

FACT SHEET 2 – Bush Fire Preparation.

REVISED 01/10/2009



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

Fact:

While there are elements of bush fire that you cannot control, like the weather, there is a wide range of planning and preparation activities that you can undertake which will dramatically increase the chances of you, your family and your home surviving in the event of a bush fire, including the maintenance of adequate levels of insurance.

Always have an up to date Bush Fire Survival Plan

- Review and rehearse your plan regularly
- Involve the whole family so everyone knows what to do
- Have a contingency plan and know the location of your local **Neighbourhood Safer Place**
- Always know the current **Fire Danger Rating** in your area

Always maintain a defensible space around your home by

- Mowing your grass regularly
- Removing excess ground fuels and other combustible material
- Cleaning leaves from gutters, roofs and downpipes regularly
- Trimming low lying branches 2 metres from the ground surrounding your home

You should also

- Enclose open areas under your decks and floors
- Install fine steel wire mesh screens on all windows, doors, vents and weepholes
- Relocate flammable items away from your home including woodpiles, paper, boxes, crates, hanging baskets and garden furniture
- Seal all gaps in external roof and wall cladding

As part of your Bush Fire Survival Plan, ensure you have ready access to your

- Personal protective clothing
- Bush Fire Survival Kit
- Relocation Kit

On days of **Catastrophic** Fire Danger Rating leaving early is the safest option to ensure you and your families' survival as even well prepared and constructed homes will not be safe. On days of **Extreme** fire danger rating leaving early will always be the safest option.

FAILURE TO TAKE ACTION CAN RESULT IN DEATH OR INJURY TO YOU OR YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS.

For more information contact your local Fire Control Centre or:

NSW RFS INFORMATION LINE
1800 NSW RFS
1 8 0 0 6 7 9 7 3 7

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

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A FIREWISE INITIATIVE

