



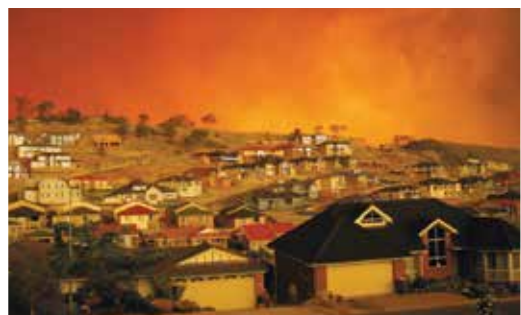
Staying and Defending

IF YOU ARE NOT PREPARED, STAYING AND DEFENDING CAN BE DANGEROUS

THERE ARE SOME SITUATIONS WHEN THE NSW RFS RECOMMENDS YOU SHOULD NOT STAY AND DEFEND:

- If it is a Catastrophic fire danger rating day
- If it is an Extreme fire danger day and your home has not been specially designed, constructed or modified to withstand a fire
- If your property is not well prepared and defensible
- If you are not feeling emotionally prepared and physically fit.

By choosing to Stay and Defend you and your family may be at risk of serious injury or death.



LEAVING EARLY
Is your safest option

Stay and Defend checklist:

- Do you have a Bush Fire Survival Plan?
- Do you know what your triggers are to put your plan into action?
- Is your property well prepared and maintained?
- Are you physically and emotionally prepared to defend your property?
- Do you know what to do before, during and after a bush fire?
- Do you have well maintained fire fighting equipment and does everyone planning to stay and defend know how to use it?
- Do you know what you will do if your power goes out?
- Do you have access to water for fire fighting like a dam, tank or pool? *(remember town water supplies can fail during emergencies)*
- Do you have appropriate personal protective clothing?
- Do you have an Emergency Survival Kit?
- Do you have a back-up plan?
- What will you do if there isn't a fire truck?

If there is any doubt in your mind, you should Leave Early

Not all homes are defensible, and not all people are able to cope with the ordeal of staying to defend their home. It is important that you consider your individual and family circumstances when making decisions about what you and your family should do.

PREPARE.

ACT.

SURVIVE.

BUSH FIRE INFORMATION LINE | 1800 679 737





Defending your Property

BEFORE FIRE IMPACTS YOU NEED TO BE ACTIVELY DEFENDING YOUR PROPERTY

1

Before the fire arrives at your home... you need to be actively defending your property

- Put on your protective clothing
- Turn on the radio to keep yourself informed
- Bring pets inside and keep them in one room
- Close all windows and doors
- Block spaces beneath doors and windows with wet towels
- Fill buckets, sinks and bath tubs with water ready to put out spot fires
- Have your firefighting equipment like pumps and hoses connected to your water supply
- Block downpipes and fill gutters with water
- Remove items which can burn from around your home like outdoor furniture
- Bring ladders inside to check roof space for embers
- Patrol the outside of your home putting out any embers or spot fires
- Just before the fire arrives, wet down timber decks and gardens close to the house
- Move any firefighting equipment to a place it will not get burnt

Stay up to date by listening to local radio, checking the NSW RFS website at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au or by calling the Bush Fire Information Line.

2

When the fire arrives... it's going to be hot, loud and dark

- Go inside but stay alert
- Shelter in a room on the opposite side of the house from the approaching fire and one that has a clear exit out of the house
- Patrol inside the house, including the roof space looking for sparks and embers
- Protect yourself from the heat of the fire
- If your life is at risk, call triple zero (000)

3

Once the fire has passed... you will need to patrol your property for hours

- Check your roof spaces
- Go outside and put out any part of your house which is alight
- Check under the house and any decks
- Check on your pets and animals
- Embers or sparks can start spot fires for many hours after the fire has passed
- If you can, contact your family and friends and check on your neighbours



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