

HOME BUSHFIRE PREPARATION

Fact Sheet 2 – Community Risk Management. Revised 28/09/2004

- NSW FIRE BRIGADES
- NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE
- ACT FIRE BRIGADE
- ACT RURAL FIRE SERVICE

PLAN TO PROTECT YOUR HOME: Preparing your Home for the Bushfire Season

If you follow these simple guidelines you can reduce the threat of embers and bushfire affecting your home:

- Clean leaves from gutters, roofs and downpipes regularly and fit quality metal leaf guards.
- Screen vents on roof voids with fine metal wire mesh.
- When installing LPG cylinders around your home, make sure that pressure relief valves face outwards so that flame is not directed towards the house.
- Keep woodpiles well away from the house and covered.
- Cut back overhanging trees, keep grass short and rake up flammable leaves, twigs and cuttings.
- Do not deposit tree loppings, grass clippings etc behind your property into council reserves or bushland.
- Ensure your garden hoses are long enough to reach the perimeter boundary.
- Plant trees and shrubs that are less likely to ignite due to their lower oil content.
- If you have a swimming pool, have a Static Water Supply sign placed on your front fence. Contact your local fire service for information.
- Consider purchasing a portable pump to use from your swimming pool or water tank.
- If there is a Community Fire Unit or Firewise group nearby, become a member.
- Make sure that any fire hydrants near your home are easily located and not obstructed.

In the event of bushfire threatening your home:

- Don't enter the bush if smoke or fire is in the area. Stay calm and report all fires on 000!
- Check if elderly neighbours need assistance.
- If possible, block your gutters and fill with water.
- If you choose to self-evacuate, do so early.
- If ordered by the NSW Police or ACT Emergency Services Personnel to evacuate you must obey, so have pets and valuables packed and ready to go.
- Wear long sleeves and long pants, natural fibres and sturdy footwear.
- Close all windows and doors, block spaces beneath doors with towels or blankets.
- If the fire is approaching your house, bring your garden hose and fittings inside so they won't melt in the fire, as you may need them later.
- To help put out spot fires once the fire has passed, keep hoses, ladders, shovels and metal buckets at hand.
- Keep a torch and portable radio in the home in case the electricity supply fails.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FIRE STATION OR FIRE CONTROL CENTRE

or visit: www.fire.nsw.gov.au www.rfs.nsw.gov.au or www.esa.act.gov.au

REMEMBER

**BE PREPARED
BE AWARE
STAY CALM**

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 000