

GET READY WINGECARRIBEE

Get Bush Fire Ready: Week 5 – Your **Emergency Kit**

HELLO AND WELCOME!

Welcome to Week 5 of our "Get Bush Fire Ready" campaign. So far, we have looked at our bush fire plans, prepared our homes, learnt about the fire alert levels and ratings and know how to stay informed.

This week, we'll help you build your emergency kits including each family members go bag. Do not underestimate the importance of having these ready.

If you only have 10 minutes to pack before evacuation, what would you take?



Watch: What to pack in a fire Evacuation

Packing quickly under pressure can be overwhelming, but having a plan can make a huge difference. Watch the video below to learn what essentials you should prioritise in an emergency.

In this [video](#), watch as two families practice a drill, packing for evacuation with only 10 minutes to spare. Their experiences and insights can help you prepare and ensure you know what to take when time is of the essence.



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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

Build Your Emergency Kit

Your emergency kit should contain the essentials you'll need during an evacuation or when services are disrupted.

Step 1: Find a large waterproof plastic storage box

Step 2: Fill Your Box:

- Portable Battery-operated radio
- Waterproof torch and Spare batteries
- First Aid Kit with manual
- Combination pocket knife/bottle and can opener
- Candles and waterproof matches or waterproof torch with spare batteries
- Woollen blankets
- List of important contact numbers
- Important documents in waterproof bags
- USB battery bank for phone or tablet charging (consider solar charger options)
- Families with small children or babies may consider a camping stove for boiling water if there's an electricity outage.

Step 3: Make a shopping list for missing items and go buy them.

Step 4: Mark today as your Emergency Box 'birthday' on your calendar and the outside of the box. Set a reminder for an annual check-up to update documents, check first aid kit and replace items.

Step 5: Store your box where it's easy to access and make sure everyone in your family knows where to find it.

TIP

This is a good time to Check your insurance coverage is current, up to date and covers you in the event of a bush fire.

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Your Personal Grab bag

Each member of your family should have their own personal grab bag. Belongings can be helpful to ease the stress of evacuation, especially for the kids. This could be already packed ready to go or you could print the below checklist and stick it on your bag / box to help you pack during an evacuation.

Adults:

- Cash, ATM cards, credit cards
- Medications, prescriptions, toiletries and sanitary supplies
- Special requirements for infants, elderly, injured, disabled
- Mobile phone and charger
- Combination pocket knife
- Important documents, valuables and photos (in a waterproof bag)
- Back-up hard drive containing photos, scans of documents
- Change of clothes including underwear!
- Drinking water (at least three litres per person per day)
- Easy to eat, on-the-go snacks with a long shelf life. If you pack cans, don't forget the can opener.
- Something to read,
- Photo booklets of the family- so you can talk about happy times and also so they can show people what you all look like if you get separated.
- Medals or family heirlooms – those few small things that are irreplaceable.

TIP

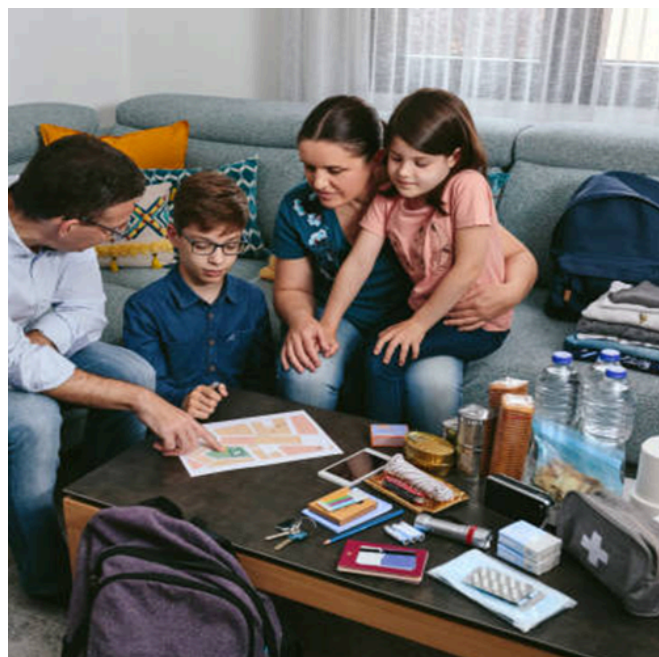
Involving the kids in your emergency preparations will help them prepare mentally for stressful times and give them a better understanding of what is happening when it comes time to go.

Kids

- Medications, prescriptions
- Toothbrush and Toothpaste
- Change of clothes including underwear!
- Favourite snacks and water bottle
- Something to read, colouring books – these don't need charging!
- iPad, tablet, Mobile phone and charger with pre-downloaded movies or TV shows
- Medals or awards

TIP

Download your RFS Prepare your pets and Animal checklist [here](#)



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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



Emergency Plus app

[App Download for iOS](#)
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Get Prepared 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 identified and/or gathered essential items for a quick departure.

Next week, in our final week, we'll focus on having a plan B and learning more about Ember risk. 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.



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