



# Bush Fire Myths

## KNOWING THE FACTS MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE



**MYTH** It won't happen to me

**FACT** No one can guarantee that it won't happen to you.

If you prepare and nothing ever happens then you have lost nothing. If you do not prepare your family and home in order to best protect them from a bush fire you may not live to regret it!



My house won't burn if it is made from brick...  
**STILL THINK THAT?**



**MYTH** Filling the bath tub when a fire is approaching is to sit in?

**FACT** The NSW RFS recommends that you fill your bath and sinks with water in case the water supply to your home is cut off. This water can then be used to put out small spot fires that may start in and around the home.



**MYTH** A house can explode if it catches on fire?

**FACT** Houses do not just explode, it's what you have stored under your home that may explode. You should consider what flammable and explosive items you have around/under your home and where you should store them in order to reduce the risk to your home.



**MYTH** I'll be fine; the bush is a few streets away

**FACT** Most houses are burnt in bush fires because of ember attacks. Embers can cause fires many kilometres in front of the main fire and can start falling up to an hour before the fire arrives at your home. You need to make sure that your home is properly prepared to withstand ember attack.



**MYTH** Standing on my roof hosing it down with water will help?

**FACT** During a bush fire more injuries occur from people falling off roofs than from burns! Filling your gutters with water and hosing down your roof will help stop spot fires due to ember attack, but any hosing should be done from the ground.



**MYTH** If I know the back streets in my suburb or town really well, it will be ok for me to leave at the very last minute

**FACT** Smoke from a fire can limit visibility. You may become confused or disorientated. Power lines and fallen trees on roads may be hard to see making driving dangerous. It is always better to leave early before the fire arrives.



**MYTH** There will always be a fire truck available to fight a bush fire threatening my home

**FACT** There will never be as many fire trucks as there are houses. Do not depend on a fire truck being available at your home.

