



CHECKLIST LEAVING FOR A SAFER PLACE

AT THE START OF THE BUSHFIRE SEASON

- Complete the Preparing Your Survival Kit Checklist and the Preparing Your Property Checklist.
- Consider what you will do if you cannot leave for a safer place (have a backup plan).

ON THE DAY THE BUSHFIRE THREATENS

- Keep updated with bushfire information.
- Leave early – what is your trigger to go.
- Move livestock to a safe area and put your pets in a safe place.
- Put your survival kit including drinking water, food and medications to last four (4) days into your car.
- Pack personal items such as change of clothing for everyone, cash and credit cards, medications, mobile phone, and toys for children, and put them in the car.
- If your car is behind an electric garage door, take it out of the garage and position it in the driveway or on the side of the road.
- Remove any material that could burn easily from around your house, on decks, verandas and pergola areas. This includes mats, outdoor furniture and wood piles.
- Make sure everyone is wearing protective clothing – long pants, long sleeved shirt and sturdy shoes such as leather boots. Clothes should be loose fitting and made from natural fibres like pure wool, heavy cotton drill or denim. Do not wear synthetics.
- Close all doors, windows and shutters.
- Turn off the mains gas supply to the house and any gas cylinders.
- Do not forget to lock your home, shed and garage securely before you go.
- Let someone know where you are going, when you are going and how long you will be there.

RETURNING HOME

- Listen to the radio, check the DFES website or with local police for when it is safe for you to return home. Roads may be closed for some time while the area is made safe.

YOU AND YOUR FAMILY PLANNED TO LEAVE BUT IT IS TOO LATE:

- Bring your pets inside.
- Turn off your evaporative air conditioner but leave water running through the system if possible.
- Close all doors, windows and shutters.
- Fill basins, sinks, baths, troughs and buckets with water.
- Locate mops and other equipment.
- Soak towels and rugs in water, and lay along the inside of external doorways.
- Soak blankets and keep them handy for protection against radiant heat.
- Take down curtains and push furniture away from windows.
- Place a ladder and torch close to the manhole so you can regularly check the ceiling space for embers and spot fires.
- If people are expecting you to leave, let them know you were unable to and you are now staying.
- If you still have electricity, keep electricity on but be aware of electrical safety at all times.
- Take all hoses, hose fittings (including plastic tap attachments) and equipment inside.
- Move everyone into the house when you see flames or it is too hot and smoky to stay outside.
- Stay inside the house while the fire front passes. This normally takes between five and fifteen minutes. Check for any spot fires inside the house.
- Drink plenty of water to avoid becoming dehydrated.
- Tune into ABC radio for fire information. Make sure you have a battery operated radio and spare batteries.
- Read *Sheltering in a Bushfire* on page 20 of the Prepare Act Survive publication.