

Introduction

Am I at Risk?

The information in this booklet is for people living in high-risk bushfire or grassfire areas of Victoria. It is designed to help you understand your risk, know the basics of how fire behaves and think about what you might do on fire risk days. Having this know-how is an important first step to being well prepared.



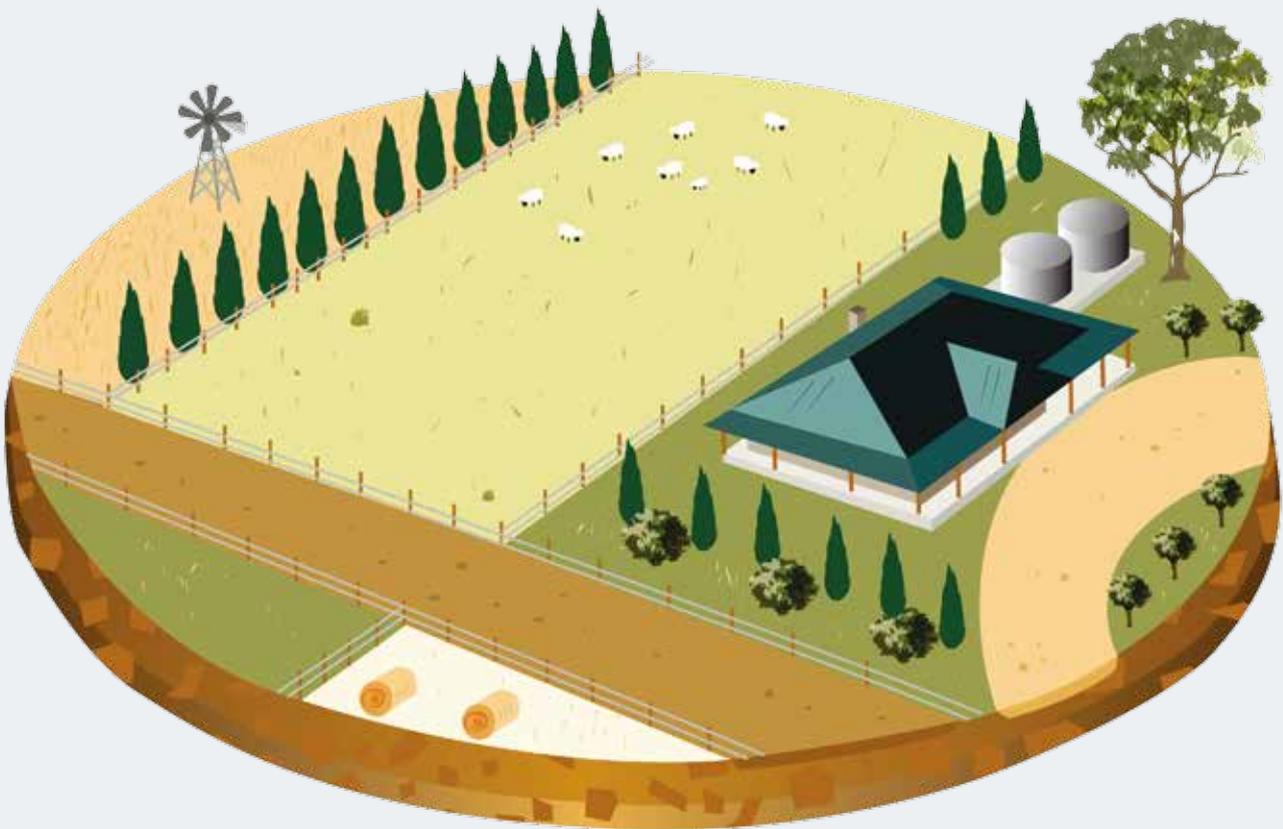
If you live in one of these environments, you need to plan and prepare before the fire season.

- A** Close to or among grass or paddocks
- B** Close to or among dense or open bush
- C** Near coastal scrub
- D** Where suburbs meet the bush or grasslands

Close to or among grass or paddocks

A

Grassfires can be extremely dangerous – people can die in grassfires.

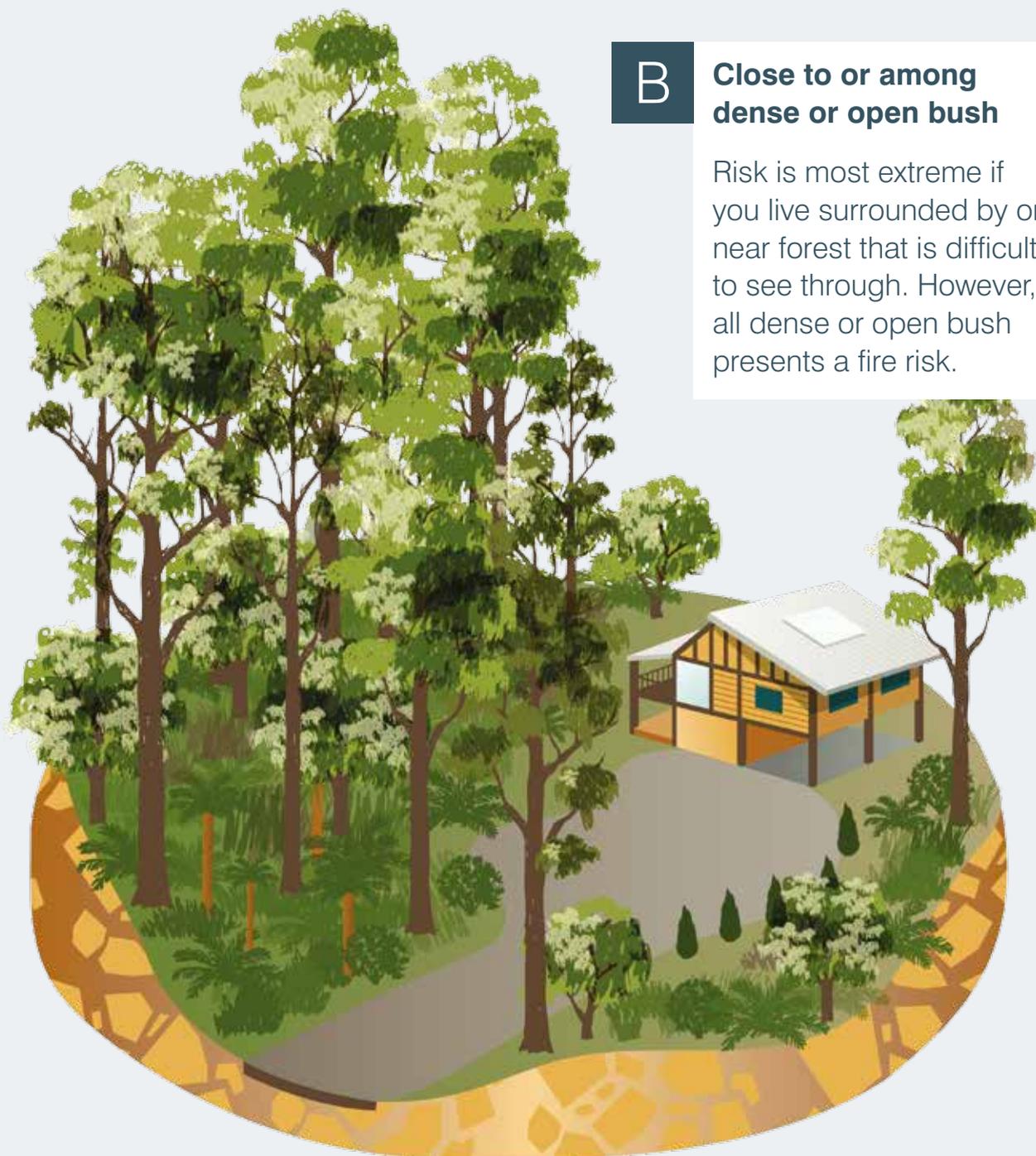


What can you expect?

- ✓ Dry and brown grass that easily catches fire.
- ✓ Grass more than 10 centimetres tall will have a higher flame height and intensity.
- ✓ Faster burning fires than through forests as grass is a finer fuel.
- ✓ Large amounts of radiant heat.
- ✓ Fires that can start early in the day.
- ✓ Fires that can surge up to 25 kilometres per hour at times.

B Close to or among dense or open bush

Risk is most extreme if you live surrounded by or near forest that is difficult to see through. However, all dense or open bush presents a fire risk.



What can you expect?

- ✓ Very hot fires and many embers.
- ✓ Embers such as twigs, bark and debris from far away.
- ✓ Dangerous levels of radiant heat and fire intensity.
- ✓ Trees falling in high winds.
- ✓ Embers landing a long time after the fire has passed.
- ✓ Fine fuels (the thickness of a pencil or less) that burn very quickly.
- ✓ Heavy fuels that will burn very hot for a long time.
- ✓ A reduction in visibility due to very thick smoke.

Near coastal scrub

C

Burning scrub, heath or other coastal vegetation can create hot, dangerous bushfires. If you live by, work by or travel to the coast you are at risk. Beaches, foreshores and shallow waters may not be safe or protect you from radiant heat. A fire may be burning between you and the beach.



What can you expect?

- ✓ Very hot and fast-moving fires.
- ✓ Gusty ocean winds causing fire to behave erratically.
- ✓ A lot of embers.
- ✓ Fire reaching houses quickly.
- ✓ Congested coastal roads.

D Where suburbs meet the bush or grasslands

You do not have to live in the bush to be at risk of bushfire. Suburban homes can burn in bushfire too.



What can you expect?

- ✓ Scrub, forest and grass catching fire.
- ✓ A fire in a park or reserve quickly spreading to timber fences and gardens.
- ✓ Fire spreading from house to house.
- ✓ A high risk of ember attack if the house is near dense bushland.
- ✓ Embers falling close to or on your house which can start a new fire.
- ✓ Strong winds that bring embers from far away.

