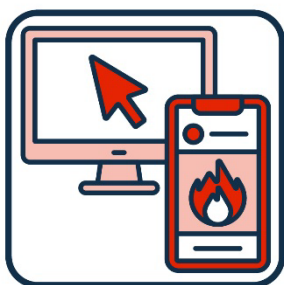


- an **evacuation centre**.

An evacuation centre is somewhere people can live for a short time during an emergency.



You should also make sure you keep up to date on news about the bushfire.

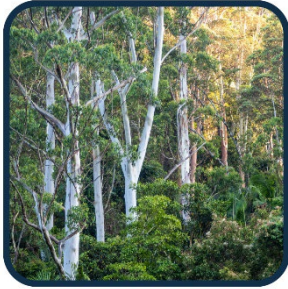


You can find these updates on your state and local government:

- websites
- social media.

Who is at risk of bushfires?

You are most at risk of bushfires if you live near:



- forests



- grasslands



- bushland.

How to find out if you are at risk in a bushfire



We use the Australian Fire Danger Rating System to warn you about how bad a fire could be.



It helps you know the risk to your safety because of a fire.



The Australian Fire Danger Rating System has 4 levels.



Each level explains what you should do.

The 4 levels are:



- Moderate – plan and get ready



- High – be ready to act



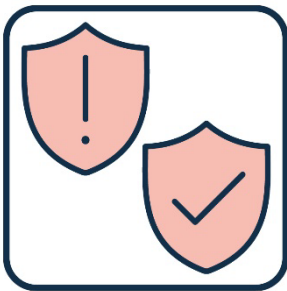
- Extreme – take action now



- Catastrophic – leave now.



We also use the Australian Warning System for bushfires across Australia.



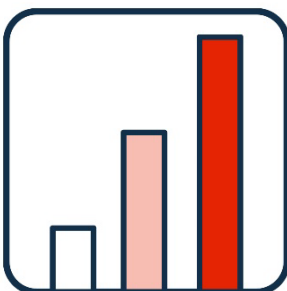
This is how **emergency services** show:

- how dangerous a bushfire is
- what you should do to stay safe.



Emergency services help protect people and make them safe in dangerous situations.

For example, the police and firefighters.



The Australian Warning System has 3 warning levels.



1. Advice:

- an emergency has started
- you are not in danger yet
- you should stay up to date with what is happening.



2. Watch and Act:

- an emergency is getting worse
- you might be at risk
- you need to start taking action.



3. Emergency Warning:

- you are in danger right now
- you must take action
- waiting puts your life at risk.

How do you get ready for a bushfire?



To get ready for a bushfire you should talk to your friends and neighbours.

They might know important information that can help you.

You should also:



- get your home ready



- make a bushfire survival plan



- pack an emergency kit.

Get your home ready



You should check that your home is safe before a bushfire happens.

You should:



- clean your roof and gutters so there are no twigs or leaves



- cut back tree branches



- mow your lawn and rake up grass and leaves.

You should also fix any gaps in:



- walls
- floors
- windows
- roofs.

Make a bushfire survival plan



A **bushfire survival plan** explains what you will do to stay safe if a bushfire happens.



You should:

- make your plan with people you live with
- write your plan down.



Your plan should include important phone numbers you might need in an emergency.

For example, emergency services.

Your plan should also include:



- when you will leave



- how you will stay safe when you leave



- where you will go.



Your plan should also include different ways to get somewhere safe.



This is because the bushfire might block some roads.

Pack an emergency kit



You should have an **emergency kit** ready.

An emergency kit includes important things that can help you:



- stay safe
- leave quickly
- protect yourself and your home.



You should have enough things in your emergency kit to last you for at least 3 days.



This is just in case you must stay home
without power or water.



You should keep your emergency kit in a place that is:

- dry
- easy to get to.



Everyone in your home should know where your emergency kit is.

What to pack in your emergency kit

Your emergency kit should include:



- clothes



- wool blankets.

Your emergency kit should include:



- toiletries – like a toothbrush and hairbrush



- toilet paper



- sunscreen



- hand sanitiser



- medicine and a first aid kit.

Your emergency kit should also include:



- water – at least 3 litres per day for each person



- food that won't go bad quickly – like canned food



- a way to open your food – like a can opener



- a radio that uses batteries



- a torch and extra batteries.

If you need to leave your home, make sure you take your:



- mobile phone and charger



- important documents

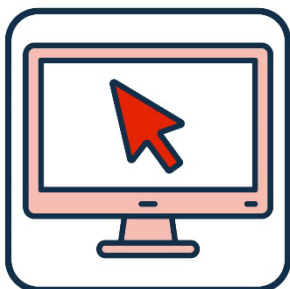


- money and bank cards



- things that are important and mean a lot to you.

Where can you find more information?



You can visit our website to find more information.

getready.gov.au

We can help you:



- learn more about what to do in a bushfire



- learn how to contact emergency services in your state and territory



- get emergency warnings for your area.



You can stay up to date when a bushfire is happening by listening to:

- ABC radio
- SBS radio.



If you speak a language other than English, you can call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National).

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Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



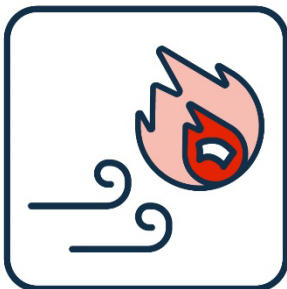
Bushfire

A bushfire is a very bad fire that burns through grass and forests.



Bushfire survival plan

A bushfire survival plan explains what you will do to stay safe if a bushfire happens.



Ember attack

An ember attack is when small burning pieces from a bushfire blow in the wind and spread the fire.



Emergency

An emergency is a dangerous situation when people need help straight away to stay safe.

Emergency kit



An emergency kit includes important things that can help you:

- stay safe
- leave quickly
- protect yourself and your home.



Emergency services

Emergency services help protect people and make them safe in dangerous situations.

For example, the police and firefighters.



Evacuation centre

An evacuation centre is somewhere people can live for a short time during an emergency.



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