

**RESEARCH FOR THE VICTORIAN
COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY
ON COMMUNITY ATTITUDES
TO BUSHFIRE SAFETY
PRIOR TO 2007/08 SUMMER SEASON**

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BACKGROUND

The CFA has sought to investigate the attitudes and behaviours toward bushfire safety of members of the community in four fire prone areas namely around metropolitan Melbourne. All the areas are considered high risk, typical of much of the highly populated areas around Melbourne and regional towns

This research has been conducted before the commencement of the fire season in order to provide a benchmark upon which later data may be compared.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of this research is to investigate attitudes toward bushfire safety and bushfire preparedness in four communities.

METHODOLOGY

A telephone survey of 1024 households was conducted in a four locations in Victoria during November 2007.

A random sample of 1024 respondents in the area enables CFA to be 95% confident that the sample result is within 3.5% of the population value.

MANAGEMENT OF DATA COLLECTION

Our surveying of households was rigorous and comprehensive:

- One interview per household is obtained;
- Sample households are telephoned up to ten times in order to make contact to complete an interview;
- Only individuals within the sample were interviewed;
- Highly experienced interviewers (including those with previous CFA experience) were used

Audit

In order to continuously monitor quality, all telephone interviewing was completed on our premises under strict supervision. All surveys (telephone, in depth and door to door) are thoroughly audited consistent with AMSRS practices.

10% of each interviewer's calls are audited each at each interview session.

NOTES ON THE PRESENTATION OF QUANTITATIVE DATA

Computer rounding produces tables that add up to 100% +/- 1%.

Differences described as “significant” are statistically significant when tested with Chi-square at the 0.05 levels.

Other differences described indicate trends but may not reach statistical significance. Cross-tabulations where there are a number of categories having small numbers in some cells are provided as a guide only.

Analysis has been conducted only on the aggregate data (n=1024).

SECTION I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

A telephone survey of 1024 respondents in four high bushfire risk locations around Melbourne and regional towns was undertaken in November 2007.

Ever obtained information about Bushfire

93.5% of respondents had at some time received information about bushfire safety.

The two main sources of information were the local fire brigade (82.2%) and mail or letterbox drops (79.6%). These results reflect the high level of local activity by brigades in promoting bushfire safety.

Attendance at Bushfire safety meetings

Just over a third (34.6%) of all respondents have not attended any bushfire safety meetings in the past five years while 39.5% have attended either one meeting (16%) or 2-3 meetings (23.5%).

These figures reflect high levels of meeting activity conducted in bushfire prone areas in recent years and the high levels of participation. However significant numbers of respondents have had little involvement.

Expectation of fire truck or fire fighting aircraft assisting in property protection

56.6% of respondents said they thought it likely or very likely that a fire truck would come to protect their property in the event of a bushfire.

51.2% of respondents thought it likely or very likely that a fire fighting aircraft would come to their property to protect it if there was a bushfire.

CFA advises people that it cannot guarantee a fire truck at every house during a major bushfire. Similarly while fire fighting aircraft are frequently used to fight bushfires they cannot be guaranteed to be able to protect all threatened properties. An expectation that the fire services are very likely or likely to attend or provide protection to properties is unrealistic in many circumstances.

Opinions about aspects of bushfires

- 52.4% correctly believe that a timber house can provide effective protection from the effects of a fire front.
- However 39.3% think that houses are likely to explode from the heat of a bushfire and 30.1% think houses are destroyed in the short period of time it takes for the fire to pass through. These inaccurate beliefs about houses in bushfires are likely to reduce people's confidence that houses can provide protection during bushfires and also that people can reduce the risk to their house if they take appropriate protection measures.

Bushfire safety measures

Over eight out of ten respondents had already done the following:

- Remove leaf litter, undergrowth etc from 20-30m round house (88.0%)
- Clear gutters of leaves (88.0%)
- Move combustible materials such as firewood, fuel away from the house (86.9%)

- Get equipment such as ladder, bucket and mops for spot fires (86.8%)
- Cut back branches overhanging and remove bushes close to house (83.5%)

These measures reflect some of the basic actions recommended for property protection. CFA strongly urges people to undertake a comprehensive range of protection measures.

The safety measures respondents said they were unlikely to do, or would not do are as follows:

- Set up phone tree or system with neighbours to provide a warning about bushfire in area (37.7% unlikely to do and won't do)
- Obtain pump suitable for fire fighting (35.8%)
- Cover all gaps and underfloor spaces to reduce risk of sparks entering (22.5%)
- Obtain fire-fighting hoses to reach all parts of house (20.9%)
- Use landscaping or garden layout to reduce fire risk (18.3%)
- Prepare a kit of personal protective clothing for each member of household (17.1%)
- Install a non-mains water supply, eg tank, dam, pool (17.0%)

The lack of adoption of these important measures means that many properties may be vulnerable if a fire occurs.

Likelihood of action being taken if bushfire occurred in area

During a bushfire respondents were most likely to take the following precautions:

- Get equipment such as ladder, bucket and mops (90.3% would definitely do this)
- Fill baths, troughs and bins with water (81.8%)
- Remove outdoor furniture and doormats from decks or verandas (78.9%)
- Fill gutters with water (64.9%)

The action fewest respondents would definitely do (14.1%) and the largest proportion of respondents would not do (29.4%) is to place protective covers on the outsides of their windows.

Bushfire plan

90.6% of respondents say they do have a bushfire plan in place. CFA recommends people prepare a comprehensive bushfire survival plan. Although the large majority say they have a plan, important aspects of the plan preparation appear to be absent.

Plan preparation

Over seven out of ten respondents say they have to a very great extent undertaken the following preparation

- Discussed their plan with all members of household so they know what to do (75.0%)
- Have things organized and on hand in case fire occurred (70.1%)

In contrast, the important actions that tend not to be done at all by respondents are as follows:

- Written down important things to remember to do if a fire occurred (not done at all by 36.3%)
- Practised plan including using equipment that would be needed in fire (31.6%)

Bushfire actions

CFA advises people that they need to plan whether they will stay and defend their prepared property or leave early before the fire threatens and while they can still travel safely.

33.5% of respondents would stay and protect their house and property. This is a sound option if people are well prepared and both mentally and physical able to defend the property while it is under threat.

A further 22.6%% would do what they could to protect their property but leave if threatened by fire, and 17.2% would wait until advised what to do by the Emergency Services. Those who intend to wait and leave when threatened risk being unable to leave due to the fire or facing severe dangers due to leaving late and facing fire and other risks while travelling. Most people in bushfires die while trying to leave late in the face of the fire or attempting to travel through a fire affected area. Waiting until told what to do by emergency services is not recommended because people cannot be guaranteed of receiving a warning of an approaching fire.

21.5% would leave as soon as they became aware there was a fire in the area and 2.4% indicated they would leave the area on high risk days. Leaving early before a fire threatens is a safe option. On high risk days people need to stay alert for signs of fires and monitor the radio and be ready to implement their plan.

The data relating to plans and intended action during a bushfire indicates that a significant proportion of respondents have not adequately planned how to respond.

Ways of getting information about bushfires

In the event of a bushfire, 58.9% of respondents would listen to ABC radio to get information about what was happening. 35.6% would ring the local fire brigade and 34.1% would contact friends or neighbours.

Monitoring the radio, using the Victorian Bushfire Information Line as well as being alert to what is happening in the area and staying in contact with neighbours on high risk days are effective strategies as is monitoring websites. The level of recognition of how to stay in contact with what is happening reflects the increased priority and activity of the fire services to provide effective information to the community.

SECTION II: SURVEY DATA

OBTAINED INFORMATION ABOUT BUSHFIRE SAFETY

Respondents were asked:

Have you received or obtained any information about bushfire safety in the past?

Received or obtained information about bushfire safety in the past	Combined N=1024	Area 1 N=278	Area 2 N=306	Mt Area 3 N=224	Area 4 N=216
Yes	93.5	93.5	93.8	96.4	89.8
No	6.5	6.5	6.2	3.6	10.2

The vast majority of respondents (93.5%) said they had received information about bushfire safety in the past.

SOURCE OF BUSHFIRE SAFETY INFORMATION

Respondents were asked:

Did you get information from any of the following?

Source of bushfire safety information	Combined N=1024	Area 1 N=278	Area 2 N=306	Mt Area 3 N=224	Area 4 N=216
Advertising on TV or radio	52.6	57.3	52.3	47.2	52.8
TV news	48.6	50.4	49.7	42.1	51.8
Internet or online	18.4	18.1	20.2	18.5	16.1
Newspaper	55.3	49.2	59.9	53.2	58.5
Radio news	46.2	43.2	45.6	47.7	49.5
Victorian Bushfire information line	18.5	18.1	18.5	20.7	16.6
Mail or letterbox	79.6	81.2	85.7	82.4	65.3
Local fire brigade	82.2	86.9	85.0	84.6	68.9

Two sources of bushfire safety information were reported by over three quarters of respondents namely:

- The local fire brigade (82.2%)
- Mail or letterbox drops (79.6%)

Other key sources of information received by over half the respondents were:

- Newspaper (55.3%)
- Advertising on TV or radio (52.6%)

ATTENDANCE AT BUSHFIRE SAFETY MEETINGS

Respondents were asked:

Approximately how many times over the last five years have you attended some sort of meeting related to bushfire safety?

Number of meetings attended	Combined N=1024	Area 1 N=278	Area 2 N=306	Mt Area 3 N=224	Area 4 N=216
None	34.6	32.9	33.1	32.7	41.0
1	16.0	18.4	13.2	17.0	15.7
2-3	23.5	26.0	23.2	22.4	21.9
4-5	15.9	14.4	16.6	20.2	12.4
6+	10.0	8.3	13.9	7.6	9.0

Approximately one third of respondents (34.6%) say they have not attended any bushfire safety meetings in the last five years.

Four in ten respondents say they have attended one meeting (16%) or 2-3 meetings (23.5%).

EXPECTATION OF FIRE TRUCK OR FIRE FIGHTING AIRCRAFT ASSISTING IN PROTECTING PROPERTY

Respondents were asked:

If a bushfire occurred in the area where you live, how likely do you think it would be that a fire truck or fire fighting aircraft would come to your property to protect it if it was threatened?

Likelihood of fire truck or aircraft coming to property to help protect it	Combined N=1024	Area 1 N=278	Area 2 N=306	Mt Area 3 N=224	Area 4 N=216
Fire Truck					
Very Likely	25.5	21.6	30.4	21.3	28.2
Likely	31.1	28.6	37.9	26.7	29.7
Not likely	21.5	27.1	15.4	26.7	17.2
Very unlikely	18.3	19.7	13.0	22.6	19.6
Don't know	3.5	3.0	3.4	2.7	5.3
Fire fighting aircraft					
Very Likely	17.0	10.8	28.5	13.2	12.9
Likely	34.2	31.6	35.1	37.0	33.5
Not likely	24.1	31.2	17.5	24.7	23.4
Very unlikely	17.4	19.0	12.0	19.6	20.6
Don't know	7.3	7.4	6.9	5.5	9.6

Over half (56.6%) of respondents said they thought it likely or very likely that a fire truck would come to protect their property in the event of a bushfire.

Nearly one in four (39.8%) thought that this was not likely or very unlikely.

Just over half (51.2%) of respondents thought it likely or very likely that a fire fighting aircraft would come to their property to protect it if there was a bushfire.

Just over four in ten (41.5%) thought this was not likely or very unlikely.

OPINIONS ABOUT ASPECTS OF BUSHFIRES

Respondents were asked:

Would you say the following statements are generally true or false?

Statement pertaining to bushfire (% True shown in columns)	Combined N=1024	Area 1 N=278	Area 2 N=306	Mt Area 3 N=224	Area 4 N=216
Houses are likely to explode from the heat of a bushfire	39.3	37.2	38.4	35.5	47.4
Don't know	6.6	5.9	6.8	7.4	6.2
Most houses are destroyed in the short period of time it takes for the fire to pass through	30.1	27.5	29.2	24.3	40.9
Don't know	6.0	8.9	4.8	3.7	6.3
A timber house can provide effective protection from the effects of a fire front	52.4	51.3	52.8	56.0	49.5
Don't know	7.6	7.8	7.9	5.5	9.2

Just over half (52.4%) of respondents believe that a timber house can provide effective protection from the effects of a fire front.

Approximately one in four (39.3%) respondents think that houses are likely to explode from the heat of a bushfire.

One in three (30.1%) respondents think houses are destroyed in the short period of time it takes for the fire to pass through.

BUSHFIRE SAFETY MEASURES

Respondents were asked:

For your household, which of the following measures have been done or may be done in the future?

Bushfire safety measure	Combined N=1024			
	Have done it	Intend to do it	Unlikely to do	Definitely won't do
Install a non-mains water supply, eg tank, dam, pool	69.3	13.8	10.8	6.2
Remove leaf litter, undergrowth etc from 20-30m round house	88.0	7.4	2.4	2.1
Obtain fire-fighting hoses to reach all parts of house	65.3	13.8	15.0	5.9
Obtain pump suitable for fire-fighting	49.1	15.1	24.0	11.8
Get equipment such as ladder, bucket, mops for spot fires	86.8	8.4	2.4	2.3
Move combustible materials such as fire wood, fuel away from house	86.9	9.8	2.3	0.9
Prepare a kit of personal protective clothing for each member of household	54.3	28.6	13.6	3.5
Use landscaping or garden layout to reduce fire risk	74.7	6.9	12.9	5.4
Cover all gaps and underfloor paces to reduce risk of sparks entering	60.2	17.3	13.0	9.5
Cut back branches overhanging and remove bushes close to house	83.5	9.1	4.4	3.0
Clear gutters of leaves	88.0	10.7	0.5	0.7
Set up phone tree or system with neighbours to provide a warning about bushfire in area	43.2	19.1	28.5	9.2

There were five safety measures that over eight out of ten respondents had already done, namely:

- Remove leaf litter, undergrowth etc from 20-30m round house (88.0%)
- Clear gutters of leaves (88.0%)
- Move combustible materials such as firewood, fuel away from the house (86.9%)
- Get equipment such as ladder, bucket and mops for spot fires (86.8%)
- Cut back branches overhanging and remove bushes close to house (83.5%)

The safety measures respondents said they were unlikely to do or would not do are as follows:

- Set up phone tree or system with neighbours to provide a warning about bushfire in area (37.7% unlikely to do and won't do)
- Obtain pump suitable for fire fighting (35.8%)
- Cover all gaps and underfloor paces to reduce risk of sparks entering (22.5%)
- Obtain fire-fighting hoses to reach all parts of house (20.9%)
- Use landscaping or garden layout to reduce fire risk (18.3%)
- Prepare a kit of personal protective clothing for each member of household (17.1%)
- Install a non-mains water supply, eg tank, dam, pool (17.0%)

SAFETY MEASURES BY LOCATION

Bushfire safety measure	% Have done it			
	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4
Install a non-mains water supply, eg tank, dam, pool	86.2	62.4	81.4	44.2
Remove leaf litter, undergrowth etc from 20-30m round house	88.4	86.2	90.8	87.1
Obtain fire-fighting hoses to reach all parts of house	72.8	56.6	70.8	62.0
Obtain pump suitable for fire-fighting	67.3	38.4	61.8	27.4
Get equipment such as ladder, bucket, mops for spot fires	87.3	88.9	86.8	83.2
Move combustible materials such as fire wood, fuel away form house	85.4	87.2	89.9	85.4
Prepare a kit of personal protective clothing for each member of household	52.8	51.9	57.8	56.0
Use landscaping or garden layout to reduce fire risk	76.7	68.3	79.9	75.6
Cover all gaps and underfloor paces to reduce risk of sparks entering	58.4	60.2	64.7	57.7
Cut back branches overhanging and remove bushes close to house	83.0	80.8	88.8	82.4
Clear gutters of leaves	86.1	87.4	90.0	89.4
Set up phone tree or system with neighbours to provide a warning about bushfire in area	36.0	53.8	49.1	31.6

LIKELIHOOD OF ACTION IF BUSHFIRE OCCURRED IN AREA

Respondents were asked:

If a fire occurred in your general area and you were at home how likely is it the following actions would be done?

Action during bushfire	Combined N=1024	Area 1 N=278	Area 2 N=306	Mt Area 3 N=224	Area 4 N=216
Place protective covers on outside of windows					
Would definitely do it	14.0	12.5	13.8	12.8	17.4
May do it	11.1	12.1	10.0	11.5	11.1
Unlikely to do it	45.5	42.4	45.2	43.6	51.7
Would not do it	29.4	33.0	31.0	32.1	19.8
Fill gutters with water					
Would definitely do it	64.9	67.7	65.9	67.6	57.2
May do it	14.9	17.5	13.4	9.7	19.2
Unlikely to do it	12.5	9.5	10.7	15.3	15.9
Would not do it	7.7	5.3	10.0	7.4	7.7
Remove outdoor furniture and doormats from decks or verandas					
Would definitely do it	78.9	78.7	83.2	81.9	70.2
May do it	8.7	10.3	5.2	7.9	12.5
Unlikely to do it	7.1	7.6	5.2	6.0	10.1
Would not do it	5.2	3.4	6.3	4.2	7.2
Fill baths troughs and bins with water					
Would definitely do it	81.8	83.7	83.6	84.4	74.0
May do it	8.3	8.3	7.7	5.0	12.5
Unlikely to do it	7.0	6.8	5.9	7.8	7.7
Would not do it	3.0	1.1	2.8	2.8	5.8
Get equipment such as ladder, buckets and mops					
Would definitely do it	90.3	91.6	91.0	91.5	86.5
May do it	3.7	5.0	2.1	2.3	5.8
Unlikely to do it	3.5	3.1	4.2	3.8	2.9
Would not do it	2.5	0.4	2.8	2.3	4.8

Respondents were most likely to take the following precautions during a bushfire:

- Get equipment such as ladder, bucket and mops (90.3% would definitely do this)
- Fill baths, troughs and bins with water (81.8%)
- Remove outdoor furniture and doormats from decks or verandas (78.9%)
- Fill gutters with water (64.9%)

The action fewest respondents would definitely do (14.1%) and the largest proportion of respondents would not do (29.4%) is to place protective covers on the outsides of their windows.

BUSHFIRE PLAN

Respondents were asked:

Do you have a plan of what you and others in your household would do if a bushfire occurred in the area where you live?

Bushfire Plan	Combined N=1024	Area 1 N=278	Area 2 N=306	Mt Area 3 N=224	Area 4 N=216
Yes	90.6	94.4	90.6	90.0	86.1
No	9.4	5.6	9.4	10.0	13.9

The vast majority of respondents (90.6%) say they have a plan for their household in the event of a bushfire in their area.

PLAN PREPARATION

Respondents were asked:

To what extent have you done the following?

Plan Preparation	Combined N=1024	Area 1 N=278	Area 2 N=306	Mt Area 3 N=224	Area 4 N=216
Gathered information to you work out what to do if a bushfire occurred					
Very great extent	62.5	58.7	64.3	65.5	62.0
Some extent	25.6	28.2	22.8	26.4	25.1
A little	8.4	9.1	9.5	6.6	7.8
Not at all	3.5	4.0	3.4	1.5	5.0
Discussed your plan with all members of household so they know what to do					
Very great extent	75.0	78.7	74.1	73.3	72.8
Some extent	15.8	14.1	16.0	16.9	16.7
A little	4.5	2.4	5.7	5.6	4.4
Not at all	4.7	4.8	4.2	4.1	6.1
Practised your plan including using equipment that would be needed in fire					
Very great extent	36.2	38.5	34.7	37.2	33.9
Some extent	18.8	22.2	17.6	20.4	13.9
A little	13.5	10.3	14.9	14.3	15.0
Not at all	31.6	29.0	32.8	28.1	37.2
Written down important things to remember to do if a fire occurred					
Very great extent	38.6	35.6	36.5	40.3	43.8
Some extent	15.9	12.0	16.7	19.4	16.3
A little	9.2	10.8	9.5	8.7	7.3
Not at all	36.3	41.6	37.3	31.6	32.6
Thought about what you would do if unexpected and undesirable things happened during bushfire eg loss of power					
Very great extent	52.7	55.2	50.0	58.5	46.6
Some extent	23.7	20.6	26.5	25.6	21.9
A little	10.6	12.7	11.9	6.7	10.1
Not at all	13.0	11.5	11.5	9.2	21.3
Have things organized and on hand in case fire occurred					
Very great extent	70.1	69.8	69.0	77.8	63.7
Some extent	20.3	20.2	20.3	17.5	23.5
A little	6.4	6.3	6.9	3.6	8.9
Not at all	3.2	3.6	3.8	1.0	3.9
Worked out how you would communicate with family and friends during a bushfire					
Very great extent	61.0	57.4	61.1	65.5	61.2
Some extent	19.5	20.7	22.5	16.5	16.9
A little	7.9	8.0	6.1	9.3	9.0
Not at all	11.5	13.9	10.3	8.8	12.9

Two features of bushfire planning which over seven in ten respondents have undertaken to a very great extent are:

- Discussed their plan with all members of household so they know what to do (75.0%)
- Have things organized and on hand in case fire occurred (70.1%)

Over six in ten respondents said that to a very great extent they had already:

- Gathered information to work out what to do if a bushfire occurred (62.5%)
- Worked out how they would communicate with family and friends during a bushfire (61.0%)

In contrast, the actions that tend not to be done at all by respondents are as follows:

- Written down important things to remember to do if a fire occurred (not done at all by 36.3%)
- Practised plan including using equipment that would be needed in fire (31.6%)
- Thought about what they would do if unexpected and undesirable things happened during bushfire eg loss of power (13.0%)

STAY OR GO

Respondents were asked:

Which one of the following actions are you most likely to take if all members of your household were at home when a bushfire occurred in your area?

Actions you would take	Combined N=1024	Area 1 N=278	Area 2 N=306	Mt Area 3 N=224	Area 4 N=216
Stay throughout fire to try and protect house and property	33.5	42.3	28.5	41.9	20.6
Do as much as possible to protect house but leave if threatened by the fire	22.6	21.0	19.7	21.2	30.1
Stay but leave if advised to do so by ES	17.2	11.2	21.7	19.4	16.3
Leave as soon as aware there is a fire in the area	21.5	19.9	21.4	15.7	29.7
I would not be home as I intend to leave area on days of high fire danger	2.4	2.2	4.7	1.4	0.5
Don't know what I would do	1.9	1.9	2.7	0.5	2.4
Not applicable (no other adult or dependent in house)	0.9	1.5	1.4	-	0.5

One third of respondents (33.5%) said that they would stay and protect their house and property, while a further 39.8% said they would do what they could to protect their property, but leave if threatened by fire, or advised to do so by the Emergency Services (22.6% and 17.2%).

About one in five (21.5%) would leave as soon as they became aware there was a fire in the area.

WAYS OF GETTING INFORMATION ABOUT BUSHFIRES

Respondents were asked:

If you became aware there was a bushfire in the general area where you live, what would you do to find out more information about what was happening?

How respondents would get information about bushfire	Combined N=1024	Area 1 N=278	Area 2 N=306	Mt Area 3 N=224	Area 4 N=216
Listen to ABC radio	58.9	45.3	48.7	76.3	72.7
Listen to other radio	29.8	25.9	28.1	24.1	43.1
Ring Bushfire Information Line	22.3	15.8	17.3	29.5	30.1
Ring local brigade	35.6	36.0	28.1	40.2	40.7
Go to local vantage point to have a look	10.9	5.8	9.5	12.9	17.6
Contact friends or neighbours	34.1	24.8	33.7	43.3	37.0
Wait for emergency services to contact me	3.7	1.8	2.9	4.0	6.9
Don't know/not sure	0.8	0.4	1.3	0.4	0.9
Other	34.9	34.5	43.1	37.1	21.3

*Multiple responses allowed

In the event of a bush fire, almost six in ten respondents said they would listen to ABC radio (58.9%) to get information about what was happening.

Approximately a third of respondents said that they would ring the local fire brigade (35.6%) or contact friends or neighbours (34.1%) to get information.

OTHER WAYS INFORMATION OBTAINED IN CASE OF BUSHFIRE

Other ways respondents would get information in case of bushfire	Combined	Area 1	Area 2	Mt Area 3	Area 4
	357 responses	107 responses	142 responses	91 responses	46 responses
% response					
Scanner/CB radio	27.9	26.2	41.5	17.6	10.6
Internet	54.8	53.3	47.2	64.8	61.7
TV	8.5	11.2	5.6	7.7	12.8
Police/Ring 000	2.8	1.9	2.1	3.3	6.4
Other	5.9	7.5	3.5	6.6	8.5

*Multiple responses allowed

Considering the one third of the respondents (34.9%) who cited other ways of obtaining information, over half (54.8%) of this group said they would use the Internet including the CFA website while over a quarter (27.9%) said they would use a radio scanner to get information.

SECTION III: DEMOGRAPHICS

Distance to nearest bush land	Combined N=1024	Area 1 N=278	Area 2 N=306	Mt Area 3 N=224	Area 4 N=216
Less than 100m	61.3	56.1	65.0	66.5	57.4
100-500m	27.1	32.0	23.9	21.9	30.6
>500m	11.6	11.9	11.1	11.6	12.0
Type of Property					
House on residential block	51.0	17.5	62.7	43.3	85.4
Hobby farm or small acreage	44.5	76.3	33.0	51.8	12.7
House on large farm	2.4	4.7	0.7	3.6	0.5
Other	2.1	1.5	3.6	1.3	1.4
Gender					
Male	44.1	45.3	46.7	44.6	38.4
Female	55.9	54.7	53.3	55.4	61.6