BUSHFIRE SAFETY · AUSTRALIA

My Bushfire Plan

Decide early, write it down, practise it. Fill this in together on a calm day and keep it where everyone can see it.

Household name

Address

Date completed

Review by

Leaving early is the safest option.

Always follow your state or territory fire agency. Their warnings, advice and plan templates come first.

Our state or territory fire agency (tick one)

- ☐ NSW
- ☐ VIC
- ☐ QLD
- ☐ SA
- ☐ WA
- ☐ TAS
- ☐ NT
- ☐ ACT

Links to every agency are on page 10.

Emergency? Call Triple Zero (000)

Don't wait to be told to leave. Don't rely on seeing smoke or flames.

000

START HERE

How to use this plan

A bushfire plan is a short, written set of decisions your household makes before a fire threatens: when you'll leave, where you'll go, how you'll get there and what you'll take.

1

Decide together

Sit down with everyone in your household on a calm day. Make the big decisions now, not under smoke and stress.

2

Read your agency first

Read your state or territory fire agency's guidance and its own plan template. You can use it alongside or instead of this one.

3

Fill in every page

Write in pen. Leave nothing to memory: triggers, destinations, routes, contacts, animals and kit.

4

Print and share

Keep one copy on the fridge and one in your car or emergency kit. Photograph it on each phone, but don't rely on phones alone.

5

Practise it

Walk through the plan, time how long it takes to leave and drive your routes. Log it on page 9.

6

Review it

Review at the start of every fire season and whenever something changes: a new baby, pet, house or health need.

Warnings and Fire Danger Ratings

This plan does not summarise warnings. When a warning is issued, read it in full on your state agency's website or app and follow the action it gives. Check the Fire Danger Rating for your area each day in the fire season. See page 10 for links.

STEP 1

Our household and contacts

List everyone, including people who may be visiting. Note who will need extra time or help to leave.

Name	Age	Mobile	Needs help? What help, and who helps

Out-of-area check-in person

Everyone contacts this person if we're separated.

Name _____ Phone _____

Key numbers (write them on paper)

Family _____ Vet _____

Neighbour _____ Doctor / medical _____

Neighbour _____ Local council _____

School / childcare _____ State agency info line _____

Work _____ Insurance _____

Notes

STEP 2

Our decision and triggers

Make this decision using your fire agency's guidance, not on the day. Fire agencies advise that leaving early is the safest option.

Our decision (tick one, after reading our agency's guidance)

- [ ] **We will leave early**
  Well before a fire threatens: often the night before, or early in the morning on high-risk days.
- [ ] **We are considering staying to defend**
  Only after reading our state agency's guidance in full and speaking with them. Fire Lookout does not advise on this.
- [ ] **Not decided yet**
  Talk to your agency and come back to this page.

Our triggers to act (tick all that apply)

- [ ] The Fire Danger Rating for our area reaches: _____
  Choose the level in advance, using your agency's advice for that level.
- [ ] A fire is reported in our area or a nearby district
- [ ] An official warning is issued for our area under the Australian Warning System
- [ ] Our state agency advises people in our area to leave
- [ ] Other: _____
- [ ] Other: _____

Where we check

Our state agency website or app

_____

Australian Warning System: australianwarningsystem.com.au

Fire Danger Ratings: afdrs.com.au

Local ABC radio frequency

_____

STEP 3

Where we'll go and how

Choose somewhere away from bush and grassland, such as family or friends in a built-up area. Pick a backup too.

Destination 1

Place / person

Address

Contact

Phone

- [ ] They know we're coming, and accept our animals

Destination 2 (backup)

Place / person

Address

Contact

Phone

- [ ] They know we're coming, and accept our animals

Route 1

Via

Travel time

Sketch the route. Mark roads through bush or grassland that could close.

Route 2

Via

Travel time

Sketch the route. Mark roads through bush or grassland that could close.

- [ ] Fuel tank kept full during the fire season
- [ ] Neighbourhood Safer Places / last-resort options checked with our agency (a last resort, not a plan)

STEP 4

Pets and livestock

Animals add time to leaving, so plan for them early. Check your destination will accept them.

Animal / name	How they travel	Carrier / lead / float	Food and meds	Destination	Microchip #

- [ ] Pets microchipped and registration details up to date
- [ ] Food, water, bowls, medication and vet records packed
- [ ] On high-risk days, move pets to safety ahead of time

Horses and livestock

Move-by trigger

Destination

Transport / float

Who helps

Move animals well before a fire threatens. If they can't be moved, follow your state fire agency's and agriculture department's guidance. See also rspca.org.au.

Notes

STEP 5

Emergency kit checklist

Keep a kit packed and easy to grab. Check your state agency's kit list; it may include items specific to your area.

- [ ] Battery-powered radio and spare batteries
- [ ] Torch and spare batteries
- [ ] Phone chargers and a power bank
- [ ] First aid kit
- [ ] Prescription medications
- [ ] Drinking water
- [ ] Non-perishable food
- [ ] Copies of documents (ID, insurance, medical)
- [ ] Woollen blankets
- [ ] Protective natural-fibre clothing: long sleeves, long pants
- [ ] Sturdy boots, hat, gloves, face mask
- [ ] Cash
- [ ] Items for children
- [ ] Items for pets

Our own items

- [ ] _____
- [ ] _____
- [ ] _____
- [ ] _____
- [ ] _____
- [ ] _____
- [ ] _____
- [ ] _____

Kit kept at _____

Last checked _____

Notes

STEP 6

Home preparation and before we leave

General items only. Check them against your state agency's property preparation guidance and plan template.

Through the season

- [ ] Read our agency's property preparation guidance
- [ ] Fuel tank kept full
- [ ] Kit packed and checked
- [ ] Plan printed: fridge, car and kit
- [ ] _____
- [ ] _____

Before we leave

- [ ] Close windows and doors (as recommended by our agency)
- [ ] Tell our check-in person we're leaving
- [ ] People, animals and kit in the car
- [ ] _____
- [ ] _____

Who does what

Task	Who	Backup

STEP 7

Practise and review log

Practise when it's calm. Talk through triggers, time how long it takes to pack and leave, and drive both routes.

Date practised	Who took part	Time to leave	What we'll fix

Annual review (start of each fire season)

Season	Season	Season
Reviewed by	Reviewed by	Reviewed by

Notes and changes

OFFICIAL SOURCES

Where official advice lives

Always check your local fire agency for warnings, Fire Danger Ratings, Total Fire Bans and plan templates.

NSW — **NSW Rural Fire Service: Bush Fire Survival Plan**
rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/bush-fire-survival-plan

VIC — **Country Fire Authority (CFA): Bushfire plan**
cfa.vic.gov.au/fire-safety/your-fire-plan/make-your-fire-plan/bushfire-plan
Warnings: VicEmergency: emergency.vic.gov.au

QLD — **Queensland Fire Department: Bushfire Survival Plan**
bushfire-survival-plan.qfes.qld.gov.au

SA — **Country Fire Service (CFS): Bushfire Survival Plan**
cfs.sa.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-a-fire-be-prepared/make-a-plan/bushfire-survival-plan

WA — **DFES: Prepare for a bushfire**
dfes.wa.gov.au/hazard-information/bushfire/prepare
Emergency WA plan: emergency.wa.gov.au/plan

TAS — **Tasmania Fire Service: My Bushfire Plan**
bushfire.tas.gov.au/bushfire-plan

NT — **NT Fire and Rescue Service: Bushfire Safety**
pfes.nt.gov.au/fire-and-rescue-service/fire-safety/bushfire-safety
Bushfires NT: property and survival plans: nt.gov.au/emergency/bushfire/prepare-and-plan/survival-plans

ACT — **ACT Emergency Services Agency: Survival Plan**
esa.act.gov.au/be-emergency-ready/resources-plans/survival-plan

National

Australian Warning System: australianwarningsystem.com.au
Australian Fire Danger Rating System: afdrs.com.au
Animals: rspca.org.au

About this worksheet

This worksheet helps you write down your household's decisions. It doesn't replace advice, warnings or directions from your state or territory fire agency. In an emergency, call Triple Zero (000).

Copies of this plan are kept

- [ ] On the fridge
- [ ] In the car
- [ ] In the emergency kit
- [ ] Photo on each phone (not phones alone)

Next review

Start of fire season _____

Reviewed by _____

Fire Lookout

Get ready before the season starts.

Decide together. Write it down. Practise your plan.

firelookout.app