

GET READY WINGECARRIBEE

Get Bush Fire Ready: Week 1 – **Discuss** Your Bush Fire Plan

HELLO AND WELCOME!

Welcome to Week 1 of our "Get Bush Fire Ready" campaign.

This week, we focus on discussing what to do if a bush fire threatens your home.

It's crucial to get the whole household together and develop a clear plan to ensure everybody's safety.



[Watch: NSW RFS – What to do before a fire video](#)

One of the most important decisions to make before a bush fire is whether you will leave early or stay to defend your property.

Even if your family plan is to leave early, there may be some incidents, such as road closures or a fast-moving fire front, which may mean leaving is no longer an option.

It's important to know what you will do in any situation and be prepared.



wsc.nsw.gov.au



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68 Elizabeth Street,
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02 4868 0888

LEAVING EARLY IS YOUR SAFEST CHOICE

Leaving Early: Most people choose to leave early, which is the safest option.

Consider what will be your sign to leave, where will you go, how you will get there, what will you take, who will you tell. Have multiple routes planned in case roads become inaccessible.

[***RFS Leave Early factsheet***](#)

Staying to Defend: If you decide to stay, ensure you have the necessary equipment and know the physical and mental demands involved. Keep in mind that emergency services may not be available to assist you during the peak of the fire. Even if you do not plan to stay, it's a good idea to make sure you are prepared to stay in case you are unable to leave

[***RFS Prepare to Stay factsheet***](#)

Places of last Resort: Is a last-resort refuge during a bush fire emergency, used when your Bush Fire Survival Plan options are unsafe. These places do not guarantee safety but should be identified and noted in your plan. If unavailable, consider safer alternatives like well-prepared homes or ovals away from the bush. Move to these places early if it becomes unsafe to stay home. Remember, leaving early is always the safest option. Neighbourhood Safer Places may lack amenities and are often unsuitable for pets and large animals.

[***RFS Place of last resort factsheet***](#)

Once you have discussed and confirmed your plan, write it down/print it out and store it somewhere safe. Make sure everyone know where to find it. During an emergency, it can be stressful, and you may need to refer to your plan. Its also important to tell others of your plans before and during an emergency



TASK

You can use the following NSW Rural Fire Service Step 1 discussion guide to help formulate your plans as a household [here](#).

TIP

You do not have to wait for an official warning!
Consider making plans to stay with friends or family on extreme fire days

If You Decide to Stay and Defend

Defending your property is not just about the physicality of the task at hand – it also encompasses the emotional and psychological aspect as well. If you have never faced a bush fire at close quarters, it is a scary prospect.

Here are a few point to keep in mind;

If there is a serious risk to life or you spot an unattended fire, call Triple Zero "000" immediately.

Tell your friends and family if you have decided to stay and defend

If you have little kids or injured or infirm adults in your care, make plans to get them out of the area ahead of time

Keep up your fluids, dehydration in hot dry conditions happens very quickly

Your safety is the most important thing!



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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
 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

What to Wear?

During a bush fire, it can be very hot and there may be sparks or embers flying around. For this reason, it is important to wear personal protective clothing. Loose-fitting clothing made from natural fibres such as pure wool, heavy cotton drill, or denim, wide brim hat and leather enclosure shoes. Synthetic fabrics can melt or burn.

Head to the RFS website for more information [What to wear](#)

Bushfire Protective Clothing Set

-  **Wide-brimmed or hard hat:**
To protect your eyes against smoke, embers, and other debris.
-  **Non-synthetic mask:**
Such as a P2 face mask, which help protect against smoke inhalation.
-  **Long-sleeved shirt:**
Made from thick natural fibres to protect your skin against radiant heat.
-  **Heavy cotton pants:**
Such as denim jeans, which are not too heavy and do not ignite quickly.
-  **Leather footwear:**
As synthetic materials are more likely to melt and cause severe burns.



Figure 1: Australia wide first aid protective clothing bushfires



TASK

Get your protective clothing ready for each family member and pack them away ready to use.

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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



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Live Traffic NSW app

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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

LISTEN

ABC Illawarra 97.3MHz FM 02ST
Bowral 102.9
Highlands FM 107.1
Power FM 94.9

By the end of this week, you should have a clear plan that every member of your household understands and commits to. Next week, we'll focus on how to prepare your home for the bush fire season.

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.



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