

Leave early checklist



Go to www.fire.tas.gov.au to find out more about Community Bushfire Protection Plans and nearby safer places for your area

Leaving early is always the safest option

On high fire risk days or actual fire days:

- Block drain-pipes and fill gutters with water.
- Remove flammable items from the exterior of the house e.g. blinds, outdoor furniture, door mats.
- Pack planned belongings into your car and leave in accordance with your plan.

When to leave?

- What will prompt you to go? The trigger might be a very high fire danger rating (check the weather page of your daily newspaper or the TFS website) or a fire breaking out nearby. Plan to leave early, many hours before the fire reaches your home to avoid being caught in smoke, the fire, or on a congested road.

Most people who die in bushfires are caught in the open, either in their car or on foot, because they've left their property too late, when the fire is approaching.

Where to go?

- Consider low fire risk areas, such as a nearby safe town or beach or a community fire refuge.

How to get there?

- Consider a number of travel routes to avoid areas where fires are burning.

What will you take?

Develop a list of items your family will need, and prepare a Relocation Kit. You might like to consider the items below:

- Bottled water.
- Battery operated radio and spare batteries.
- Medications.
- First aid kit.
- Glasses.
- Mobile phone and charger.
- Wallet/purse.
- Money and credit cards.
- Clothing.
- Blankets. Sleeping bag. Air mattress.

- Sun shelter (Sun umbrella or fold up gazebo).
- Tent. Folding chair.
- Children's toys.
- Phone numbers of family and friends.
- Important items (such as insurance policies, family photos and valuables).
- Organise household members and make arrangements for pets.

Because everyone's **Bushfire Survival Plan** will be different, complete the **Leaving Early Survival Plan** for you and your family's circumstances and keep it in a safe and easily accessible place.

Everyone must have a contingency plan

Fire services know that many people don't make timely decisions about what they will do when bushfire threatens. They wait until the fire is too close before making up their minds. When fires are burning under 'severe', 'extreme' or 'catastrophic' fire conditions, this can be fatal.

Nearby Safer Places

- You need to have somewhere nearby where you can shelter if you've left it too late to leave safely and your home isn't safe to shelter in.
1) _____
2) _____
3) _____

- On Catastrophic days the safest option is for you and your family to **Leave Early**, hours before a fire threatens your home. These are the worst conditions for bush or grass fire. Even well prepared and constructed homes may not be safe unless firefighters have assessed them as defensible in the prevailing conditions. Fires will likely be uncontrollable, unpredictable and very fast moving with highly aggressive flames extending high above tree tops and buildings.

- On Extreme days **Leave Early** will always be the safest option for you and your family. Stay and Defend should only be considered if your home is well prepared, specifically designed and constructed for bush fire and you are capable of actively defending it. Fires will likely be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving with flames in the tree tops, and higher than roof tops.

Leave early plan



- Follow your Bushfire Survival Plan – Be Bushfire Ready.
- Monitor your local ABC radio station. Pack your Relocation Kit into your car.
- Prepare your property before leaving as per requirements for actual fire days:
 - Block drain-pipes and fill gutters with water.
 - Remove flammable items from the exterior of the house (e.g. blinds, outdoor furniture, door mats, hanging baskets).

When to go (what will prompt you to go):

Where to go and how to get there (identify one or more safe locations and what roads will take you there - have several alternatives):

Location 1 _____ Route: _____

Location 2 _____ Route: _____

Location 3 _____ Route: _____

Who to tell (before and after, list names and telephone numbers):

Name: _____ No: _____ Name: _____ No: _____

Name: _____ No: _____ Name: _____ No: _____

Name: _____ No: _____ Name: _____ No: _____

What to take (make a list of your valuable items and important documents and add to your relocation kit):

Important phone numbers

Fire: 000 Police: 000 Ambulance: 000

School: _____ Work: _____ Family: _____ No: _____

Friend: _____ No: _____ Family: _____ No: _____