

BUSHFIRE TRAVELLERS' CHECKLIST



**IF YOU ARE TRAVELLING OR
STAYING NEAR BUSHLAND,
FIRE IS A REAL RISK TO YOU.**



Bushfires can start suddenly and without warning throughout the year. In Western Australia people have been killed or seriously injured during bushfires. This checklist will help you understand the risk and know what to do if a bushfire starts.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Fire & Emergency Services**



Travelling in an area affected by bushfire is very dangerous and should be avoided. Leaving before a fire threatens the area is the safest option.



KNOW THE CURRENT FIRE DANGER RATING FOR THE AREA YOU ARE TRAVELLING TO

The Fire Danger Rating (FDR) gives you advice about the level of bushfire threat on a particular day. When the rating is high, the threat of a bushfire increases.

For more information about FDR's and what they mean visit:

- Emergency WA at emergency.wa.gov.au
- The Bureau of Meteorology at bom.gov.au/wa



FIND OUT IF THERE IS A TOTAL FIRE BAN IN THE AREA YOU ARE TRAVELLING TO

A Total Fire Ban (TFB) is declared on days of extreme weather or when widespread fires are seriously stretching firefighter resources. During a TFB, it is illegal to light a fire in open air or undertake any other activities that may start a fire.

- Check if there's a TFB in place by visiting Emergency WA (emergency.wa.gov.au) or call the TFB Hotline on 1800 709 355
- Find out more information on TFBs including restrictions around barbecues and campfires at dfes.wa.gov.au

BEFORE A BUSHFIRE



CATASTROPHIC

The worst conditions for a fire. Homes are not designed or built to withstand a fire in these conditions. The only safe place is away from bushfire risk areas.

EXTREME SEVERE VERY HIGH

Seek out information and be ready to leave or stay and actively defend your property if a fire starts. Only stay if you are 100% prepared.

HIGH LOW-MODERATE

Be vigilant. Check your fire plan and continue to monitor conditions as they can change quickly.

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BE PREPARED TO CHANGE YOUR TRAVEL PLANS IF THE FIRE DANGER RATING IS HIGH

Fire can come from any direction and paths can quickly become blocked. You should always be aware of your surroundings and look for signs of a bushfire, such as seeing or smelling smoke.

- **When the fire danger rating is high, have a back-up destination. A city or town may be safer than a bushland area.**
- **If you plan to visit a bushfire risk area, be prepared to change your travel plans at short notice should a fire start.**
- **If you are staying overnight, make a fire plan that includes any existing bushfire safety plans for the area where you are staying. This plan should include more than one route to leave the area.**

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PACK AN EMERGENCY KIT

Your emergency kit when travelling should include:

ESSENTIALS

- A copy of this brochure
- Map of the areas you are travelling
- Portable battery operated radio with spare batteries
- First aid kit and medication
- Woollen blankets
- Adequate amount of water
- Mobile phone and charger
- Protective clothing (Long-sleeved cotton tops, pants, hats and sturdy shoes)



More information on what to include in an emergency kit can be found at dfes.wa.gov.au



WHAT TO DO IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BUSHFIRE WHILE DRIVING

If you see smoke or flames, leave the area immediately by driving away from the fire. Do not wait and see.

- **If there is a lot of smoke, slow down and be aware.** There could be people, vehicles and livestock on the road.
- **Turn your car headlights on, close windows and outside vents.**
- **If you cannot see clearly, ensure you are not in the path of the fire and pull over to the side of the road.**
- **Keep your headlights and hazard lights on and wait until the smoke clears.**

If you become trapped by a fire

- **Park in an area with low or no vegetation off the roadway.**
- **Position the car facing towards the oncoming fire front.**
- **Turn headlights and hazard warning lights on to make the car as visible as possible.**
- **Tightly close all windows, doors and outside vents.**
- **Turn the air conditioning and engine off.**
- **Call 000.**
- **Get down as low as possible below the window level into the foot well and cover yourself under woollen blankets.**

Drink water to minimise the risk of dehydration.

- **Stay in the car until the fire front has passed and the temperature has dropped outside.**

Once the fire front has passed and the temperature has dropped, cautiously exit the car.



Sheltering inside a vehicle is a very high risk strategy that offers only a slightly higher chance of survival than being caught in the open. It is highly unlikely that a person will survive in all but the mildest circumstances.



KNOW THE BUSHFIRE WARNING SYSTEM

During a bushfire, emergency services issue community alerts and warnings. There are four levels of warning. These change to reflect the increasing risk to your life or property, and the decreasing amount of time you have until the fire arrives.



Bushfires can happen suddenly and change quickly. Stay alert to what is happening around you. If you believe you may be in danger, act immediately to stay safe.

DURING A BUSHFIRE



ADVICE



WATCH AND ACT



EMERGENCY WARNING



ALL CLEAR

ADVICE

A fire has started but there is no immediate danger. Stay alert and watch for signs of a fire.

WATCH AND ACT

A fire is approaching and is out of control. Put your plan into action. If your plan is to leave, make sure you leave early. Only stay if you are mentally, physically and emotionally prepared to defend your property and you have all the right equipment.

EMERGENCY WARNING

An out of control fire is approaching very fast. You need to act immediately to survive. If you haven't prepared your home it is too late. You must leave now if it is safe to do so.

ALL CLEAR

Take care to avoid any dangers and keep up to date.



KNOW WHERE TO GET THE LATEST BUSHFIRE INFORMATION FROM

In a major emergency, when lives and property are at risk, broadcasts will be issued on local ABC radio at a quarter to and a quarter past the hour.

Bushfire emergency information is available from



EMERGENCY WA
emergency.wa.gov.au



13 DFES (13 3337) or
NATIONAL RELAY SERVICE ON 1800 555 677
if you are hearing impaired.



LOCAL ABC RADIO
Check the frequency in the area that you are travelling.



YOUR SURROUNDINGS
Check for smoke or signs of fire around your home.



To report a fire, or in an emergency situation,
CALL TRIPLE ZERO (000)

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