

FIREFIGHTERS WILL BE TOO BUSY FIGHTING FIRES

It is your responsibility
to prepare your home.

September 2023 Property Preparation

BUSHFIRES: Bushfire season is fast approaching, now is the time to prepare yourself and your home. Firefighters will be too busy fighting fires on the frontline to defend your home and property, so it is your responsibility to be prepared.

[Download, print and complete the Property Preparation Checklist](#) to give your home and property the best possible chance of surviving a bushfire.

To reduce the spread of fire and provide some shelter, start preparing your property by completing this Property Preparation Checklist.

For further information check the [DFES website](#).



FIREFIGHTERS WILL BE TOO BUSY FIGHTING FIRES ON THE FRONTLINE TO BE ABLE TO DEFEND YOUR HOME AND PROPERTY.
To reduce the spread of fire and provide some shelter, start preparing your property by completing this Property Preparation Checklist.



PROPERTY UPKEEP

Set calendar reminders to complete these preparations monthly during fire season.

- Cut the grass around your property to 10cm or less.
- Prune shrubs so they are not dense.
- Ensure gas cylinders are chained/secured upright.
- Check gas release valves face away from property.
- Clean gutters.

For more information visit dfes.wa.gov.au/bushfire or contact DFES Community Preparedness: Community.Preparedness@dfes.wa.gov.au or 8395 9816



LASTING PROTECTION

Set calendar reminders to complete these preparations annually.

- Keep gas cylinders away from likely direction of fire (i.e. where bush is) and turn release valves outwards.
- Remove shrubs, wood, mulch or any flammable material, against or near the house.
- Block any gaps under floor, in the roof spaces, under eaves, external vents, skylights, chimneys and wall claddings.
- Install metal fly wire mesh on all windows, vents and install a protective screen on evaporative air conditioner.
- Create a mineral earth firebreak along the boundary of your property.
- Install a fire or heat radiant shield such as a solid fence.



RURAL PROTECTION

Complete these preparations if you own a rural property.

- Make sure fire trucks can access and turn around on your property.
- Check bridge loading and cattle grid loading for fire truck access.
- Create fire breaks along paddock boundaries.
- Store petrol and gas safely.
- Install underground water pumps that lead from dams to the house.
- If a fire threatens, move livestock to a well grazed paddock.
- Check generator and pumps are working.



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HOW FIREPROOF IS YOUR PLAN?

Prepare your home for bushfires

PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR BUSHFIRES

- Cut back branches that are near your home.
- Install a metal screen on evaporative air conditioners and use metal fly screens on windows.
- Plug and repair gaps or damage in walls and roofs.
- Clean gutters and box in eaves.
- Keep lawn short and green, remove flammable material from around the house.

For more information visit dfes.wa.gov.au

Simple and ongoing monthly property upkeep includes:

- Cut the grass around your property to 10cm or less.
- Prune shrubs so they are not dense.
- Clean gutters.
- Check gas release valves face away from property.

More lasting actions to prepare your property include:

- Create a minimum two metre gap between your house and tree branches.
- Install metal fly wire mesh on all windows and vents and install a protective screen on evaporative air conditioners.
- Block any gaps under the floor, in roof spaces, under eaves, external vents, skylights, chimneys and wall claddings.
- Install a fire or heat radiant shield such as a solid fence.

Restricted Burning Times

Burning permits will soon be required as restrictions come into place for all burning in the open from **15 October to 30 November 2024**. Please note, dates for Prohibited and Restricted Burning Times may change due to seasonal fire or weather conditions.

During the this period a permit must be obtained before any burning takes place. The permit holder must be in possession of the permit throughout the duration of the burn and must present the permit if asked by a Fire Control Officer.

Useful resources to help you during the bushfire season

- [Fire Danger Ratings](#) (FDR) describe the potential danger level you could face if a bushfire and provide you with important information so you can take action to protect yourself and others from the dangerous impacts of bushfires. **You need to understand** the Fire Danger Rating to **assess your level of bushfire risk** and **decide what actions to take**.
[Click here for more information on the Fire Danger Ratings and Bushfire Warnings.](#)
- [Australian Warning System](#) (AWS) – During a bushfire, the emergency services will issue a warning if the fire is impacting, or likely to impact the community. There are 3 levels of warning (Emergency, Watch and Act, Advice). **These warnings change to reflect the increasing risk** to your life or property and the decreasing amount of time you have until the fire arrives. You can keep up to date with any warnings in your area by visiting [Emergency WA](#).
- **Make a [Bushfire Plan](#)** – Bushfires happen every year. To survive a bushfire, you must be prepared to make your own decisions. The single biggest killer is indecision.
[Download the Bushfire Preparation Toolkit here.](#)

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You are receiving this in your role as a Street Coordinator for the Yallingup Rural BFR district or as part of the wider Bushfire Ready community.