

Safer places in a bushfire

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ARE YOU BUSHFIRE READY?

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WHERE TO GO AS A LAST RESORT

It is important to identify places where you can go as a last resort if you are unable to leave or implement your bushfire survival plan. A 'safer place' is somewhere you can shelter during bushfire. These places may include a local open space, a dam or beach. Identify and plan where your family safer place will be.

CONSIDER THE USE OF A SAFER PLACE AS PART OF YOUR BACKUP PLAN WHEN:

- You are not able to carry out your Bushfire Survival Plan.
- Your plan was to stay and actively defend however the fire has worsened and your home is no longer a safe place to shelter. Leaving your home in this situation is now your safest option.

ONCE YOU HAVE ARRIVED AT YOUR SAFER PLACE YOU NEED TO:

- Keep up to date with fire information by radio, mobile phone or whatever means of communication you have.
- Make sure all doors and windows are sealed as best as possible if your safer place is a building.
- Seek protection from radiant heat and embers as best you can if your safer place is an open space. Cover any exposed skin with blankets or clothing and lie flat on the ground as the fire passes.
- Remain vigilant for possible ember attack and new fire fronts.

If you or a family member have special needs you should think about what assistance may be needed at a safer place. You will need to consider this in your Bushfire Survival Plan. Refer to Factsheet #1.



Safer places have their limitations. There are things that you will need to consider if you do plan to use a safer place in your bushfire survival planning:

- They do not guarantee safety in all circumstances. You and your families' safety should be your first priority.
- There may be a risk with travelling to your safer place. Check to see if the route is safe and clear, have a contingency route or safer place in your back-up plan.
- Firefighters may not be there, they may be fighting the main fire front elsewhere.
- Your safer place caters for animals or pets. You will need to consider this in your bushfire survival plan.
- Your safer place may not cater for animals or pets. You will need to consider this in your bushfire survival plan.
- Your safer place may not provide shelter from the elements of a bushfire, particularly flying embers and hot weather. Keep woollen blankets in your car to give you shelter from flying embers and a supply of drinking water.

For more information visit www.dfes.wa.gov.au or contact **DFES Community Engagement** 9395 9816

