

# BUSHFIRE

This fact sheet contains information on suggested actions to perform before, during and after a bushfire. It also contains information about warnings, emergency contacts and general information to consider when writing your emergency management plan.

## Bushfire warnings

During the fire season, a fire danger rating of low-moderate, high, very high, severe, extreme or code red will feature in weather forecasts, be broadcast on radio and TV, and appear in some newspapers. When there is a fire threat, there are three bushfire alert levels:

- **Advice** – General information and developments.
- **Watch and Act** – a fire is approaching you. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect your life and your family.
- **Emergency Warning** – You are in immediate danger and need to take action immediately. You will be impacted by the fire.

You may also receive an emergency alert as a text message to your mobile or a voice message to your landline. If you receive an emergency alert you should pay attention and act as advised.

If you are concerned about your fire risk you can also:

- Ring the Victorian Bushfire Information Line (VBIL) on 1800 240 667. Callers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech/communication impairment can contact VBIL via the National Relay Service on 1800 555 677.
- Visit the Country Fire Authority (CFA), Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) or the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) websites.
- Subscribe to *CFA\_Updates* on Twitter.
- Download the CFA FireReady app for your smart phone and monitor conditions and warnings.
- Check your Community Information Guide available from the CFA website at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au).

**Do not wait for an official warning to act. Bushfires can start quickly and threaten properties and lives within minutes.**

## Emergency contacts

Contact	Number
Life-threatening emergency (police, fire, ambulance)	000 (Triple Zero)
Country Fire Authority (CFA)	(03) 9262 8444
Victorian Bushfire Information Line	1800 240 667
Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB)	(03) 9662 2311
Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) general enquiries	136 186
Bureau of Meteorology Victoria office	(03) 9669 4000

# Action plan for bushfire

Please note: these actions are general suggestions only, you will need to think of details and triggers that are specific to your park.

## Suggested actions to take before a bushfire

There are a number of actions you can take to help you prepare for a bushfire. Many of these will also be relevant for other hazards:

- Follow standards and regulations as listed in the Fire Prevention and Safety section of the *Residential Tenancies (Caravan Parks and Movable Dwellings Registration and Standards) Regulations 2010*.
- Schedule and practise evacuation procedures.
- Install and regularly check fire alarms in all park owned dwellings and public areas.
- Maintain fire vehicle access.
- Maintain fire safety equipment.
- Monitor and maintain gas storage and other flammable chemicals.
- Prepare an emergency kit which includes a battery powered radio, spare batteries, a torch, first aid kit and a copy of your emergency management plan.
- Check currency and relevance of insurance.
- Ensure permanent outdoor furniture is secured or can be easily secured in the event of a storm.
- Regularly clean gutters, downpipes and drains for blockages.
- Keep an up to date residents and guest list to be used in the case of evacuations.
- Ensure movable vans are maintained in a movable state.
- Develop arrangements for emergency warnings to be communicated to occupants (PA system/ door knocking/ public notices etc).

## Suggested actions to take during a bushfire

- Implement bush fire survival plan:
  - Commence property protection when it is safe to do so.
  - Under extreme bushfire behaviour conditions, take refuge in emergency assembly area until fire front passes.
  - Recommence property protection if it is safe to do so.
- Notify park residents
- Call 000 (Triple Zero) and notify the caravan park manager if not present.
- If time permits, brief residents more thoroughly about the situation.
- Control and maintain the movement of occupants to the emergency assembly area.
- If advised to evacuate, leave immediately. Ensure all park occupants have also evacuated. If you evacuate, take your emergency kit with you and turn off gas, water and electricity at the mains. Lock your office and ensure vans and cabins are locked.
- Open caravan park boom gates and emergency access gates.
- If time permits, remove annexes and tents to prevent fire spread.

## Suggested actions to take after a bushfire

- Ensure that nobody re-enters the caravan park until emergency services inform you it is safe to do so.
- Patrol for spot fires and extinguish if safe to do so, if you have not evacuated.



## Important information about bushfires

Be aware of embers, burning twigs or leaves that can land on top of debris in gutters or around your buildings. This is the most common way buildings can catch during a bushfire. Radiant heat is the biggest killer during bushfires. The best protection from radiant heat is distance.

In Victoria, Community Information Guides are available for communities deemed at risk of bushfire or grassfire. These are available on the CFA website at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au).

Victorian Fire Services (CFA and MFB) have produced Fire Safety Guidelines for caravan parks which are available on the CFA website at <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/caravan-park-fire-safety>.

The Australian Red Cross website has information about returning home after a bushfire.

Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) has information about Victorian bushfire history.

The CFA and MFB undertake fire inspections to advise caravan parks on how they can increase their fire safety. If you believe you are at risk of bushfire, book an appointment for advice and guidance on preparing your park.

