Property assessment sessions are attended by the BRN Community Development Officer, the local Brigade Chief and volunteer brigade members depending on their availability.

* The purpose of a bushfire ready property assessment is to identify the hazards or risks to an individual property if a bushfire should impact on it. The benefits are that once hazards are identified, people can plan and undertake the necessary steps to make their property safe from bushfire
* A bushfire ready property assessment may be undertaken with an individual property owner or in a group involving several properties. In the case of the latter, all the residents must be comfortable with a group assessment
* The inspections undertaken are on the external areas of a property in a group session
* If a resident would like an assessor to advise on fire safety within a dwelling, a time should be made without any other people from the group involved.
* Assessment of properties are made with impartiality and identify genuine fire safety problems and not done in any manner that the house owner or tenant feels they are being criticised
* Important: the information given is advice and that it is the residents’ own decision on whether they put that advice into effect or not
* Bushfire ready property assessments identify tasks that individuals can undertake or combined activities that can be completed by a group as a working bee
* A bushfire ready property assessment is undertaken in pairs with one person as a scribe (CDO) and the other as the spokesperson (Chief). The property owner needs to take their own notes and make their own decisions
* Household members need to have a plan worked out in advance, for what they will do in the event of a bushfire; either “leave early” or “stay and defend” – the first being the safest option

Eight property aspects are assessed:

* + Defendable space
  + Vegetation Management
  + Water supply
  + Access
  + House Maintenance and improvement to resist ember attack
  + Maintenance activities
  + Awareness of personal capacity
  + Potential hazards

Most bushfires in Tasmania occur during relatively mild summer weather and are easily controlled by firefighters. A property may be defendable when the fire danger rating is, ‘very high’, but un-defendable when the fire danger rating is, ‘severe’ and that a properly prepared and defended home can provide a safe haven during almost all bushfires.

Most people who die in bushfires are caught in the open; wether in their car or on foot, because they’ve left their property too late, when the fire is approaching. If you are unsure about defending your property, you should prepare a Leave Early Plan.