



# BUSHFIRE PLANNING: YOU AND THE PERSON YOU CARE FOR

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **HOW DO I ACCESS THE RESOURCE ONLINE?**

The module is available at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/carers](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/carers) under **Bushfire Planning: You and the person you care for**.

Or google: Country Fire Authority (CFA) carers module.

You will then be taken to CFA's Learning Management System that houses all e-learning courses. If you are not a CFA member you will need to register as an external member and create an account. You will need an email address to do this. You will be asked to verify the new account via email before you can proceed to login.

There is a step-by-step guide on the website if you need it.

Once you have logged in, you will find four courses available to the public. You are after the one for carers called "Bushfire Planning – You and the person you care for".

Once you start the module it will track and save your progress. This means you can do the course in several sittings, as best suits your needs. If you wish you can also download a certificate at the end to say you have completed the module.

### **CAN I VIEW THIS RESOURCE ON MY IPAD OR MY SMART PHONE?**

The module is designed to work on a laptop or PC. You will need to use the Google Chrome browser rather than Firefox or Explorer. It isn't designed for tablets/iPads or smartphones and so it might not work properly using them, but this is something we will be looking at in the future.

### **WHAT IF I CAN'T GET IT TO WORK OR NEED SOME MORE INSTRUCTION?**

We have a step-by-step guide of how to access the module online on CFA's website. Follow this guide if you are unsure. There is also a contact button at the bottom of the page you can click on where you can get the email address to get help from the Learning Hub Team.

### **HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO COMPLETE THE RESOURCE? CAN I DO IT IN SECTIONS?**

The module takes about an hour to complete, including a short registration process but it will save where you are up to so you can stop and start as you need to.

## **CAN I DO THIS WITH THE PERSON I CARE FOR?**

Yes, and we strongly recommend that you do. We suggest that the person you care for is involved in all of the decision making that they can be. The module helps you to support them to develop a plan. We understand that each person's level of involvement will be different. For example, you might be caring for a spouse who has a physical impairment, but you can plan and make all decisions together, - or you might be caring for a 12-year-old child. The level of involvement they have would be different in these two situations. Involving the person you care for in this planning could mean they are more likely to implement the plan.

## **I DON'T LIVE WITH THE PERSON I CARE FOR, IS THIS STILL APPLICABLE?**

Yes, it's really important that vulnerable people who don't live with their carer are supported to complete a Bushfire Survival Plan too. The module is designed to assist any carer supporting someone to complete the plan regardless of the living arrangements. We know that everyone's situation is different and includes a wide range of circumstances. The module is designed to help everyone. It will also be important for everyone to know the plan and each person's role in the event of an evacuation or the need to leave early.

## **IS IT ACCESSIBLE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY?**

The module is user friendly and is adapted to suit different learning styles. It includes videos with audio and subtitles and quizzes, for example. You will need to have basic reading and writing skills to use it.

The module is just one resource that CFA offer, there is also a number of other programs that might suit people who struggle with computers or reading. CFA can run bushfire planning workshops or group sessions covering the same content as in the module.

## **WHAT SUPPORT CAN I GET TO DO THIS?**

- Family
- Friends
- Volunteers
- Others in the community for e.g. your local librarian
- A case manager or case worker
- Contact your local CFA office to discuss options in your area, or speak to your local brigade [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/contact](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/contact)

## **WHERE CAN WE GO ON A HIGH RISK DAY?**

This resource suggests some ideas and is a very important part of your planning. The answer will be different for everyone depending on needs. The module encourages you to plan exactly for this – e.g. going to an accessible motel, or a friend's house who is out of the fire risk area. The best plan is always to leave early!

## **CAN I ACCESS RESPITE CARE ON HIGH RISK BUSHFIRE DAYS?**

The module is all about planning. You are encouraged to talk to your local providers including residential aged care, the Carer Gateway or local Carer Support Services. You might be able to access these services, if you plan, with them, well in advance and ask what assistance might be available during a bushfire emergency. This will all form part of your Bushfire Survival Plan. If you already have services in place, your planning could involve contacting them and agree on what would happen on a Total Fire Ban, Severe, Extreme or Code Red day as part of your plan.

## WHAT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP THE PERSON I CARE FOR TO DEVELOP A FIRE SAFE PLAN?

Fire safety is everyone's responsibility. However, unless the person is a minor or you are their guardian, you are not directly responsible for the decisions they make. The resource is designed to guide your conversation and highlights how important it is to plan ahead for this type of emergency.

## WHAT ABOUT COVID-19? WILL I BE SAFE TO GO TO AN EVACUATION/RELIEF CENTRE?

It is very difficult at an emergency evacuation or relief centre to cater for people with special needs, this highlights the importance to plan ahead and develop a strategy that accommodates your person's special needs. An evacuation centre should be considered last resort emergency accommodation.

Evacuation centres don't open until a fire has started.

Each local government area will have a different set up for relief centres, so it's best to check with your council to see what they are planning. Remember to also check what the current COVID-19 advice and restrictions are to help you be prepared as things can change quickly.

## I DON'T HAVE A COMPUTER, WHERE CAN I DO THE MODULE?

- Local libraries
- Community centres
- Neighbourhood House
- A friend or family member's house or neighbour

If the e-learning module is not accessible to you online, CFA offer fire planning workshops to community groups. Consider whether this is something you could organise for a local group you belong to. We can run these face-to-face or online via Zoom if the group prefers.

## WHERE DO I FIND A BUSHFIRE PLANNING TEMPLATE?

You can find it online [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/carers](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/carers)

You may also like to complete the emergency care plan found at [www.carergateway.gov.au/help-advice/planning](http://www.carergateway.gov.au/help-advice/planning)

This will complement the bushfire plan and does not replace the need to have an actual bushfire plan which covers the specific details on responding to a bushfire emergency.