



## ADVICE TO HOUSEHOLDERS WHEN A BUSHFIRE THREATENS

Today, fire crews may be protecting other homes nearby, and may not be able to attend your home when the bushfire arrives.

If you have properly **prepared yourself and your home for a bushfire**, it should be safe to stay. But if you haven't prepared, and your property is likely to be threatened by fire and is **closely surrounded by flammable vegetation and has poor access**, you should leave well before the fire approaches. Leaving your evacuation to the last minute is **extremely dangerous**. If it is too late to leave and your home is unsafe, it may be much safer to shelter in a neighbour's home.

If you choose to stay:

### As the fire approaches...

1. Listen to ABC Radio for news of the bushfire (use a portable or car radio if the power is off).
2. Dress in a long-sleeved cotton shirt, cotton trousers (jeans), boots and a cotton cap.
3. Clear roof gutters of leaves, and sweep or rake leaves from decks and lawns near the house.
4. Block your downpipes, (a sock full of soil will help) and fill your gutters with water.
5. Move flammable outdoor furniture, doormats and hanging baskets away from the house.
6. Close all doors and windows and close shutters if you have them.
7. Fill the bath and any buckets and other containers with water.
8. Put a ladder inside so you can check the roof space later.
9. Just before the fire arrives, wet down timber decks and gardens close to the house.

### When the fire arrives...

It's going to be hot, windy, dark, smoky and noisy, and there'll be lots of burning embers. But the fire will only take a few minutes to burn past your home.

1. Put out spot fires as they occur. A hose or a wet mop is handy for this.
2. If you need to shelter, take the hose and fittings inside and fit them to a tap in the laundry.
3. Check around the inside of your house constantly, including in the roof space.
4. If your house catches fire and you can't put it out, close all interior doors and shelter inside close to an exit. Leave the house when it is necessary and safe to do so.

### Once the fire has passed...

1. Go outside and put out any part of your house which is alight. Your neighbours may be able to help.
2. Check under the house and any decks, and inside the roof as well.
3. Keep checking for several hours.

### For further information:

***[www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au) or freecall 1800 000 699 or watch your bushfire DVD***