

Renting and Bushfires

ARE YOU BUSHFIRE READY?

areyouready.wa.gov.au

Firefighters will be doing everything they can to prevent injury to people and damage to property during a bushfire. There are no guarantees that a fire truck will be there to protect you and your property. It is your responsibility to reduce your risks and take action during a fire. You will need to make quick decisions about what to do. Whether your plan is to leave early or stay and actively defend knowing your trigger to act is vital. You need to have a bushfire survival plan in place for you and your family.

If you live in a rental property near bushland, check with your local council about the risk of bushfires occurring in the area and take steps to protect yourself, your family and your pets.



Preparing the home

- Mow the lawns regularly and keep the weeds down.
- Ask the owner to have the gutters cleaned.
- If possible, keep LP gas cylinders away from the direction of the fire and point valves outwards.
- Ensure your door mat is non-combustible.
- Purchase a hose with metal fittings and long enough to reach all areas of the house.

Preparing yourself and your family

- Prepare an emergency kit with important papers, medications and personal belongings in a storage container. Keep it in a well know location where the whole family can easily get to it.
- Check that your contents insurance is adequate to cover all of your belongings.
- If the property is not defendable, identify a trigger that prompts you to leave early, such as seeing a fire, the smell of smoke, the Fire Danger Rating, loss of water or power, the ability to leave your home safely or vulnerable family members being home alone.
- Have a backup plan in case you cannot leave.

What your landlord is required to do

- Under Section 33 of the Bushfires Act 1954 local councils may issue notices requiring owners to install firebreaks and undertake hazard reduction.
- Ensure that gutters are cleaned. Replace any damage to the roof and external walls ensuring that gaps are sealed.
- Major tree lopping, cutting back overhanging branches (such as those near power lines) and maintaining fire breaks.

Understand the bushfire warning levels



On hot dry days regularly check for signs of a bushfire and keep up to date via ABC radio, the DFES information line 13 DFES (13 3337), the website at www.dfes.wa.gov.au or twitter @dfes_wa

For more information visit www.dfes.wa.gov.au or contact **DFES Community Engagement 9395 9816**