

YOUR BUSH FIRE SURVIVAL PLAN

PREPARE TO STAY ONLY IF YOU ARE WELL PREPARED

One of the most important things you can do before a bush fire is decide what you will do if one should start. If your household plan is to **STAY**, you must be able to answer the following questions in detail to ensure you and your family are prepared as possible.

DOES EVERYONE AGREE?

Have you discussed these decisions with everyone in the household?

The NSW RFS recommends that you discuss your current plan with your household at regular intervals to ensure it is still suitable for your circumstances.

HAVE WE PREPARED OUR HOME AND PROPERTY?

Defending your home can be physically and mentally demanding. There are simple things you can do ahead of time to give your home and property the greatest chance of survival during a fire.

DO WE KNOW WHEN TO START DEFENDING OUR HOME AND PROPERTY?

It could be as soon as you find out there is a fire near you. Do not wait for an official warning or for assistance from firefighters.

WHAT WE WILL DO WHEN THE FIRE FRONT APPROACHES?

- If flames are on top of you or the heat becomes unbearable move inside until the fire front has passed (usually 5-10 minutes)
- Patrol the inside of the house, including roof space, looking for sparks and embers
- Shelter in a room on the opposite side of the house from the approaching fire and ensure you have clear access to an exit

DO WE HAVE ALL THE EQUIPMENT NEEDED?

Such as:

- A hose/s (should reach around entire property)
- Water supply of at least 10,000L (example water tank, dam, pool)
- Petrol/diesel water pump and fuel (stored in a safe, accessible place)
- Ladders (to access inside the roof)
- Buckets and mops
- Shovels and metal rakes
- Protective clothing



REMEMBER, THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT FIREFIGHTERS WILL BE THERE TO HELP YOU

PREPARE TO STAY CHECKLIST

Defending your home can be physically and mentally demanding. It is important that everyone knows exactly what to do if a fire threatens.

OUTSIDE

- Turn off gas mains and/or bottle
- Move flammable items away from the house
- Block drainpipes with socks full of sand and fill gutters with water
- Don't get on the roof to hose it down
- Move animals to a well-grazed or ploughed area away from the house and wind
- Patrol the house well before the fire arrives to put out embers and spot fires
- As the fire approaches, wet the side of the house and garden facing the fire
- Move your firefighting equipment to a place where it won't burn inside

INSIDE

- Close doors, windows and vents
- Fill baths, sinks, buckets and bins with water
- Confine pets to one room
- Place ladder next to roof access hole so you can check for spot fires
- Soak towels and rugs and lay them across external doorways
- Move furniture away from windows

AS THE FIRE APPROACHES

- Take shelter in a room on the opposite side of your house away from the approaching fire until the front has passed (usually 5-10 mins).
- Always ensure you have clear access to an exit.
- Patrol the inside of the house, including roof space, looking for sparks and embers
- Confirm the location you are heading is still safe and away from the fire
- Confirm your planned route is clear

IF YOUR LIFE IS AT RISK, CONTACT TRIPLE ZERO (000) IMMEDIATELY.

AFTER THE FIRE PASSES

- Once the front passes be prepared to find and extinguish spot fires.
- Check house both inside and out for fires, including roof cavity, under the house, deck, stairs, windowsills etc.
- If possible, and safe to do so, check all your neighbours are ok
- Contact relatives or friends to tell them you are safe
- Patrol your home for several hours; look for small fires and burning embers

It is not safe to STAY with your property under some circumstances, such as:

- If the fire danger rating is **CATASTROPHIC**
- There is an Extreme fire danger rating and your home is not specially designed or constructed for bush fires
- Your property is not well maintained
- You or the people in your home are not mentally and physically fit and ready

UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, YOU SHOULD LEAVE EARLY