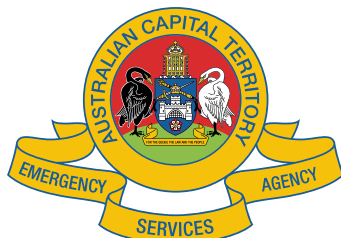




PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

Your life is the first priority during bush fires. Prepare well, act decisively – and survive.



PREPARE.

It is your responsibility to prepare yourself, your family and your home for the threat of bush fire.

Prepare a Bush Fire Survival Plan

One of the most important decisions you need to make to protect you and your family is will you “Leave Early or Stay and Defend a well prepared property”. Regardless of your decision, preparation is the key to survival.

What will you do to be safe?

- If you are going to leave – prepare for where you are going to go, how you are going to get there and what you are going to take.
- If you are going to stay, you must have a plan for how you are going to survive and where you will shelter. Know what equipment you need.
- Have a back up plan in case things don’t go according to plan.

Prepare yourself

Bush fires can impact the health, safety and welfare of you and your family. Being involved in a fire will be one of the most traumatic experiences of your life.

- You need to be both mentally and physically prepared to carry out your survival plan.
- Include the whole family in creating your Bush Fire Survival Plan.
- Prepare your Bush Fire Survival Kit.

Prepare your property

There are a number of measures you can take to prepare you home and property for bush fire. Start by identifying the potential fire risks around your home.

- Use the diagram overleaf as a guide to preparing your home.

Prepare to leave

If your plan is to leave early – prepare for where you are going to go, how you are going to get there and what you are going to take and remember;

- On days of **catastrophic** fire danger rating leaving is the **ONLY** option to ensure you and your families’ survival.
- On days of **extreme** fire danger rating leaving is the safest option for you and your family, and you should only consider staying and defending if your home has been specifically designed and constructed to withstand bush fire.

www.esa.act.gov.au

ACT.

You need to act decisively in accordance with your Bush Fire Survival Plan when bush fires threaten.

Fires can threaten suddenly and without warning so you must be prepared to act without receiving any emergency warning.

Keep informed

- Know what the fire danger rating is for each day of the bushfire season (generally 1st October - 31st March).
- Watch for signs of fire, especially smoke and flames.
- If you receive a Bush Fire Alert, take it seriously and act promptly.
- **Listen and look for information on radio and TV, the internet, mobile phones and through speaking with neighbours.**
- For more information on fire danger ratings, please refer to the ‘Fire Danger Ratings’ foldout available on the ACT Emergency Services Agency website and at all Canberra Connect shopfronts.

Follow your Bush Fire Survival Plan

- Don’t “wait and see”. Leaving late is the most dangerous option.
- Only consider staying and defending if you and your property are currently well prepared.

SURVIVE.

Your survival depends on your preparations, and the decisions you make.

People are more important than houses

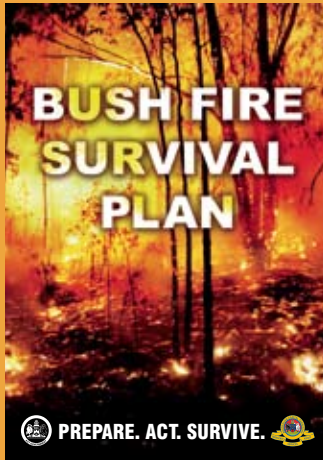
- Your life and your family’s lives are always your first priority during bush fires.

Have a plan B or a back up plan

The safest option is always to be away from the fire, but that may not always be possible so regardless of your plan to leave early or stay and defend a well prepared property, you must have a back up plan.

- Know where you will seek shelter or refuge from fires and radiant heat when a bushfire is impacting. Remain Active. Remain Alert. Don’t rely on Emergency Warnings.

SUPPORTED BY



**For more information
on bushfires go to
www.esa.act.gov.au
or call
Canberra Connect
13 22 81**



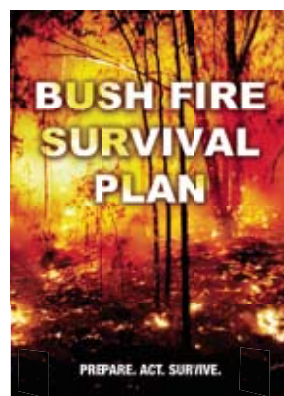
ACT Emergency Services Agency
phone: 6207 8444
mail: PO Box 104 Curtin ACT 2605
email: esahaveyoursay@act.gov.au
web: www.esa.act.gov.au
Canberra Connect 13 22 81



Are you prepared to keep your family safe

Check the condition of external walls and cladding and seal any gaps more than 2mm in size

Prepare your Bush Fire Survival Plan



Make sure the pressure relief valves on LPG cylinders face outwards (so flame is not directed toward the house)

Have a non-combustible doormat

Keep garden mulch away from the house and keep grass short

Cut back any overhanging trees or shrubs and dispose of cuttings appropriately

Plant trees and shrubs that are less likely to ignite due to their low oil content

Check the condition of your roof and replace any damaged or missing tiles

Clean leaves from the roof, gutters and downpipes and fit quality metal leaf guards

Install metal flywire or solid screens to the outside windows and doors

Ensure you have a hose which is long enough to reach every part of the home
Also ensure all nossels &/or connections are metal not plastic

Remove and store any flammable items away from the house

Enclose underfloor areas

Store wood piles well away from the house and keep covered

Steel fences are the most effective at withstanding the intense heat generated by a bush fire

