

# Stay and defend checklist

**Staying to defend** a well prepared property during a bushfire always carries the risk of injury or death. However, defending your home is a reasonable choice if:

- Your home is well-prepared.
- You are physically fit and emotionally prepared.
- Fire conditions are less than 'extreme'.

**Most people who die in bushfires are caught in the open, either in their car or on foot, because they've left their property too late, when the fire is approaching.**

**If you are unsure about defending your property, you should prepare a Leave Early Plan as well.**

## Prepare your fire fighting equipment

- A firefighting pump, hose and nozzle.
- Firefighting water supply (not just mains water).
- Ladder – for access to roof gutters and into the roof space.
- Garden hose and fittings.
- Rake and a strong bucket.
- A wet mop for putting out embers and small fires.

## Prepare for your safety

- Prepare a bushfire survival kit – e.g. long-sleeved woollen or cotton clothing, broad brimmed hat, sturdy leather boots, leather gloves, protective eye wear, a face mask, a torch for moving safely inside the roof space, a battery powered radio, spare batteries, first aid kit and drinking water.
- Go to [www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au) to check if there is a Community Bushfire Protection Plan for your area



Go to [www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au) to find out more about Community Bushfire Protection Plans and nearby safer places for your area

## As the fire approaches

- Dress in appropriate clothing.
- Clear leaves from roof gutters, decks and lawns.
- Block downpipes (a sock full of sand will help) and fill gutters with water.
- Remove flammable outdoor furniture, doormats and hanging baskets.
- Remove curtains from windows, close and tape windows, close doors.
- Fill bath, buckets and containers with water.
- Patrol property for spot fires to extinguish.
- Stay close to house, drink water and check the welfare of others and pets.

## As the fire front arrives

- Take shelter inside the house, protect yourself from radiant heat ensuring fire-fighting equipment is safe.
- Connect a hose to a laundry tap.
- Continually check for outbreak of fires inside, including in the roof space.
- Soak towels and place under external doors.
- Ensure you can exit the home should it catch fire.

## Once the fire has passed

- Extinguish any part of your house that is alight.
- Patrol the property (including roof space) to extinguish fires.
- Keep checking for several hours.
- Drink water frequently to avoid dehydration.

Because everyone's **Bushfire Survival Plan** will be different, complete the **Stay and Defend Survival Plan** for you and your family's circumstances and keep it in a safe and easily accessible place.

# Stay and defend survival plan

- Follow your Bushfire Survival Plan – Be Bushfire Ready.
- Monitor your local ABC radio station.
- Access firefighting and personal safety equipment.



## Before the start of the bushfire season, I will:

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Even though I'm well prepared, I will leave if the fire danger rating is \_\_\_\_\_ and a fire has broken out nearby (fill out the 'Leave Early' plan as well).

## As the fire approaches, I will:

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## As the fire front arrives, I will:

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## After the fire has passed, I will:

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Everyone must have a contingency plan – even the best plans can fail. Remember, leaving late can lead to death or serious injury. You must identify a number of nearby safer places that you can relocate to at very short notice if all else fails e.g. well prepared neighbour's house, ploughed paddock, sports ground or beach.

Nearby Safer Place 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Nearby Safer Place 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Nearby Safer Place 3 \_\_\_\_\_

## Important phone numbers

Fire: 000                      Police: 000                      Ambulance: 000

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Family: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

Family: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_ Family: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

Friend: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_ Friend: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_