



## PREPARING FOR BUSHFIRE

The more prepared you are for emergencies, the less stressful they become. Some simple steps can help you to plan and prepare for unexpected events like bushfire and protect you, your loved ones and your property. Defending your home from a bushfire can be challenging and you will need the right equipment.

Leaving early is always the safest option. Only consider staying if your home is well prepared and well-constructed to withstand a fire and you are mentally and physically prepared to defend it.

### Prepare for bushfire

- Turn on sprinklers in your garden.
- Take photos/video of your property and contents to assist if you need to make a claim later.
- Turn off gas, ensure gas cylinders are upright with valves pointing away from building, turn off air-conditioner.
- Close all windows and doors.
- Seal gaps under doors and windows with wet towels.
- Block downpipes and fill guttering with water.
- Wet down the exterior of the building, and close shrubbery in the likely path of the bushfire.
- Wet down fine fuels close to buildings.
- Fill bath and containers with water.
- Put on protective clothing.
- Ensure access gates are unlocked.



### After the bushfire

- ◆ Listen to ABC Radio on a battery-powered radio for emergency updates.
- ◆ Don't return home until advised by authorities it is safe to do so.
- ◆ Wet debris down to minimise the risk of breathing in ash particles.
- ◆ Check inside roof cavity, under the house, deck, stairs etc for embers or sparks.
- ◆ Avoid damaged powerlines, poles and wires and fallen trees.
- ◆ Wear protective clothing such as mask, heavy leather gloves and boots.
- ◆ Patrol around your home for several hours looking for small fires and embers.
- ◆ If you think there may be asbestos, do not disturb or attempt to remove yourself.
- ◆ Avoid handling ash from treated timber as it may be toxic. If you must handle it, wet it down and wear a mask and protective clothing.
- ◆ Disconnect rainwater tanks. Clean tank, roof and gutters thoroughly before reconnecting.

### Equipment Checklist

- A hose, or hoses that can reach all around the house.
- Petrol/diesel water pump and fuel in a safe, accessible place.
- Ladders to access inside the roof.
- Buckets and mops.
- Shovels and metal rakes.
- Protective clothing - Wide brimmed hat, goggles, moistened facemask or cloth, long sleeved cotton shirt, gloves, long cotton pants/jeans, leather shoes or boots.

