

CFS FACT SHEET

No: 4.12 Date: 19/09/2016

BUSHFIRE SAFETY FOR RENTERS

Renters do not generally have the same freedom to make alterations around their home and surrounds as do people who own their own properties. It can therefore appear more difficult to prepare for bushfire.

This does not mean that you can't make plans and preparations for bushfire safety. Below are some ways you can stay bushfire safe without high-level property preparation.

Make a “leave early” plan

If you are not able to fully prepare your home to actively defend it against bushfire, it is important to make a “leave early” Bushfire Survival Plan.

“Leaving early” means leaving before your chosen escape route is blocked by fire and smoke, by strong winds that may bring down trees and power lines well before the fire arrives, or by others all trying to leave late.

If you decide to leave early then you must plan as carefully as you would to stay.

For further information on what you need to do, refer to the CFS Fact Sheets:

- 1.4 - “Planning to Leave Early”
- 1.8 - “What to do in the Event of a Bushfire”

Make the preparations to your property that you can

Even if you plan to leave, a well-prepared house is more likely to be saved, and provides a back-up plan if you are caught during a bushfire.

Are there things you can do to minimise the impact of bushfire on your property and home even though you don't own the property?

Some examples might be:

- keep the gutters clean
- mow, rake and weed to remove fine fuels within 20 metres of your house
- prune shrubs so that their tops are well away from the lower branches of trees
- prune the lower branches of shrubs/trees to separate the foliage from the surface fuels underneath
- reduce accumulated debris such as loose bark, dead twigs, leaves or branches on shrubs and trees
- remove flammable items from around your house (for example: paper, boxes, crates)
- move firewood away from the house

See CFS fact sheets 4.1 – 4.11 for more information on ways you can prepare your property.

Some you can do on your own, some you might be able to approach your landlord to do or authorise.

Other things you can do to increase your safety

- Make sure you have an emergency kit (see CFS Fact Sheet no. 3.3 - “Emergency Kits”)
- Learn about bushfire behaviour, and how to survive (see a range of CFS Fact Sheets)
- Stay up to date with Fire Danger Ratings; incident warnings and alerts; and what you see, hear and smell yourself.

For more information about being Bushfire Ready:

Contact the Bushfire Information Hotline

on **1300 362 361** (TTY **133 677**)

or visit www.cfs.sa.gov.au