



# Bushfire checklist

Is your home prepared against bushfires?

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

Clear a defendable space – at least 30 metres – around buildings
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 (see table below)
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 removed 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
Identification of several nearby safer places. <b>Only to be used as a last resort.</b>

## 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 (for all who are staying)

Bushfire Survival Plan prepared and well understood by all
Long trousers and long sleeve shirt (cotton or wool)
Sturdy leather boots and leather or cotton gloves
A helmet or broad brimmed hat with neck strap
Close-fitting goggles or other protective eye wear
A face mask or handkerchief to tie over the nose or mouth
First aid kit
Adequate drinking water supplies

## ACTION WHEN FIRE BREAKS OUT IF LEAVING

Pack planned belongings into car and leave in accordance with bushfire plan, if safe to do so – many hours before the fire arrives
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## ACTIONS 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 and 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
Remove 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 <a href="http://www.fire.tas.gov.au">www.fire.tas.gov.au</a>

## ACTIONS 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

## ACTIONS 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

This is a guide only.

For more information about how to prepare yourself and your home for a bushfire, read the Tasmania Fire Service brochures Bushfire Prepare to Survive, Using Fire Outdoors, Fire Resisting Garden Plants, Bushfire Survival Plan or watch the DVD Bushfire Prepare to Survive.

## A guide to creating a defendable 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)	
	DEGREES	GRASSLAND	FOREST	FOREST
flat	0°	10 metres	20 metres	15 metres
gentle	5°	10 metres	20 metres	25 metres
moderate	10°	15 metres	25 metres	30 metres
mod-steep	15°	15 metres	30 metres	45 metres
steep	20°	15 metres	40 metres	50 metres

More information  
free call 1800 000 699  
[www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au)

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



If a TTY user call 106