



WHEN A BUSHFIRE APPROACHES

Make sure you listen to the radio for news of the fire's progress, rather than calling emergency services for information.

- Organise yourself well in advance and pre-pack in case of evacuation.
- Dress in protective clothing.
- Drink water frequently.

Protective clothing

Before you can confront an oncoming bushfire, it is important that you protect yourself from radiant heat.

The following will offer some measure of protection:

- Cotton overalls, or thicker long-sleeved cotton shirt and long cotton pants, or wool clothes which are loose fitting.
- A strong pair of shoes or boots with woollen or cotton socks.
- Gloves, if your hands are not used to working with tools.
- Goggles, if the smoke is thick.
- A 'bandana' or large handkerchief over your mouth to protect the airways from smoke and hot air.
- A wide-brimmed hat or hard hat if one is available.
- Leave your ears uncovered – they warn you of heat levels.

Do not wear synthetics – wear wool, cotton or denim.

Print out this checklist and keep handy at all times. For more information on bushfire safety and home fire safety, visit the Rural Fire Service website at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au or call the RFS Education Line on 1 800 654 443 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm).



WHEN A BUSHFIRE APPROACHES

Protection of children, elderly and pets

- Keep children, elderly and pets inside the house.
- Give them plenty of water to drink.
- Make sure you keep track of their movements.

Outside the home

- Wet down roof, house and garden, especially on the side of the approaching fire. Turn on sprinkler system, if you have one.
- Stop up downpipes and fill gutters with water.
- Wet down wood piles and areas of garden mulch.
- Store all combustible furniture and awnings.
- Close windows and doors and any shutters and fit any screens.
- Put doormats inside.

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Inside the home

- Fill baths, sinks and any buckets with water for extinguishing small fires and for drinking water.
- Put a filled bucket in the roof and have a ladder providing access to the roof area.
- Turn off any gas.
- Place wet towels and blankets against gaps under doors and windows.
- Close heavy curtains, and shutters, if you have them.
- Monitor the radio – keep a spare set of batteries.

The car

- Park in a cleared area.
- Close all doors, windows and vents.
- Leave the keys in the ignition.
- Store woollen blankets inside.

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WHEN THE BUSHFIRE IS CLOSE

- Remain outside as long as possible, patrolling the area for spot fires.
- Suppress any spot fires that start close to the house or in the guttering.
- Take refuge inside when the smoke starts to thicken.
- Take your hoses and fittings inside when you move inside.
- Activate any sprinkler system.

AS THE BUSHFIRE PASSES OVER

- As the fire approaches, go inside and remain inside until the fire has passed.
- Remain calm and keep other occupants calm.
- Move to the side of the house away from the main firefront.
- Carry out regular inspections, particularly of windows to determine if they have shattered and embers have entered any rooms.

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AFTER THE BUSHFIRE HAS PASSED

- Check the house for fires – the roof, roof spaces and any under-floor areas. If the house is on fire move outside onto burnt out ground but keep clear of burning trees.
- Before passing through a closed doorway, feel the door – if it is hot do not open it as there may be a fire on the other side. Leave it closed to stop the fire spreading and exit via another route.
- Check roof cavity frequently for spot fires.
- After the fire has passed and for several hours after the fire front has passed, patrol your property and put out spot fires started by flying embers.

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