

# CFS FACT SHEET

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## Prepare. Act. Plan to Survive

Being Bushfire Ready is a shared responsibility between the Government, fire agencies and the community. If you live, work or travel in an area where bushfires can occur, then you need to prepare a bushfire survival plan ahead of time and practise it regularly. Ensure that you are well prepared and stay well informed to assist you in making decisions to improve your safety and chances of survival.

### **Prepare** (weeks and months before the fire season)

**You must make important decisions before the fire season starts**

Whether you choose to leave early to go to a safer place or to stay and defend your well prepared home, preparation is the key to survival:

- **Know and understand your bushfire risk**
  - ~ Learn about the bushfire risk and history in your area
  - ~ Assess the capacity of your home to withstand a bushfire
  - ~ Understand what forecasting
  - ~ Prepare for those days when the forecasted fire danger rating is increasing
- **Prepare yourself, your family, your home and property for bushfires. Experiencing a bushfire is physically and psychologically demanding.**
  - ~ Prepare your home and your property to survive the fire front, showers of embers and radiant heat
  - ~ Even if your plan is to leave early, the more you prepare your home and property the greater the chance is that your home will survive the fire
  - ~ Find out what equipment you need and determine what you will do if things do not go according to plan
  - ~ If you are planning to stay and defend, prepare for a frightening experience
- **Your written Bushfire Survival Plan – a good plan is a practiced plan**
  - ~ Prepare your Bushfire Survival Plan well before the fire season
  - ~ If you prepare your property but don't feel able to stay and defend it, then plan to leave early. Make this part of your Bushfire Survival Plan
  - ~ If you prepare to leave early, consider where you will go, how you will get there safely and what you will take

### **Stay Informed:**

- CFS website [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)
- CFS Bushfire Information Hotline: **1300 362 361** (TTY 133 677)
- Email updates, RSS feed, facebook or twitter
- On local ABC radio, FIVEaa, or one of our other Emergency Broadcast Partner radio stations

### **Act** (upon the daily fire danger ratings)

**The higher the fire danger rating, the more dangerous the conditions**

Be prepared to act without receiving any emergency warning. The CFS does not guarantee a fire truck will be there to protect your property so you need to:

- **Know your daily fire danger rating for your district and what you need to do**
  - ~ On days of high fire danger, be extra vigilant for signs of fire – especially smoke and flames – and listen for emergency messages
- **Put your preparations into action – don't wait and see**
  - ~ Know where you can relocate to on days of high fire danger, and leave early if that is your plan
  - ~ Don't wait until there is a fire to put your plan into action – whether that be to leave early or to stay and defend
  - ~ Act decisively the moment you know there is danger

### **Plan to Survive** (during a fire)

**Fires may threaten without warning - know what you will do to survive**

Your survival and safety depends on the decisions you make. The safest place during a fire is away from a fire. Being involved in a fire may be one of the most dangerous and traumatic experiences of your life.

- **Monitor conditions and Stay informed**
  - ~ Look and listen for information on television, radio, internet, mobile phones and by speaking with neighbours:
- **You need to know what to do if you are caught in or threatened by fire with little or no warning**
  - ~ It is important to practise your plan so that you are able to enact it quickly without confusion
- **Make decisions and take action to protect you and your family.**
  - ~ People will always be more important than property. Your main priority is to make sure you and your loved ones are safe.