

FACT SHEET 3 – Prepare.Act.Survive.

REVISED 01/10/2009



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

Fact:

It is your responsibility to prepare yourself, your family and your home for the threat of bush fire. You need to **act** decisively in accordance with your Bush Fire Survival Plan when bush fires threaten. Your survival depends on your preparations and the decisions you make.

Prepare

Prepare a Bush Fire Survival Plan and discuss it with your family. One of the most important decisions you need to make to protect you and your family is will you “Leave Early” or “Stay and Defend” a well prepared property. Regardless of your decision preparation is the key to survival.

- If you are going to leave – prepare for where you are going to go, how you are going to get there and what you are going to take
- If you are going to stay, you must have a plan for how you are going to survive and where you will shelter. Know what equipment you need
- Have a contingency plan – know where your nearest Neighbourhood Safer Place is
- You need to be both mentally and physically prepared to carry out your survival plan
- Prepare your home and property to survive a fire front and ensure you have adequate levels of insurance

Act

Fires can threaten suddenly and without warning so you must be prepared to act without waiting for a warning.

- Don't “wait and see”. Put your preparations into action
- Know what the Fire Danger Rating is for your area
- Watch for signs of fire, especially smoke and flames
- If you receive a Bush Fire Alert, take it seriously and act promptly
- Seek out information from TV, local radio, the internet, mobile phones and neighbours
- Only consider staying and defending if you and your property are currently well prepared

Survive

Your life and your family's lives are always your first priority during bush fires. The safest option is always to be away from a fire, but recognise that fires can move so quickly that a warning is not always possible.

- Know the location of your nearest **Neighbourhood Safer Place** or other safer location that may provide you with greater protection
- Being involved in a fire will be one of the most traumatic experiences of your life

On days of **Catastrophic** fire danger rating leaving early is the safest option to ensure you and your families' survival as even well prepared and constructed homes will not be safe. On days of **Extreme** fire danger rating leaving early will always be the safest option.

FAILURE TO TAKE ACTION CAN RESULT IN DEATH OR INJURY TO YOU OR YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS.

For more information contact your local Fire Control Centre or:



NSW RFS INFORMATION LINE
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www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

www.fire.nsw.gov.au ♦ www.esa.act.gov.au

A FIREWISE INITIATIVE

