

# MILLGROVE: COMMUNITY FIRE REFUGE

## What you need to know

**Everyone who lives or works in a bushfire risk area needs to have a plan and be prepared for bushfire.**

You need to understand your bushfire risk, have a plan, monitor conditions and know what you and your family will do in the event of a fire.

The safest survival option is leaving early on days where the fire danger rating is Severe, Extreme or Code Red; before there is a fire in the area.

Other options are having a well-maintained, defensible house or your own private, accredited bushfire shelter (bunker).

The most dangerous thing to do is to leave late when fire is already close by.



### What is a Community Fire Refuge?

Community Fire Refuges can provide shelter as a last resort for people whose other plans have failed. Community Fire Refuges are located so they are not exposed to high temperatures, and are ember proof.

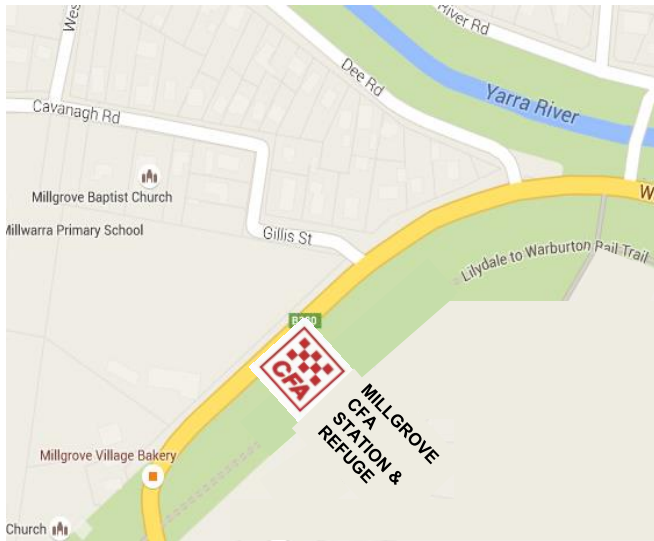
They are only activated when there is a serious or potentially serious fire close by.

A Community Fire Refuge, like a Neighbourhood Safer Place, is a place of last resort and IS NOT a substitute for having a well thought out and practiced personal survival plan.

- Going to a Community Fire Refuge does not guarantee your survival.
- There is NO guarantee the emergency services will be at a Community Fire Refuge.
- Travelling to a Community Fire Refuge will be dangerous when fire is in the area. Roads may be busy or blocked by trees, smoke will make it hard to see and embers can cause spot fires kilometres ahead of the main fire.
- The number of people each refuge can hold is limited.
- Pets and livestock can't be taken inside a Community Fire Refuge.
- The refuge is first and foremost an operational CFA station, until it is activated. It is NOT a drop-in centre on a hot day when there are no fires.
- Inside, a refuge may be hot and uncomfortable because of weather conditions and from people taking shelter.
- Community services such as meals and medical services will not be provided.

## Where is Millgrove's new CFA Station and Community Fire Refuge?

This co-located facility is located on the Warburton Hwy, Millgrove. It is opposite the town's local shops and Gillis St.



## When should I go to a Community Fire Refuge?

When there is significant fire in the immediate area, your plans have failed and you don't have any other survival options. Remember: when there is a fire, travelling on roads to a refuge will be dangerous. Roads will be busy, smoky and sometimes blocked.

## Who are Community Fire Refuges for?

People who find themselves in the immediate Millgrove area and whose own fire plans have failed. Pets and livestock can't be taken into a Community Fire Refuge. The priority is keeping people alive.

## When will a Community Fire Refuge open?

The refuge will only be available for use as a last resort when fire is threatening the local community. The emergency services will advise if the Community Fire Refuge is available for use. The refuge is NOT a drop in centre on a hot day when there are no fires.

## How will I know when a Community Fire Refuge is open?

The refuge will be on stand-by to open on days with a fire danger rating of Severe, Extreme and Code Red. The refuge will only be activated and opened if there is a serious or potentially serious fire threat in the local area. You should monitor your local conditions and know where to go for emergency information.

Information is available through:

- local radio
- television
- websites, such as VicEmergency: [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au)
- social media
- Victorian Bushfire Information Line (VBIL) on 1800 240 677

## If I am the first one at a Community Fire Refuge, what do I do?

1. Press the entry button at the marked entry door and follow the voice instructions. If there is a significant fire threat and the emergency services have activated the fire refuge, you will be able to enter.
2. Enter the Community Fire Refuge and immediately go to the cabinet where there is a red flashing light.
3. Inside this cabinet is information for you, including instructions on a series of simple jobs to be completed.



## What happens if I get to a Community Fire Refuge and it is full?

Community Fire Refuges will not hold everyone in a community. They will only take a limited number of people and you should think carefully about this when planning for your own bushfire survival.

## Will the emergency service be there?

There is no guarantee that the emergency services will be at a Community Fire Refuge. The refuge has been designed to be operated by the community.

## What should I take with me to the refuge?

Take only the most essential items into the Community Fire Refuge, such as:

- Medication
- Drinking water
- A mobile phone and charger

## What should I wear?

If you find yourself in a bushfire emergency, we strongly advise that you wear clothing that will provide you with some protection, for example clothing with long sleeves and long pants, made of natural fibres and sturdy footwear, such as leather boots.

## Where can I get more information about Community Fire Refuges?

More information is available at: [emv.vic.gov.au](http://emv.vic.gov.au) or [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au).