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## **Section Six** Defending Your Property

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## Defending Your Property

Defending your home requires at least two fit and determined adults who are physically and mentally able to work in arduous and difficult conditions.



Defending also requires at least 10,000 litres of water, protective clothing, and appropriate firefighting hoses and pumps.

Defending your home is risky – you could be seriously injured, suffer psychological trauma or die. The safest option is to be well away from the threat.

**Do not expect a fire truck to help you defend your home.**

# Can I stay and defend?

If you are confident that you are capable and prepared to actively defend your property, CFA strongly recommends that you **read all sections of this Kit** – not just this section in isolation. Defending a home requires a detailed understanding of bushfire risk and behaviour, property preparation, Fire Danger Ratings, warnings and alerts, and sheltering options, among other areas. This information is outlined earlier in this Kit.

In high-risk areas, leaving early is the safest option on **Code Red** days. Do not wait and see. Know your trigger to leave – make a decision about when you will leave, where you will go, how you will get there, when you will return and what you will do if you cannot leave.

Most houses are not designed or constructed to withstand fires in **Code Red** conditions. Defending your home is very risky. You could be seriously injured or die.

Only consider staying with your property on **Severe** or **Extreme** days if you are fully prepared and can actively defend your home.

Defending a house requires at least two fit and determined adults who are physically and mentally prepared to work long and hard in arduous and difficult conditions.

If you are not prepared to the highest level, leaving high-risk bushfire areas early is your safest option.

## UNPREPARED PROPERTIES

Staying with an unprepared property is very dangerous and could cost you your life.

If you have not prepared your property before the fire season you should leave before bushfire threatens.

## FOUR FACTORS TO CONSIDER

There are four important factors to consider when planning to defend your property:

- 1 Personal capacity
- 2 Property preparation
- 3 House design and construction
- 4 Recommended equipment and resources.

## Remember

Even people who are extremely well prepared can die fighting fires at their home. The best way to survive a bushfire is to be away from the threat.

- › A bushfire can destroy your house even if your house is bushfire ready.
- › People get hurt and die in bushfires.
- › Survival must be your main priority.
- › Most houses in high-risk bushfire areas are not built to withstand bushfire.
- › Defending your home is risky and complex.

# Personal capacity

Defending your home will be extremely hard work and requires significant resources. It may take hours and sometimes days of extreme effort. Children, the elderly, and people with special needs or a disability should be well away from the threat.

## If you stay and defend your house it will be:

- › traumatic
- › physically and mentally tiring
- › hard to see
- › hard to breathe
- › very noisy
- › very hot.

## Do not stay and defend if you have:

- asthma
- a heart problem
- other illness/disability.

## Do not stay and defend if you are with a person who:

- has a physical disability
- has an intellectual disability
- has emotional or mental health problems
- is sick
- is elderly
- is a child less than 16 years old.

## Property preparation

Section 5 (*Preparing Your Property*) of this Kit outlines what is required to prepare your property before the fire season.

No matter how well you prepare, if you live in a high-risk area your home may not be defensible on **Severe, Extreme** or **Code Red** fire risk days.

## House design and construction

How well your house is constructed and designed plays a big part in how it will withstand a fire.

CFA and the Building Commission have produced a guide to better prepare your home. Download *A Guide to Retrofit your Home for Better Protection from a Bushfire* from [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au)

If you're building a new home or significantly extending your existing home, certain bushfire planning and building requirements may apply. For more information, see *CFA's Planning for Bushfire Victoria* guidelines at [cfa.vic.gov.au/pbv](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/pbv)

# Water, equipment and resources

## Water supply

To defend your property, you will need a *minimum* of 10,000 litres of water that you reserve only for fighting fires. Consider 40,000 litres to be a realistic amount of water – many people in the Black Saturday bushfires used more than this to defend their homes.

Your water supply needs to be independent from the mains (reticulated) water supply because you will not be able to rely on mains water during a bushfire.

## Water tanks

If you can, install (or reserve) a 10,000-litre tank specifically for firefighting purposes. Your tanks should ideally be made from galvanised iron or concrete, as plastic tanks can melt.

If you do have a plastic tank, protect it from radiant heat by constructing a barrier – this could be a brick wall or corrugated iron sheeting.

A good alternative is to use a below-ground tank or to bury an existing tank.

- › Place the tank close to the buildings you need to protect.
- › Make sure you can access the water easily.
- › Remove vegetation around it.

Alternatively, use a variety of sources such as multiple smaller tanks, a dam (keeping in mind that it could dry up over summer) or a swimming pool.



As a minimum, you should have:

- › at least 10,000 litres of water
- › a firefighting pump
- › firefighting hoses that reach around your home
- › protective clothing.

## Additional water storage

Make a list of other places where you could strategically store water around your property. Consider:

- › 44-gallon drums
- › Rubbish bins (wheelie bins work well provided they are not exposed to extreme heat)
- › Wheelbarrows
- › Troughs
- › Garden ponds.

Ideally, keep these filled up throughout the fire season, covering them for safety purposes. Otherwise, fill them up on fire risk days as part of your plan (remember it will be too late to do this when a fire is coming).

## Piping

If your water supply is stored in a tank, it is important to think about how the piping is constructed or installed.

## Water supply

Above-ground piping and fittings should be made of copper, brass or steel. If your pipes are made of plastic, make every effort to protect them from heat by covering or burying.

The recommended depths for installing below-ground piping are:

- › Subject to vehicle traffic: 300mm
- › Under houses or concrete slabs: 75mm
- › All other locations: 225mm.

## Tank fittings

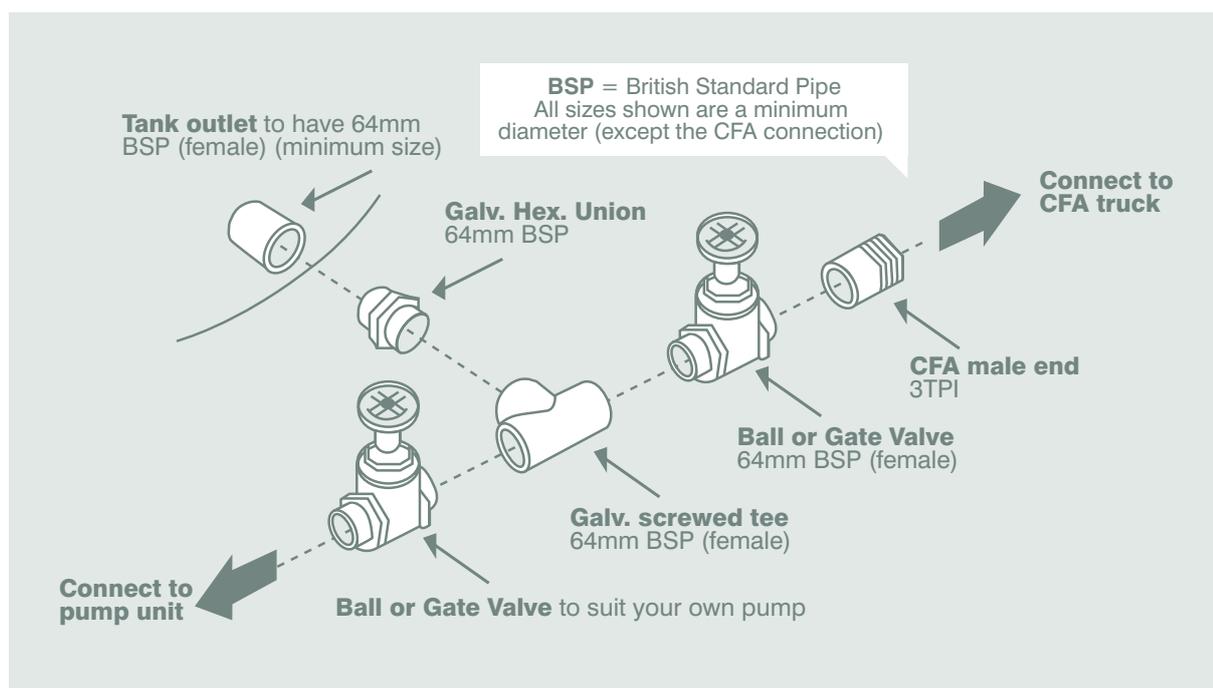
Above-ground tanks should have a CFA-compatible tank fitting. It is best to have a 'T'-type fitting with two outlets – one for CFA and one for you. This will allow you to operate your hoses alongside a CFA truck.

The diagram below shows a 'T'-type fitting with CFA specifications.

Remember:

- › All pipework and valving between the water supply and the outlet must be no less than 50mm nominal bore.
- › If the tank is less than 20 metres from your house, the outlets should face away from the building to allow access by CFA fire trucks. It could be a hazard if a truck is forced to fill up between the tank and a burning house.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** People who choose to defend their homes should prepare to do so without assistance from emergency services.



## Firefighting pump

You'll almost certainly need a firefighting pump to deliver water from your independent water supply.

If you have an electric water pump, you will need to have a generator that has enough capacity to start and run the pump. Never rely on mains power operating during a bushfire. A good supplier should be able to provide you with advice about what size pump you need.

This will depend on:

- › The source of the water and how far away it is
- › Piping size, length and configuration
- › The number of outlets you will be using at the same time, including any sprinkler outlets
- › The size and length of the hoses you are using with your pump
- › Whether a diesel or petrol pump is a better option for you.

Protecting your pump against radiant heat is vital, because when it overheats or melts, the fuel inside can vaporise – causing the pump to stop working.

Give your pump the best possible protection by either installing it inside a well-constructed shed, or constructing a shelter or alcove around it using non-flammable materials such as corrugated iron, brick or concrete. Another option may be to place the pump in the protected space between two tanks.

To protect a shed against ember attack and radiant heat, follow the same steps as you would when preparing your house.

### **NO POWER, NO PUMP, NO WATER**

If you rely on tank water driven by an electric pump as your primary water source, you will lose access to water if the electricity goes off in a fire. An electric pump powered by a generator or a plumbed-in petrol/diesel pump are significantly more reliable in a fire situation.



## Schedule in a check-up before the fire season

You should test all your equipment before each fire season to make sure it works the way you want it to. At the same time:

- › Change the fuel in the pump (stale fuel could prevent it from working properly).
- › Make sure every adult in the house knows how to use the pump. Conduct a refresher session. **There's no point in relying on a pump if only one family member knows how to use it.**
- › Go over your back-up plan for what to do if the pump breaks. Make sure you have a spare start-up rope and know how to fit it. Consider other spare parts as well.

### SPRINKLERS CAN HELP FIGHT EMBERS

Good-quality, well fitted bushfire water spray (sprinkler) systems can help to protect your house against ember attack. On their own they are not a reliable solution to bushfire risk.



## Firefighting hoses

If you are buying firefighting hoses for the first time, the two most important considerations are length and material. Hoses need to reach all the way around your house, so you'll need to measure the distance using a line of string.

Specially made fire-resistant hoses are far more reliable than standard garden hoses, which are made from plastic and could melt during a bushfire. You'll need to consider the fittings as well as the hose itself – choose metal over plastic.

Keep in mind that the bigger the hose diameter, the heavier it will be when you're using it (due to the higher volume of water).

### Tips:

- ✓ Put a firefighting hose fitting connection on to your washing machine tap so you can use the hose inside if necessary.
- ✓ Have spare hose fittings on hand and know how to replace them.
- ✓ Buy hose bandages. These are a type of clamp designed to temporarily stop leaks and indicate damaged areas for later.

At the start of the fire season, check and clean hoses, nozzles and hose fittings for blockages – these can be caused by insects or rodents which nest over winter.

## Protective clothing

Put together a kit of clothing for each household member. You must cover all exposed skin to protect yourself from radiant heat and embers. Change into these clothes as soon as you are aware of fire in your area.

Remember, protective clothing can only protect you from low levels of radiant heat.



### Your kit

- A** A wide-brimmed hat to protect your head.
- B** Eye protection such as smoke goggles to shield your eyes.
- C** A 'P2' type mask or cotton scarf/handkerchief for face protection and to filter smoke.
- D** A long-sleeved, collared shirt and long pants made from cotton or some other natural fibre.
- E** Tough leather garden gloves – not rubber or synthetic.
- F** Sturdy boots and wool or cotton socks.

## Other equipment

If you are planning to defend your home, firefighting pumps and hoses are vitally important. However, there are a few everyday household items that can also be of use.

- › **Buckets.** Metal buckets are best as plastic ones can melt.
- › **Mops.** Use old-fashioned mops made from wood and metal with a cotton head. When soaked in water these can be used to put out embers.
- › **Shovels and rakes.** These can be used for shovelling dirt on to embers or small fires or to break up piles of burning material.
- › **Knapsacks or water sprayers.** Special knapsacks can be bought for firefighting, but many of the weed sprayers available in hardware stores are also suitable (if you have used them with chemicals make sure they are cleaned before the fire season). Keep in mind that a 20-litre knapsack will weigh more than 20 kilograms when it is full of water.
- › **Ladders.** You'll need sturdy ladders to check the ceiling space and roof for embers.
- › **Blankets and towels.** Wool or cotton only. When wet, they can be used to seal gaps under doors.
- › **Torches.** Battery-powered or wind-up. Leave a torch in the roof space to check for embers. Have another in the house for when the power goes off during a bushfire. Don't forget to set aside plenty of spare batteries.
- › **Radio.** Battery-powered or wind-up. Tune into your local emergency broadcaster for fire warnings and updates.
- › **Downpipe or gutter plugs.** To fill your gutters with water you will need a way to block the downpipes.

Depending on the shape of your downpipes, you may need to buy specially-made gutter plugs. Other materials that may work to block your downpipes include small sandbags, wet towels or tennis balls. Alternatively, ask a plumber to install a shut-off valve on all your downpipes.

### WILL YOU HAVE TIME?

There's no use having firefighting equipment if it is in your shed when the fire comes. You'll need to set your equipment up on the morning of (or the day before) a forecast fire risk day. When you hear of a fire approaching, there may not be time.

### CAUTION

You need to reassess your decision to defend your property the morning of **Severe** and **Extreme** days. Always consider if your circumstances have changed.

On days of **Code Red** fire risk the safest option is to leave the night before or early in the morning. Do not wait until there is fire in the area to make the decision.

Leaving late when fire is close to your house is extremely dangerous and could result in death. Do not expect a fire truck.



## Additional firefighting equipment



# Your Bushfire Survival Plan

## Plan ahead

Not everyone thinks clearly in an emergency. Write your plan down and discuss it with all family members, and make sure everyone knows which responsibilities are allocated to them. Everyone should be aware that staying to defend involves a high risk of psychological trauma, injury or possibly death.

### USE THE TEMPLATES IN THIS KIT

The two Bushfire Survival Planning Templates included in this Kit are a practical, step-by-step resource to help to develop and document your plan. CFA strongly recommends that anyone contemplating defending a property uses these templates to help them write their plan.

Your plan needs to outline:

- › actions before the bushfire season
- › actions during the bushfire season (the Fire Danger Period)
- › actions to defend your property (the night before or morning of a high fire danger day)
- › actions when fire is in your area
- › what to do after the fire front passes
- › your backup plan.

Sound planning needs to be both realistic (to take into account the realities of your life) and flexible (because circumstances change).

### Be realistic

Think about who will be at home if a fire risk day (or a fire) occurs on a weekday, a weekend or a public holiday. How will this affect your ability to put your plan into action?

What will you do if:

- › Your children are at school?
- › You have visitors staying with you?
- › Family members are away for work or holidays?

If someone is away, someone else will need to take over their bushfire plan responsibilities.

This should be a fit and determined adult – not a person who:

- has a physical disability
- has an intellectual disability
- has emotional or mental problems
- is sick
- is elderly
- is a child less than 16 years old.

## Be flexible – circumstances change

Be prepared to reassess your decision to defend your property if needs be. On the morning of **Severe** and **Extreme** days, think carefully about whether your circumstances have changed and whether staying and defending is still the best option.

On **Code Red** days, the safest option is to leave the night before or early in the morning. Do not wait until there is a fire in the area to make the decision.

Leaving late when fire is close to your house is extremely dangerous and could result in death. Do not expect a fire truck.

## Your backup plan

Having alternative plans detailing what you will do if parts of your Bushfire Survival Plan fail is very important. This will need to include a plan of what to do if:

- › your pump or other equipment fails
- › your house catches fire and you need somewhere else to shelter
- › you injure yourself and need somewhere to shelter safely.

Leaving when the bushfire has arrived is extremely dangerous and can be deadly. You must consider your safest options if you are unable to stay in your house.

Shelter options may include a:

- › well-prepared home (yours or a neighbour) that you can actively defend
- › private bunker (that meets current regulations)
- › designated community shelter or refuge.

While these survival options carry a high risk of trauma, injury or death they may provide you with some protection from radiant heat.

If sheltering in a building during a bushfire, make sure you have more than one point of exit in every room used as a shelter.

Most bathrooms are unsuitable to shelter in. They typically have only one door which can make escape impossible if that exit is blocked by flames and heat. Any place of shelter within a house or building should have two points of exit.

Most bathrooms also have frosted windows that do not let you see outside – during a bushfire it is critical to look outside and know what is happening.

In situations where no other options are available to you, taking shelter in one of the below may protect from radiant heat:

- › Neighbourhood Safer Place (Place of Last Resort)
- › stationary car in a clear area
- › ploughed paddock or reserve
- › body of water (such as the beach, swimming pool, dam or river). This does not include a water tank. Dams may not be reliable as their water levels fluctuate and they may be empty in summer.

**High risk of trauma, injury or death. These are last resort options and do not guarantee your survival.**

# Activating your plan of action

## 1 On or before fire risk days

Waiting until a fire is in the area to do all the things below is very risky: remember that tasks such as filling tanks and gutters with water take time.

Many people have been caught out thinking they had more time to act before the bushfire arrived. You should plan for the fact that you'll have no more than 30 minutes before the fire hits after hearing about a fire in your area. Bushfires can travel extremely fast and hit without warning.

Do these tasks well before there are any signs of fire:

- › Check that protective clothing kits are easy to access
- › Check that shovels, mops, water knapsacks and other equipment are ready
- › Check pumps – make sure they are working
- › Connect and roll out fire hoses
- › Fill inside water storage (bath, laundry trough, bucket)
- › Double check that gutters are clean
- › Put downpipe/gutter plugs in place
- › Take small pets inside and keep them there
- › Move stock or large animals to a cleared or grazed-down paddock. Take all rugs and halters off horses.
- › Set up a ladder under the manhole
- › Place a torch in the roof cavity
- › Keep any LPG cylinders on a level concrete surface and secured by a chain. Face vent pipes away from the house
- › **Check for fire warnings and alerts.**

### WILL I GET A WARNING?

1. Fires can start suddenly.
2. You might not get an official warning.
3. Depending on which community you are in you may hear a siren sound. Go to [firecommissioner.vic.gov.au/policies](http://firecommissioner.vic.gov.au/policies) for more information about where sirens are in place.
4. Listen for information about towns or suburbs near you. The name of your town or suburb might not be in a warning.
4. When you can, look outside to check for signs of fire. For example, smoke and embers.
6. Make sure you have a radio that uses batteries. Keep extra batteries. You will need these if there is no power.
7. Listen for alerts and warnings on ABC local radio, commercial radio stations and designated community radio stations, watch Sky News TV or visit [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au). You can also receive warnings via the **CFA\_Updates** Twitter account.
8. For some fires, you may hear the Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS) siren before the alert message over your radio or television.
9. You may also get an alert sent to your landline or mobile phone based on its location.

**Do not rely on one source of information.**

## 2 When fire is in your area

- › Put on protective clothing. This is always the first thing you do.
- › Shut all windows and doors to prevent smoke entering your house. Close window shutters (you may need to open shutters a little to maintain visibility).
- › Turn off mains gas supply.
- › Block downpipes and fill gutters with water.
- › Place wet blankets or towels (wool or cotton) around the edges of windows and doors inside the house to stop smoke getting in.
- › Switch your air conditioner or evaporative cooler to recycle/recirculate mode to reduce the amount of indoor smoke, or turn it off.
- › Hose down the sides of your house and the garden area closest to the house.
- › Move cars, tractors, caravans away from the house into a clearing.
- › Take any other animals inside.
- › Continue to check and monitor warnings and alerts.

If it is safe to do so, patrol outside your home for embers – be aware that these may fall well ahead of the main fire front. Extinguish embers as soon as they land using a wet mop, backpack sprayer or hose.

## 3 As the bushfire approaches

As the bushfire approaches there may be embers falling. While still outdoors, you will need to extinguish them as best you can. Turn on the bushfire sprinkler system if you have one. When it gets too hot you will need to go inside to protect yourself from radiant heat. The skin on your ears and hands will alert you that radiant heat has become too hot to survive outside.

The time it takes for a fire to pass varies, but expect to remain inside for at least 20-30 minutes. As the fire passes it will be dark and very noisy. The sky will turn black.

When you go inside:

- › Take any plastic firefighting equipment inside with you, including taps, connections and hoses.
- › Stay inside. Close shutters and draw curtains, but stay alert to where the fire is.
- › Maintain visibility. Stay in a room where you can see out of the window. Wind up shutters as necessary to check the fire's status.
- › Keep checking for embers in the roof space and elsewhere in your home.
- › Continue to drink lots of cool water even if you don't feel thirsty.
- › Keep cool by splashing your face with water.

## 4 After the fire front has passed

Exercise extreme caution before deciding to go outside – depending on what is burning around you the levels of radiant heat could be very high and potentially fatal.

You will need to use your own judgement to assess when it is safe. Continue to wear your protective clothing and stay hydrated. As soon as you can, call friends and family to let them know you are safe.

Your focus will now be on extinguishing things around your house that are already alight, giving priority to any fires with the potential to spread and those closest to your house.

Note that large trees may continue to burn for many hours and will be very difficult to extinguish.

Embers will continue to land on and around your house, and may do so for many hours. You'll need to keep patrolling and checking for burning embers:

- › inside the roof
- › under the floor boards
- › under the house
- › on verandahs and decking
- › around window sills and doors
- › in garden beds and mulch
- › in wood heaps
- › in sheds.



## **DEFENDING YOUR PROPERTY AND RADIANT HEAT**

Enacting your plan of action will involve decisions about when to go inside (as the fire front approaches) or outside (when the fire front has passed). You will need to use your own judgement – unnecessary risks could be fatal.

Radiant heat is the intense heat which radiates from a bushfire. It is like the heat you feel from a campfire, but can be up to 50,000 times stronger. In the right conditions, radiant heat can ignite exposed surfaces and crack or break windows.

It is radiant heat – not flame contact – that is the biggest killer in a fire. The human body cannot absorb large amounts of radiant heat without its cooling system failing, leading to heat exhaustion and heart failure.

Radiant heat can be blocked by a solid object or barrier such as a concrete wall or building. This heat travels in straight lines, radiating out from a bushfire ahead of the flames and will bounce off solid objects, although it will travel through glass.

If you are caught outside in a fire, protect yourself by:

- › covering up exposed skin
- › being as far away as you can – by doubling your distance from the fire you reduce the radiant heat load by four times
- › getting behind a solid object or barrier
- › stay away from windows as radiant heat can pass through glass.

See page 65 for clothing that can protect you against radiant heat.

## **If you are trapped in your house**

If your house catches fire while you are in it you will need to respond quickly. It is critical to maintain visibility to know what is happening outside with the fire.

You need to:

- › Close the door to the room that is on fire
- › Move to the other end of the house, closing all the doors behind you
- › Do not get trapped in a room without an alternative exit
- › Move outside to burnt ground as soon as you can
- › Seek shelter in another building if it is still too hot outside
- › Drink water to prevent dehydration.

Make sure you have a point of exit in every room used as a shelter. Most bathrooms are unsuitable to shelter in. They typically have only one door which can make escape impossible if that exit is blocked by flames and heat. Any place of shelter within a house or building should have two points of exit.

Most bathrooms also have frosted windows that do not let you see outside – during a bushfire it is critical to maintain visibility to know what is happening outside.

If it is still too hot outside you will need to seek shelter in another building or structure.

# What is it like to experience a bushfire?

Bushfires are frightening and stressful. Understanding what to expect and being well-planned and confident about what you will do can help you to cope.

## What to expect:

- › Embers and spot fires moving ahead of the main fire
- › Smoke, heat, noise and possibly darkness
- › Lack of visibility, making it difficult to know where the fire is. Travel will be dangerous
- › Fires approaching from any direction (or two directions at once)
- › Embers landing around your property for many hours before or after the main fire front has passed
- › Roads blocked by fallen branches, powerlines and congested with emergency vehicles.

## How you might feel

- › Confused
- › Disorientated (don't know where you are)
- › Unable to breathe properly
- › Scared
- › Thirsty and hungry
- › Tired.

## EXPECT DISRUPTIONS TO SERVICES

Disruptions to telephone service, internet and mains power and water are common during a fire or on a fire risk day. Be prepared:

- › Don't rely on mains power and water.
  - Power failure will impact you and your use of:
    - › cordless phones.
    - › remote control garage doors, electric gates or similar devices.
    - › computer and the internet.
    - › air conditioners and coolers.
    - › electric pumps.
- › Don't rely on one source of information for warnings. Use multiple sources.





## Be mentally prepared

Preparing yourself mentally is very important. In a bushfire you will need to stay focused, avoid taking risks, and make critical decisions under stress.

You also need to consider how you will cope mentally not just over a short period of time but over a longer period, whether that is a string of hot days, a long-running fire or a long fire season.

Maintaining a 'state of alert' over a long time can make your mind and body fatigued, affecting your efficiency and ability to make good decisions.

**The best way to prepare yourself mentally is to have a written and practised plan that everyone in your household understands and has agreed to.**

Speaking to people in your area who have experienced bushfire in the past, or looking at written material or videos online may help you to prepare.

## A special note about children

It is understandable that you want to keep your family close in a stressful situation, but if you are planning to stay and defend your home during a bushfire, it is strongly advised that children are well away from the threat.

There are several reasons for this:

- › Children are more vulnerable to stress than adults.
- › Although children may appear to cope in a crisis, their reaction to the event may not be evident until a much later time.
- › Reactions to crisis can lead to children becoming unable to cope with ordinary problems, suffering sleep problems and nightmares, and having relationship issues with parents, siblings and friends.

If you plan to stay and defend, make sure your children are looked after by someone who is well known to them and who they feel safe around. Remain positive and reassuring and ensure that you plan regular communication with your children to let them know that you are safe.

***If at any time you are worried about your mental health or the mental health of a loved one, call Lifeline 13 11 14.***

## Look after your physical health

### Heat stress

Heat stress can make you confused and weak. In a bushfire, you can become dehydrated or heat-stressed without being aware of it. It is important to stay hydrated even if you don't feel thirsty, and be vigilant for symptoms of heat stress such as cramps, fatigue and dizziness.

Prevent heat-stress by:

- › drinking plenty of water or electrolyte sports drinks
- › avoiding alcohol and fizzy drinks
- › regularly splashing your face with water to keep cool
- › placing wet towels over your upper arms
- › moving in and out of the shade and the house where possible
- › loosening clothing to circulate air flow. Remove head protection temporarily
- › getting some rest when safe to do so.

### Heat stroke

Managing heat stress is important because it can lead to heat stroke – a serious, even potentially fatal condition.

If someone is affected by heat stroke, call 000 immediately. Move them to a shaded area (if safe to do so). Remove excess clothing, damping them down and fanning air over them.

Give small sips of fluid and place wet towels to the back of their head and armpits.

For more information about bushfires visit [cfa.vic.gov.au](https://cfa.vic.gov.au) or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line (VBIL) on 1800 240 667 or via National Relay Service on 1800 555 677

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