

# Accessible Bushfire Resources

## FACT SHEET



cfa.vic.gov.au

CFA has a range of publications and resources available to provide information about Fire Danger Ratings and creating a Bushfire plan for your family. A range of alternative formats have been produced and are available via the CFA Website.

CFA considers accessibility design considerations into each publication to increase the reader's experience.

Where to access: [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/about-us/publications](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/about-us/publications)

### Tagged PDF's

Bushfire information is now available online as a tagged PDF allowing those who are blind or have low vision to access all the essential information thanks to the assistance of a screen reader and other assistive technology.

A screen reader reads out loud all the text on the screen, enabling our reader to access valuable fire safety information at home. To other readers the document looks the same.

### Podcasts and Audio books

Many people now prefer to access information via podcasts and in audio formats. CFA has audio versions of the following publications along with a series of fire safety messages. A series of podcasts are also available for listeners.

- Your Guide to Survival
- Fire Danger Ratings
- Can I or can't I?



Did you know that CFA provides **closed captions** with their video's? Don't forget to turn the captions on.

### Easy English

10 Summer bushfire topics have been translated into **Easy English**. These resources make information accessible to everyone, especially people who have a disability or where English is an additional language. Ideally, a support person assists the reader to read, understand and make decisions about the information.

Easy English is a writing style that helps people who find it hard to read and understand English. It has a lower reading level than 'Simple English', using short sentences with an image.

CFA works with other organisations to develop specialised resources for people with intellectual disabilities or who have autism to understand fire. Social story books are available for **Bushfire** and **Grassfire**. Contact [community.programs@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:community.programs@cfa.vic.gov.au) to access.



## Languages other than English

CFA has information about Fire Danger Ratings in a range of different languages. These language resources are on the [CFA website](#).

Arabic	Malay
Cantonese	Mandarin
Hakka Chin	Nepali
Hazara	Punjabi
Hindi	Urdu
Karen	Vietnamese

## Auslan

CFA now has videos with an Auslan interpreter accessible via the website. A series of Bushfire preparedness videos can be accessed via the [CFA Website](#) or the [Deaf emergency information website](#).

Auslan (Australian sign language) is the language of the Australian Deaf community, and is often the first language of this community and recognised as a language in its own right. Auslan has its own grammar and vocabulary, manual communication and gestures are used instead of sound to express the speaker's thoughts and meaning.

### Where to find accessible sources of information

- VicEmergency Hotline: **1800 226 226**.
- **National Relay Service:** callers who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech/communication impairment can contact the VicEmergency Hotline via the National Relay Service **1800 555 677**.
- **Interpreter 131 450:** If you do not speak English, call the Translating and Interpreting Service.
- Local news: listen to ABC Local Radio, commercial and designated community radio stations and watch Sky News TV.
- Check the [VicEmergency App](#) for up-to-date Fire Danger Rating and Total Fire Ban information, as well as warnings and the locations of current fires. Download the App for free for Apple and Android.
- VicEmergency: [emergency.vic.gov.au](#)
- CFA Website: [cfa.vic.gov.au](#)

## CFA training opportunities

CFA offers training for community workers and carers for example the modules **Bushfire Safety for Workers** and **Prevent Detect Escape**. Each of these modules provides advice for carers and enables a bushfire plan to be developed together with the person they care for. Bushfire Plan Templates are available in large print and consider the special needs of the person involved.

**Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (PCEP)** is a process that enables people with a disability to make emergency preparedness plans that are tailored to their individual support needs.

To find out more, contact :  
[community.programs@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:community.programs@cfa.vic.gov.au) or visit [cfa.vic.gov.au/atrisk](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/atrisk)

## First Nations

CFA offers a [First Nations Fire Danger Ratings fact sheet](#) featuring artwork created to highlight the importance of communication when planning, preparing for fire risk and ensuring we are working together to ensure families and Communities are kept safe.



Artwork by Emma Bamblett (Wemba, Gunditjara, Ngadjonji and Taungurung).