

## BUSHFIRE

### BEING PREPARED

#### Plan and prepare for fire season

Every household and property in the Strathbogie Shire, and indeed Victoria, needs to prepare their property in the event of a bushfire.

Bushfires and grassfires pose a significant threat to all those living, working or travelling in our area. Preparation and planning can save you and your family from being killed by fire.

Earlier this year there was a threatening fire on the Balmattum Hill burning 400 hectares.

Now is the time for homeowners and landowners to be proactive and clean up around their property before the onset of warm weather and the summer fire season.

It's time to make sure that the excess fuel ie long grass, wood, debris and flammable items is cleared away from your home or landholding.

The Country Fire Authority Act (CFA Act) states that landowners or occupiers have a responsibility to ensure that their property does not contribute to be a fire risk that may endanger other people's property or life.

Council inspectors will undertake property inspections commencing in September to make sure areas are cleared before the bush fire season commences.

#### Helpful fire safety plan?

If you don't already have a fire safety plan in place there are many useful resources on the CFA website [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

To help prepare your personal evacuation kit, suggestions can be found on the Red Cross website [www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au) and look for the Rediplan information to have your kit ready.

These suggested kits are not something that you can gather in a short time. Therefore, we ask each household to take the time to prepare their emergency plan and kit and securely store it just in case you must evacuate at short notice.

For more information about reducing the risk of fire around your home please call the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer on 1800 065 993.

#### In case of a fire be prepared

Preparedness and prevention are the keys to a safe living environment. Every household should have a fire escape plan.

#### Make sure members of the household know:

- How to crawl low in smoke
- Different ways to leave each room and the house
- How to unlock doors and windows
- How to call the fire brigade – 000
- Where to meet outside (i.e. the letter box)
- Practice is the key – should be done on a monthly basis

#### Be prepared for fire

- Only working smoke alarms save lives.
- Keep them dust-free and change the batteries at the end of day light savings
- Test your smoke alarm weekly and clean monthly
- Be aware that children under the age of five don't always hear smoke alarms or understand the dangers of fire

- Keep a fire blanket and/or fire extinguisher in the kitchen and know how to use it / them
- Placement of fire blankets and fire extinguishers should be between where the fire is likely to occur in the kitchen and the exit
- Install an electrical safety switch – to be installed by a registered electrician
- Make a home fire escape plan with your family members and practise it regularly.

## Total Fire Ban

When information about severe weather is given or a Total Fire Ban is declared remember you are in the **Northern Country Region**.

Remember: do not rely on an official warning to leave. Emergencies can start quickly and threaten you within minutes.

If you receive a warning, take it seriously, failure to act can be fatal:

- Stay calm. Stop what you are doing and pay attention.
- Follow the advice of warnings immediately. People die or are put in danger because they don't respond right away.
- If you don't understand the warning, get someone to explain it. Ask neighbours, family or friends or call the VicEmergency Hotline.
- Keep in contact with family members. Make sure they know what is happening and what you plan to do.
- Stay informed. Keep listening for more information in case the situation changes.

Know where to get accurate emergency information from multiple sources. Never rely on just one source.

## Bushfire and grassfires

Remember bushfire and grassfires don't only impact those living in rural areas.

Fires can occur where the towns meet the bush or in urban areas where houses have grass, bushland or parkland around them.

## Easy web addresses

### Australian Red Cross

[redcross.org.au/prepare](http://redcross.org.au/prepare)

### SES

[ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready/emergency-plans-and-kits](http://ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready/emergency-plans-and-kits)

### CFA

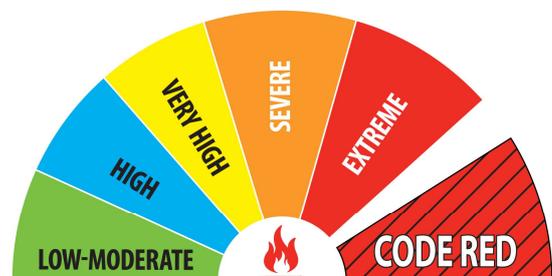
[cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-bushfire-plan](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-bushfire-plan)

### VicEmergency Hotline

Call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226 for preparation and planning information



**Total fire ban**



**FIRE DANGER RATING**