

**To survive
a bushfire,
you're going
to need one
of these.**



What will you do, Stay or Go?

If you live in the bush, the suburban fringe or in regional South Australia, then you are in danger of experiencing a bushfire.

The decision whether to Stay and Defend your home, or Go Early, is critical and it needs to be made before a bushfire occurs or well before the fire danger season arrives.

If you plan to Stay and Defend your property, you will need to consider the following:

- 1) Are you physically fit to fight spot fires in and around your home for up to 10 hours or more?
- 2) Are you mentally and emotionally able to cope with the intense smoke, heat and noise of a bushfire, while implementing your plan?
- 3) Are you able to implement your plan while caring for distressed young children, elderly or disabled people in your home?
- 4) Do you have the resources and equipment to effectively fight a fire – a water supply of at least 20,000 litres (a water tank, pond, dam, creek or swimming pool) and a petrol powered fire-fighting pump with adequate lengths of hose?
- 5) Does your home have a defensible space of at least 20m cleared of flammable materials and vegetation?
- 6) Is your home in a location that puts it at higher than normal risk or makes it difficult to defend, such as on a steep slope or in close proximity to bushland?

If these questions make you doubt your ability, or you are for any reason unsure about staying and defending your property, then you should prepare a “Go Early” Plan.

How to draw up your Bushfire Action Plan.

Your Bushfire Action Plan must be prepared with all members of the household in advance of a fire or the bushfire season.

On the following pages are two checklists which will help you prepare either a “Go Early” or “Stay and Defend” Bushfire Action Plan, so that you are Bushfire Ready.

Everyone’s Bushfire Action Plan will be different depending on their individual situation.

Once you have completed your plan, practise it regularly and keep it in a safe and easily accessible place for quick reference (e.g. on the fridge.)

Go Early. (Most bushfire fatalities occur because people leave too late and are overtaken by the fire.)

Preparing your home for a bushfire.

A properly prepared home will be more likely to survive a bushfire without you and fire fighters will be better able to defend it.

Create a defensible space around your property.

Consider the following:

- Remove dead branches, leaves and undergrowth from around your home.
- Prune any tree limbs less than two metres from the ground or overhanging your home.
- Cut long grass within 20 metres of your home.
- Remove bark, heavy mulch, wood piles and other flammable materials close to your home and shed.

On high fire risk days or actual fire days:

- Block drain pipes and fill gutters with water.
- Remove flammable items from the exterior of the house (e.g. blinds, outdoor furniture, door mats).

When to leave.

- Plan your relocation early enough to avoid being caught in smoke, the fire, or on a congested road.

Where to go.

- Consider Low Fire Risk Areas (i.e. the local shopping centre, a well prepared neighbour’s house, etc).

How to get there.

- Consider a number of travel routes.

What will you take?

- Prepare a relocation kit (blankets, water, first aid kit, medications, change of clothes, children’s toys, important documents).
- Organise household members and make arrangements for pets.

For more information please refer to the CFS fact sheet #7 *Planning to Go Early*. This fact sheet is available from www.cfs.sa.gov.au

Bushfire Action Plan - GO EARLY.



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

Emergency: 000 Ambulance: 000 Family: _____
Police: 000 School: _____ Friends: _____
CFS Bushfire Hotline: 1300 362 361 Family: _____ Friends: _____

ON HIGH FIRE RISK DAYS OR ACTUAL FIRE DAYS:

- Follow your Bushfire Action Plan – Be Bushfire Ready.
- Monitor local ABC radio station or 5AA for information on bushfires.
- Prepare your property.
- Pack Relocation Kit and valuables into car.

When to go:

Where to go:

How to get there:

What to take:

Who to tell: *(Before and after)*

Listen out for Bushfire Information and Warning Messages.

On high fire risk days important Bushfire Information and Warning Messages will be broadcast on ABC radio and 5AA. You must listen out for these messages. For more information, contact your local CFS office or the CFS Bushfire Hotline on **1300 362 361**, or go to **www.cfs.sa.gov.au**



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Stay and Defend. (A well prepared home will be more likely to withstand a bushfire and you will be better able to defend it.)

Most bushfire fatalities occur because people leave too late and are overtaken by the fire.

If you are ever unsure, you should prepare a "Go Early" Plan as well.

When completing your Bushfire Action Plan, the points below are some examples of what you need to consider.

Preparing your home for a bushfire.

- Remove dead branches, leaves and undergrowth from around your home.
- Prune any tree limbs less than two metres from the ground or overhanging your home.
- Cut long grass within 20 metres of your home.
- Remove bark, heavy mulch, wood piles and other flammable materials close to the home and shed.
- Ensure you have an independent adequate water supply (i.e. no less than 20,000 litres from a bore, rain water tank, dam etc).
- Ensure you have equipment to fight fires (a petrol powered pump, long hoses, buckets, bins, sprinklers).
- Keep gutters clean.

Prepare for your safety.

- Prepare a bushfire survival kit – e.g. long-sleeved wool or cotton clothing for all persons; a torch; a battery powered radio; spare batteries; spare set of hose fittings; drinking water.

As the fire approaches (in vicinity of your property).

- Dress in appropriate clothing (i.e. made from natural fibres).
- Patrol property for spot fires to extinguish.
- Wet vegetation near the house with a hose or sprinkler.
- Block drain pipes and fill gutters with water.
- Remove flammable items from the exterior of the house (e.g. blinds, outdoor furniture, door mats etc).
- Stay close to the house, drink water and check the welfare of others.

As the fire front arrives.

- Move inside the house.
- Prepare inside of the house (e.g. remove curtains, move furniture, close doors and windows).
- Soak towels and place under external doors.
- Stay inside the house and be alert to extinguish any fires.
- Ensure you can exit the home should it catch alight.
- Monitor the fire, but keep away from windows.
- Keep hydrated.

After the fire has passed.

- Patrol property (including roof space) to extinguish fires.
- Continue to drink water.

For more information please refer to the CFS fact sheets:
#2 How houses burn,
#5 Plan now to stay and defend your home or go early,
#8 What to do in a bushfire,
#11 Sprinkler systems.

These fact sheets and others are available from the CFS website www.cfs.sa.gov.au or at your regional CFS office.

Bushfire Action Plan - STAY & DEFEND.



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

Emergency: 000 Ambulance: 000 Family: _____

Police: 000 School: _____ Friends: _____

CFS Bushfire Hotline: 1300 362 361 Family: _____ Friends: _____

ON HIGH FIRE RISK DAYS OR ACTUAL FIRE DAYS.

- Implement your Bushfire Action Plan – Be Bushfire Ready.
- Monitor local ABC radio station or 5AA for information on bushfire.

ACTUAL FIRE DAYS:

As the fire approaches:

As the fire front arrives:

After the fire has passed:

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Bushfire Information & Warning Messages.

The CFS has developed an information and warning system to keep the community informed about significant bushfires.

On High Risk Fire days you should listen to your local ABC radio station or 5AA for these bushfire messages.

The messages are designed to provide important information about bushfires. The information provided is likely to include:

- the location of the fire;
- where it is expected to move next;
- the risks faced by people in the area;
- what the public is advised to do about those risks; and
- what the CFS is doing about the situation.

Although the CFS will provide as much information as possible, it is the responsibility of every South Australian to ensure they are adequately prepared for a bushfire and know what to do should one occur.

Please note the Information and Warning messages are not a substitute for good planning on your part.

