

Bushfires/Grassfires

Plan and prepare for the fire season

Victoria is one of the most fire prone areas in the world, and you don't have to live in the country to be at risk. Fires can occur in several settings, including, close to or among dense or open bush; close to or among grass and paddocks; where cities and towns meet grasslands; where suburbs meet the bush or grasslands; and near coastal scrub.

Bushfires and grassfires can pose a significant threat to people living, working and/or travelling in Strathbogie Shire. Now is the time to begin preparing your property ahead of summer. Actions such as keeping grass cut to less than 10cm, using pebbles or rocks in your garden (not flammable mulch), keeping gutters clear of leaf litter and removing flammable items from decks can all help to reduce the impact of fire on your home.

The Country Fire Authority Act states that landowners or occupiers have a responsibility to ensure that their property does not create a fire risk that may endanger life or property.

Council inspectors will undertake property inspections starting in October to make sure areas are cleared before the fire season begins.

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

Do you have a bushfire survival plan?

A well-thought-out written bushfire survival plan can help you if you live or holiday in high-risk bushfire areas of Victoria.

If you don't already have a bushfire survival plan there are many useful resources on the [CFA website](#).

Emergency Kits

Prepare an emergency evacuation kit, remembering to prepare for your pets as well. This is not something that should be done at the last minute during an emergency. Always have your kit ready and at hand and review its' contents regularly.

Learn more here:

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-and-during-a-fire/leave-early/what-to-take-with-you>

Staying informed

Download the VicEmergency app where you can get up-to-date Fire Danger Ratings and Total Fire Ban information, as well as information, warnings and the locations of current fires.

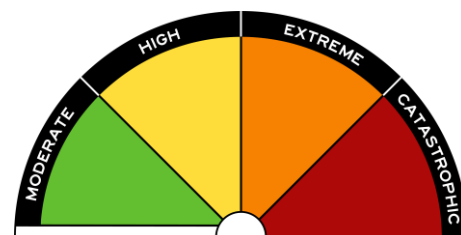
Make sure you know where to get accurate emergency information from other sources as well – such as ABC Radio or Sky News. Never rely on just one source.

Strathbogie Shire is in the **Northern Country Fire District**.



Total Fire Bans restrict the use of fire and activities that produce heat on days when fire will spread rapidly and be out of control.

Fire Danger Ratings tell you how dangerous a fire would be if one started.



Catastrophic

For your survival,
leave bush fire risk areas

Extreme

Take action now to protect your life and property

High

Be ready to act

Moderate

Plan and prepare

Warnings tell you that a fire has already started.

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.
- If you don't understand a 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.

Useful websites

- cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-bushfire-plan
- redcross.org.au/prepare
- emergency.vic.gov.au
- www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au

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

Fires in the home

Every household should have a written and practiced home 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
- Where to meet outside (e.g. the letter box)
- **To get out – and stay out**
- How to call the fire brigade – 000

Smoke alarms

By law, all residential properties in Victoria must have at least one smoke alarm installed on each level of their home.

Australian fire services recommend smoke alarms be installed in all living areas, hallways and bedrooms.

Install smoke alarms with a 10-year battery life.

If you have a smoke alarm with a 9-volt battery, replace the battery every year.

Test your smoke alarm monthly and dust regularly. Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.

Victorian fire and rescue services recommend that smoke alarms be interconnected, so that when any alarm activates, all smoke alarms sound.