

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

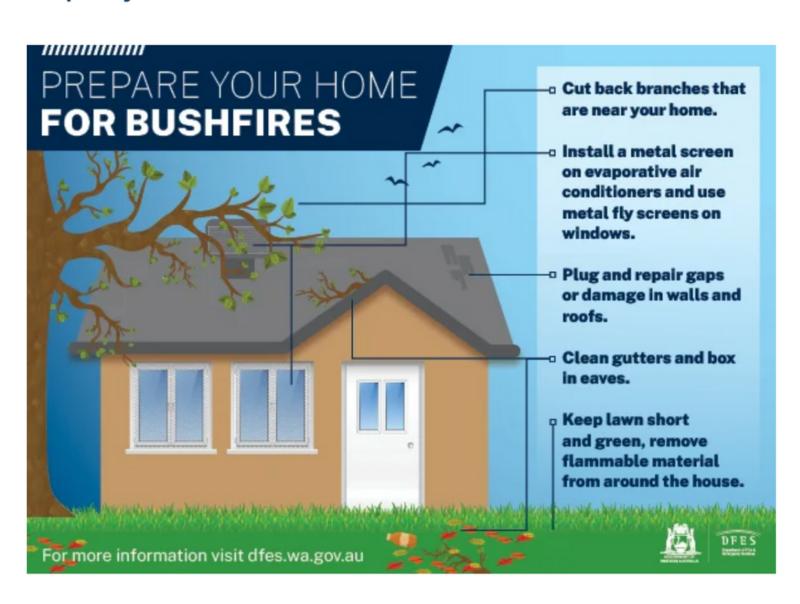
Property Preparation Checklist to
give your home and property the best
possible chance of surviving a
bushfire.

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.



Prepare your home for bushfires



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

- <u>Fire Danger Ratings</u> (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.
- <u>Australian Warning System</u> (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.

<u>Download the Bushfire Preparation Toolkit here.</u>





