



# Bushfire



## Your Bushfire Action Plan

- 1 Create your bushfire plan
- 2 Act early
- 3 Check your emergency kit
- 4 Wear protective clothing
- 5 Know fire danger ratings
- 6 Plan to leave on high fire danger days
- 7 Stay informed
- 8 Create fire breaks
- 9 Clean roof and guttering
- 10 Have a back up plan

**Have you been affected by Bushfire?** Most people lodge their claim by phone. Call us on **1300 552 662** to submit your claim as soon as you know there is damage. Claims lodged by phone are processed faster on average. Alternatively, to claim online visit [www.dsh.gov.au](http://www.dsh.gov.au) or email us at [dsh@dva.gov.au](mailto:dsh@dva.gov.au).

## Are you prepared for bushfire?

**Before** - Leaving early is safest, turn off gas, block downpipes and fill gutters with water, turn on garden sprinklers, wet down building, seal under doors and windows with wet towels, wear protective clothing, unlock access gates.



**During** - Only stay if conditions are less than severe and you and your home are well prepared with right equipment, long hoses, minimum 10,000 litre supply, petrol/diesel water pump, rakes, shovels, buckets & mops, protective clothing and facemasks. You must also be mentally and physically prepared.



**After** - Do not return home until safe to do so, listen to radio for updates, wet down debris, wear facemask and protective clothing, avoid fallen trees and powerlines, check around home for embers or sparks.

**We are here to help you.** If your home is unsafe to live in due to bushfire damage, DSH Insurance will pay reasonable temporary accommodation costs for up to 12 months.

We may also be able to assist with an emergency assistance payment if your contents are insured with DSH Insurance.

Please be aware that access to the area may be restricted so it may take some time for your claim to be assessed. While we process your claim, we encourage you to seek additional help at Open Arms: [www.openarms.gov.au](http://www.openarms.gov.au).

Experiencing a natural disaster can be traumatic. Open Arms provide free and confidential counselling services for current and ex-serving ADF members and their families and can be contacted on 1800 011 046.

## Useful contacts

- \* Call 000 in a life-threatening situation.
- \* [DSH Insurance](http://www.dsh.gov.au) - for claims call 1300 552 662
- \* [Qld Rural Fire Service](http://www.qldruralfire.com.au)
- \* [Rural Fire Service \(NSW\)](http://www.ruralfire.nsw.gov.au)
- \* [Country Fire Authority \(VIC\)](http://www.countryfire.vic.gov.au)
- \* [Country Fire Service \(SA\)](http://www.countryfire.sa.gov.au)
- \* [Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service](http://www.northernfireandrescue.nt.gov.au)
- \* [Department of Fire and Emergency Services \(WA\)](http://www.fireandemergency.wa.gov.au)
- \* [Tasmanian Fire Service](http://www.tasmanianfire.com.au)
- \* [ACT Fire and Rescue](http://www.actfireandrescue.com.au)

## Understand Fire Danger Ratings

CODE	WHAT YOU NEED TO DO
<b>CODE RED/CATASTROPHIC</b>	Leaving early is the only option for your survival. Decide when to leave, where to go and how to get there. Leave the night before or early in the day - homes cannot withstand fires in catastrophic conditions.
<b>EXTREME</b>	Leaving early is the safest option for your survival. Only stay if your home is specially constructed and situated to withstand a fire and you are well-prepared and mentally and physically able to defend it.
<b>SEVERE</b>	Leaving early is the safest option for your survival. Only stay if your home is well-prepared and constructed and you are physically and mentally able to defend it. If a fire starts and takes hold, it may be uncontrollable.
<b>VERY HIGH</b>	Only stay if your home is well-prepared and well-constructed. Fire can be difficult to control, flames may burn into tree-tops. Some homes may be destroyed.
<b>HIGH</b>	Fire can most likely be controlled, homes can provide safety. Be aware of how fires start and minimise the risk. Monitor conditions for any changes. Leave if necessary.
<b>LOW-MODERATE</b>	Fire can be controlled and poses little risk to life or property. Monitor conditions for any changes. Action may be needed.



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