

living in the bush

bushfire survival plan lift-out guide

Whether your decision is to leave or to stay and actively defend your home during a bushfire, CFA recommends residents in high bushfire risk areas make a written Bushfire Survival Plan. Before you develop your plan you need to consider the following questions:

- Who is likely to be at home should a bushfire threaten your property?
- Are you physically and mentally able to actively defend your property?
- Are you willing to prepare yourself and your property for bushfire?
- Do you know what to do during a fire?
- Do you need to review your insurance cover?

This lift-out guide makes some suggestions to assist you to make a Bushfire Survival Plan. To suit your lifestyle you may need to make several plans (eg. weekend and weekday plans). There may be other things you need to consider that are not included in this planning guide.

CFA strongly recommend you read the information in this Workbook before you make your decision about what you will do if there is a bushfire in your area. Work with all members of your household to fill in this planning guide.

Make sure everyone in the household knows the plan and what their roles are. And remember, stick to your plan!



bushfire survival plan

There may not be enough room to write down everything you want to include in your plan. eg. you might want to sketch a plan of your house and surrounds. Some of the things you identify may be easy and cheap to achieve in the short term. Others may require more long term planning and consideration of costs.

This Bushfire Survival Plan is for the following people:

(list household members) _____

What will you do if members of your household are at work or at school?

Look around your property and think about the factors that are likely to influence the fire you may experience. This will include: the nature and amount of vegetation; the design and construction of your home; and other local features that may influence fire behaviour. eg. steepness of the slope your house is on. This will help you to determine the likely fire behaviour in your area (**refer page 5**). You then need to determine the steps you can take to prepare yourself and your property for bushfire.

Section 2 – Preparing yourself and your property for bushfire (pages 11 – 27)

List the vegetation management tasks you need to undertake. (refer pages 11 – 14)

- Where are you going to rake up fine fuels (eg. leaves and twigs) or mow grass close to the house?
- Can you use the layout of your property to increase your bushfire safety?
- Is there vegetation you want to keep and protect?

List the house modifications you need to make. (refer pages 15 – 18)

List the maintenance activities you need to carry out and when they need to be done.

| Maintenance Activity | When ? |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| eg. Move woodpile away from house | Before summer |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

List the firefighting equipment you need. (refer pages 20-22)

Consider whether you need to purchase any equipment, whether it needs servicing and how you will store it.

n: planning to stay?

Section 3 – What to do during a bushfire (pages 28 – 33)

List personal protective clothing needed for all members of the household. (refer pages 28 – 29)

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

Where are you going to store your clothing so it is readily available?

When planning what actions you need to carry out to defend your home during a bushfire, you need to consider the following issues. (refer pages 30 –31)

- How many people will you need to defend your home?
- Who is likely to be home to provide assistance?
- What are the contingency plans if one person is home alone?
- What will you do with your pets or other animals?
- What will you do if you have young children or elderly people at home during the fire?
What tasks could they undertake?
- Where will you get your water from?

List the actions you will take to defend your property before the fire front arrives:

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

List the actions you will take during the passage of the main fire front:

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

List the actions you will take after the fire front has passed:

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

ation line: 1800 240 667

for more information go to: www.cfa.vic.gov.au/residents/living

planning to leave?

On high fire risk days bushfires can start at any time and spread very rapidly. Your first warning of fire in the area may be the approach of flames.

Remember, leave long before the fire impacts on your immediate area or threatens roads you intend to use. Leaving your home late when you can see flames burning nearby is a deadly option.

Even if your plan is to leave you should still prepare a plan in case you are forced to stay and take shelter in your home.

This Bushfire Survival Plan is for the following people:

(refer page 25)

(list household members) _____

Who is planning to leave?

When will you leave? What will be your trigger to leave your home? eg. Total Fire Ban day / high fire risk day.

Where will you go? eg. family or friend's home, shopping centre, community hall etc.

What arrangements have you made to get there? eg. family, friends, bus, taxi.

What will you take with you? eg. legal documents, personal items, medication, photos etc.

What will you do with your pets? Can you take them with you?

Who have you told about your plan?

victorian bushfire information line:
1800 240 667

www.cfa.vic.gov.au/residents/living/