



bushfire checklist

Is your home prepared to defend against bushfires and grass fires?

The Tasmania Fire Service bushfire checklist will assist you to answer this important question and provide some important guidance when it comes to preparing your home.

If you live in or near bushland, please take the time to complete the checklist below, as it may help you and your home survive the next bushfire.

HOME AND PROPERTY PREPARATIONS	
	Non-flammable areas (paths, driveways, lawns) installed around the home
	Vegetable garden, orchard and dam located on fire-prone side of home
	Wood piles, rubbish heaps and other fuels removed to a safe distance
	High flammability plants replaced by low flammability plants
	Lower branches of trees in inner zone pruned
	Flammable shrubs under and between trees in inner zone removed
	Shrubs and small trees in outer zone selectively removed
	All vegetation under trees in the outer zone removed to a height of at least 2 metres
	Roof and gutters cleared of leaf debris
	Dry leaves and bark raked or swept from lawns and gardens in the inner and outer zone
	Areas under decks and floors enclosed
	Vents into roof space screened with fine wire mesh
	Gaps in external roof and wall cladding sealed
WATER SUPPLIES AND FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT PREPARATIONS	
	Fire-fighting water supply
	Fire-fighting pump, hoses and nozzles, buckets, mop, rake
	Ladder and torch
	Battery-operated radio
PERSONAL PROTECTION	
	Bushfire plan prepared and well understood by all
	Long trousers & long sleeve shirt (cotton or wool) for all who are staying
	Sturdy leather boots & leather or cotton gloves for all who are staying
	A helmet or broad brimmed hat with neck strap for all who are staying
	Close-fitting goggles or other protective eye wear for all who are staying
	A face mask or handkerchief to tie over the nose or mouth for all who are staying
	First aid kit
	Adequate drinking water supplies

PREPARATIONS WHEN FIRE BREAKS OUT, IF STAYING	
	Prepare fire pump and attach garden hoses to taps
	Remove garden furniture, door mats and other flammable items from adjacent to home
	Check roof & gutter for leaf debris and clear
	Plug all downpipes (using sock filled with sand/soil), and fill gutters with water
	Fill baths, sinks and buckets with water
	Rake & sweep dry leaves and bark from lawns, gardens, decks, patios etc
	Close all doors, windows and window shutters
	Ensure all family members and pets are safe
	Place wet towels and blankets against gaps under doors and windows
	Dress in appropriate clothing and drink water frequently
	For news of the fire's progress, listen to ABC radio or access www.fire.tas.gov.au
IF LEAVING BEFORE THE FIRE ARRIVES	
	Pack planned belongings into car and leave in accordance with bushfire plan, if safe to do so – many hours before the fire arrives
WHEN THE FIRE ARRIVES	
	Extinguish sparks, embers and spot-fires close to home
	When too hot to stay outside, go into the house to protect yourself from radiant heat
	Take fire-fighting equipment, ladder, hose and fittings inside
	Connect hose to laundry tap
	Check inside the house and in the roof cavity for any fires
	Extinguish any fires that break out inside
AFTER THE FIRE HAS PASSED	
	Go outside as soon as possible and extinguish any fires posing an immediate threat to your home
	Patrol your home for several hours and douse any embers that land on or near your home
	Check the roof cavity frequently from inside your home for any fires
	Drink water frequently to avoid dehydration
	Help your neighbours if possible

a guide to creating a defensible space

SLOPE		INNER ZONE (Measured along the ground from the edge of the building)	OUTER ZONE (Measured along the ground from the outer edge of the inner zone)	
DESCRIPTION	DEGREES	GRASSLAND	FOREST	
flat	0	20 metres	10 metres	15 metres
gentle	5°	20 metres	15 metres	25 metres
moderate	10°	25 metres	20 metres	30 metres
mod-steep	15°	30 metres	30 metres	45 metres
steep	20°	40 metres	40 metres	50 metres

More information
free call 1800 000 699
www.fire.tas.gov.au

The Tasmania Fire Service has a wide range of free publications on fire safety and related topics.

