



How to prepare for a Bushfire

Planning and rehearsing an emergency plan is essential to bushfire survival – each family member should know what his or her responsibilities are if you are unfortunate enough to be caught in a bushfire:

- Develop a Personal and Family Emergency Plan
- Have an Emergency Kit ready in case you need to evacuate
- Clear eaves and gutters of leaf litter and clear dry vegetation, overhanging branches, rubbish and any flammable liquids from around the house, keep the lawn short
- Seal open eaves and spaces under the house. Install screens or shutters
- Ensure that you have access to water
- Check that garden hoses and fire fighting equipment inside and outside the house are in good working order
- Pump engines are fuelled ready to use
- Remove or provide storage of flammable materials
- Microchip pets and provide them with identification tags

What to do in a Bushfire

In the event of a bushfire you should:

- Call "000" immediately
- Plug down pipes with plastic bags filled with sand, soil or a large wet sponge and tape them securely in place. Fill gutters with water to prevent spot fires igniting
- Disconnect garden hoses and any plastic tap fittings and take them inside the house, along with doormats and any flammable items
- Start your auxiliary pump if you have one, connect it to your independent water supply
- Turn on sprinklers



- Swimming pools can be used as a source of emergency water
- Turn off gas in the house
- Monitor the radio and television for warning updates
- Evacuate immediately if instructed to do so
- If you have to evacuate:
 - turn off electricity, water and gas bottles
 - take your personal and family emergency plan
 - take your emergency kit with you
 - do not attempt to drive through smoke or flames
 - take your pets with you, as well as sufficient food and any medications
 - if you have livestock, notify the Department Planning and rehearsing of Primary Industries

More information regarding bushfires, building regulations and fire safety can be found at:

NSW Rural Fire Service website:

www.bushfire.nsw.gov.au

Kempsey Shire Council web link:

- Department of Planning booklet – Planning for Bushfire Protection
- Building Code of Australia AS3959 construction of buildings in a bushfire prone area, which can be purchased through the Australian Building Codes Board website at www.abcd.gov.au

For further information and advice on Bushfire Planning

Contact:

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