

EMERGENCY KIT & PETS

Why write down your plan?

Remember, any plan – written or not – is better than no plan.

Would you remember a plan that's just in your head if you're surrounded by smoke, heat and flames? A written plan will take the pressure off you, and avoid arguments and delays.

The bushfire season is long, and a written plan will help reduce uncertainty and anxiety. Having a written plan will reduce the stress and disruption to your family routine on every occasion you need to leave early – even if there is no fire.

Defending your Property

Planning to stay and defend is a big decision. Defending a home requires at least two fit and determined adults, at least 10,000 litres of water and appropriate fire fighting hoses and pumps.

For some, defending a property is a back-up option (if they are trapped by fire). Others will plan to leave early on some days and stay and defend on others, linking their decisions to the Fire Danger Ratings. For many others, staying to defend is not an option under any circumstances.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Do not expect an emergency service at your property during an Emergency. Do not rely on a warning.

It is your responsibility to know when to leave.

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Overnight bag with change of clothes, toiletries and sanitary supplies

Important items if you have time to prepare:

- Adequate amount of water for at least 3 days
- Passport & photos
- Will & insurance papers
- Battery-powered radio
- Woollen blankets
- Mobile phone and charger
- Torch and spare batteries
- Jewellery
- Medicines and First Aid Kit

Contact information

- Your Doctor › council › power and water company

Pets

Remember to prepare for your pets as well.

Include the following items to your Emergency Kit:

- * Collars, registration and identification tags
- * suitable transport carriers or leash
- * any medications
- * dietary supplements
- * food and drinking water
- * a familiar item (toy, bed, treats) to help reduce stress.



For more information check www.dfes.wa.gov.au or www.narrogin.wa.gov.au
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Your Natural Disaster Hazard Plan: the basics

Natural Disasters are becoming more common.

Fire, Flood, Earthquake, Human or animal epidemic, chemical spill, Terrorism, Server Storm or climatic event.

Just as every family or household is unique, every plan will be different. There are many ways you can go about your planning – the information and suggestions in this booklet are designed to put you on the right track.

Do I need a plan?

You don't have to live in the country to be at risk of hazards. Fires/floods /earthquakes can occur in bush or in urban areas where people live.

Not everyone thinks clearly in an emergency. A written, and preferably well-practiced plan, will help you remember what needs to be done during a crisis.

What leaving early means

'Leaving early' means being away from high-risk areas before there are any signs of fire. In other words, leaving early is a precaution you take *just in case* there is a need for evacuation – Leaving early does not mean waiting for a warning or a siren. And it certainly does not mean waiting for a knock on the door.

Why you should leave early

Even a fire that is kilometres away could be at your door in minutes. In certain conditions, embers can travel many kilometres in front of a fire and a grassfire can travel faster than you can run. Wind changes are unpredictable and can rapidly change the direction or size of a fire.

Driving in a bushfire is extremely dangerous, and potentially life threatening. A drive that would normally take five minutes could take two hours. Road closures, traffic jams, collisions, smoke, fallen trees and embers are all real possibilities. Always ensure your headlights are on when driving in smoke or dangerous conditions.

In an evacuation, people may be confused, disoriented and physically or psychologically stressed. In these conditions, making good decisions becomes very difficult.

What are the types of emergencies where I may be advised to evacuate?

There are many types of emergencies that may require you to consider evacuating. These emergencies may include fire, flood, storm, earthquake and chemical hazard or spill.

If there is a bushfire in your area you should not rely on a call to evacuate.

How to plan

Just as every family or household is unique, every plan will be different. There are many ways you can go about your planning – but information and templates in the [Fire Ready Kit](#), are designed to put you on the right track. At an absolute minimum, talk through the ten decisions below with your household.

Review these points before each fire season and don't put it off until later:

1. Which Fire Danger Rating is your trigger to leave?
2. Will you leave early that morning or the night before?
3. Where will you go?
4. What route will you take – and what is your alternative in the event that a fire is already in the area?
5. What will you take with you?
6. What do you need to organise for your pets or livestock?
7. Who do you need to keep informed of your movements?
8. Is there anyone outside your household who you need to help or check up on?
9. How will you stay informed about warnings and updates?
10. What will you do if there is a fire in the area and you cannot leave?

Remember to decide who will do what as part of your plan.

Your destination and journey

It's up to you to decide on a suitable place to go when you leave early. Check with your local Evacuation Centres, if they are open and can accommodate you and your family. You can register your family with contact details so you can be informed when it is safe to return and if Emergency Services need to contact you.

If you do not have friends or relatives in low-risk areas who you can visit the Evacuation Centre will be the safest place for you.

If you don't have a car you will need to plan carefully to organise transport. Talk to neighbours, family and friends about different scenarios and how you could help each other, especially if you have elderly neighbours. Simple things like exchanging contact numbers can make all the difference.

Practical checklist –ensure you're ready

Take care of simple, practical actions before the fire season so you are ready to leave or seek shelter quickly, calmly and safely.

1. Pack an Emergency Kit with essential items and keep it in a handy place.
2. Scan important documents and photos onto a memory stick.
3. Purchase a battery-operated radio, powerful torch and extra batteries.
4. Save important contact numbers in your mobile phone. Include family, friends and the Council for regular updates.
5. Have a spare mobile phone charger for emergencies.
6. Set aside protective clothing (long-sleeved, made from natural material like cotton) for each member of the family. Put woollen blankets in your car.
7. Practise packing your car so you know how long it will take.
8. Mark your primary routes, alternative routes and petrol stations on hard copy maps.
9. Make firm arrangements with anyone you plan to visit when you leave early.
10. Talk to neighbours or nearby friends about how you might help each other.
11. Don't forget pets and horses – include pet transport containers in your Emergency Kit.
12. Know where you can move your horses to if they won't be safe on your property.

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

Bushfires, earthquakes, floods and storms can start at any time and your plan needs to take into account the unexpected.

For instance, what if you have teenage children home alone, children at a friend's place or you don't have access to the family car? Can you incorporate these different situations into your plan?

