

Get ready for bushfires

Prepare your family and home for bushfires.



Did you know?

- Australia has some of the **worst bushfires in the world.**
- Bushfires cause **4 out of every 10** deaths from natural hazards in Australia.
- The Black Summer bushfires of 2019-2020 burned approx. **17 million hectares** of land - roughly the size of Syria.

What is a bushfire?

A bushfire is an unplanned fire in grass or forest areas. Bushfires are dangerous and can seriously harm people, property and the environment.

Ember attacks are the main cause of home loss during a fire. Burning twigs and leaves can travel many kilometres, entering homes through gaps and causing fires.

Am I at risk?

You are most at risk of bushfires if you live near forests, grasslands, or bushland, especially in regional, coastal, or semi-urban areas bordering rural land.



How to prepare for a bushfire

Preparing today can help you stay safe if there is a bushfire. Talk with everyone in your home and prepare together so each person knows what to do.

To prepare for a bushfire, you should:



Ready your home



Make a bushfire survival plan



Pack an emergency kit



Talk to your neighbours and local community

Warning Information

To be prepared for bushfires, you need two key pieces of information:



- **Fire Danger Ratings (FDR)** tell you how dangerous a fire could be if one starts.
- The **Australian Warning System** is used by emergency services to show how serious the risk is from an active fire. There are three warning levels that provide guidance on the actions you should take.



Advice



Watch and Act



Emergency Warning

To learn more, visit the website

getready.gov.au



Australian Government
National Emergency
Management Agency

Ready your home

- Clean roof and gutters.
- Trim trees, mow lawns and rake up flammable material.
- Seal gaps in walls, floors, windows, doors, and roofs.



Make a bushfire survival plan

Talk to your family about what you will do if a bushfire threatens your home.

Preparing today can help you stay safe and reduce stress when a bushfire is near. People who are prepared recover faster.

A bushfire survival plan is a written document. **Here's what to include in your plan:**

Who will you call in an emergency?

Keep a list of important phone numbers in case you need help.

When should you leave and how will you stay safe when you go?

- Don't delay. Always listen to authorities when they advise you to evacuate. If you don't feel safe, leave. You don't need to wait to be advised to evacuate.
- Leaving early is the safest option.
- Go the night before or very early in the morning on a high-risk fire day.
- Plan multiple routes in case roads are blocked.

Where will you go?

- Stay with family and friends who live away from the fire.
- Go to a community evacuation centre.

Regularly check state and local government emergency service websites and social media for updates on conditions in your area.



Pack an emergency kit

An emergency kit is a box or bag of essential items you can pack today so you are ready if a bushfire or other emergency happens.

Have at least three days of supplies in case you must stay home without power or water.

Keep your kit in a dry, easy-to-reach place, and make sure everyone in your home knows where it is.



What to pack in your emergency kit

Pack these items now so your kit is always ready. You may need to add items to your kit based on your family's specific situation.

- ☐ Clothes
- ☐ Woollen blankets
- ☐ Toiletries and toilet paper
- ☐ Sunscreen and hand sanitiser
- ☐ Medicines and a first aid kit
- ☐ Water (at least 3 litres per person, per day)
- ☐ Food (non-perishable food and a can opener)
- ☐ Battery-operated radio
- ☐ Torch & spare batteries

If you need to leave, make sure you take:

- ☐ Mobile phone and charger
- ☐ Important documents
- ☐ Valuables
- ☐ Cash and bank cards
- ☐ Medicines



Where to get more information

Find the contact details for your state or territory emergency services.

getready.gov.au



Learn how to receive warnings and prepare for bushfires and other natural hazards.

During a bushfire, listen to local alerts and updates on ABC or SBS radio.

Call **131 450** for the national Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS).



If you are in an emergency,
call 000 immediately.



Australian Government
National Emergency
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