

# GET READY WINGECARRIBEE

## Get Bush Fire Ready:

### Week 2 – **Prepare** Your Home and Get It Ready for Bush Fire Season

#### HELLO AND WELCOME!

Welcome to Week 2 of our "Get Bush Fire Ready" campaign. Last week, we focused on discussing and making our bushfire survival plans. This week, we'll help you prepare your home to withstand the impact of a bush fire. Taking these steps can significantly increase your home's chances of surviving a fire.



[Watch: NSW RFS - Don't give fire a chance before a fire video](#)

### Top 5 Actions to make your home safer

There are some simple things you can do around your home to prepare it for a bush fire. You need to prepare well beforehand, as leaving it to the last minute is too late. Here are five simple actions you can do before and during the bush fire season:

#### TASK

Download and complete the RFS Prepare your home Checklist [here](#).

#### TIP

Join others in your neighbourhood in completing these Top 5 Actions to protect your home



**Trim** overhanging trees and shrubs. This can stop the fire spreading to your home.



**Mow** grass and remove the cuttings. Have a cleared area around your home.



**Remove** material that can burn around your home (door mats, wood piles, mulch, leaves, paint).



**Clear** and remove all the debris and leaves from the gutters surrounding your home. Embers can set your home on fire.

**Prepare** a sturdy hose or hoses that will reach all around your home. Make sure you've got a reliable source of water.

# CONSIDER THE AREA YOU LIVE IN

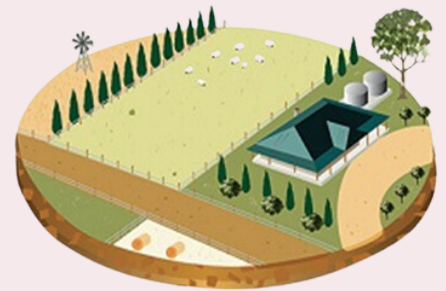
## Surrounded by Bush

- Fires in dense bushland can be very hot, intense and fast moving
- Burning embers may be blown from the bush, landing on your property and starting spot fires or setting fire to your home
- Embers may land for many hours even after the main fire front has passed
- Smoke and fire may affect driveways or homes, making it difficult to leave
- The radiant heat from a fire nearby may set fire to your home or surrounds



## Grasslands or Paddocks

- Grass fires can start easily and spread quickly, not only destroying homes but also crops and livelihoods
- Grass fires are very hot and can produce huge amounts of heat which can kill anyone out in the open
- As grass dries out or cures, it can catch fire more easily
- Fires in tall grass will have tall flames that may burn across trails, roads or fire breaks
- Grass fires can move much faster than a bush fire, catching people off guard



## Bush meets Grasslands

- Fires can spread quickly from parks and reserves, threatening your home, fences or gardens
- Thick smoke from the fire might make it difficult to see or breathe
- Even if you live a few streets back from the bush, you are at risk from ember attack
- Burning embers can travel through the air, setting fire to homes a few streets back from the bush



wsc.nsw.gov.au



Civic Centre,  
68 Elizabeth Street,  
Moss Vale, NSW 2577



mail@wsc.nsw.gov.au



02 4868 0888

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**This information is provided for your planning and preparation. It is intended to empower you with information and compliments advice and direction of appropriate authorities such as Police and RFS.**

 For life threatening emergencies, call 000

## NSW Rural Fire Service



The agency responsible for combatting bushfires in the Wingecarribee Shire is the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS).

Please refer to the RFS website for information regarding bushfire preparedness including how to develop a Bush Fire Survival Plan.

If you have any questions, need advice or assistance in developing your plan, please contact NSW RFS.

 [rfs.nsw.gov.au](https://rfs.nsw.gov.au)

 1800 679 737

## Fire and Rescue NSW



Fire & Rescue NSW is the principal urban fire and rescue service. Their responsibilities also include hazardous materials (HAZMAT) response.

 [fire.nsw.gov.au](https://fire.nsw.gov.au)

## Special Considerations for Rural Properties

If you live on a rural property, there are additional tasks to prepare your home.

- Remove overhanging branches from power lines.
- Ensure that a fire tanker can access your property.
- Clear fire breaks along paddock boundaries.
- Store petrol, diesel, and gas away from home.
- Keep a well-maintained area around the home and sheds.
- Place water pipes from dams underground and install a pump to the house.
- Make sure hoses have spray nozzles.
- Keep water tanks full and connect them to pumps.

### TIP

A cleared area around your home can slow a fire spreading and give firefighters a safe area to work.

## AIDER

The AIDER (Assist Infirm, Disabled, and Elderly Residents) program is a free, one-time service aimed at helping some of our most at-risk community members prepare their homes for bush fire season.

This service is specifically designed for individuals who have limited domestic support available from family, friends, or other services.

Eligible participants include older adults, people living with disabilities, and those already receiving community assistance and services. Additionally, the property must be located on bush fire prone land—areas that can support a bush fire or be subject to bush fire attack.

AIDER services include:

- clearing gutters
- Thinning vegetation around the home
- Removing leaf and tree debris
- Trimming branches close to the home
- Mowing or slashing long grass
- 

**[Download the RFS AIDER factsheet here.](#)**

### TASK

If you or someone you know could benefit from the AIDER program, please contact RFS at 02 8741 4955 or email [aider@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aider@rfs.nsw.gov.au).

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## Be Prepared for Changing Conditions

Bush fires can change direction and intensity quickly. It's important to stay informed and be ready to adapt your plan as needed:

Monitor local news and fire service updates: Stay aware of fire warnings and alerts in your area



### Hazards near me app

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### Live Traffic NSW app

[Live Traffic NSW Webpage](#)  
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### Register. Find. Reunite.

Bookmark the [Register.Find.reunite](https://register.redcross.org.au/) website <https://register.redcross.org.au/> on your phone, tablet and computer to let others know you are safe in an emergency



### Hazards near me app

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### LISTEN

ABC Illawarra 97.3MHz FM 2ST  
Bowral 102.9  
Highlands FM 107.1  
Power FM 94.9

By the end of this week, you should have discussed your evacuation plans and prepared your home for the bush fire season. Next week we will learn about Fire levels and ratings.

Stay safe and prepared!

P.S. It's never too late to invite friends or family to join this campaign. Forward them this week's guide and ask them to join us in getting bush fire ready. Together, we can make our community safer.

### Disclaimer

This information is not intended to supersede any formal advice given to you by an appropriate authority such as NSW RFS Current as of August 2024.



[wsc.nsw.gov.au](http://wsc.nsw.gov.au)



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