



PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

BUSHFIRE

TRAVELLERS CHECKLIST



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In Western Australia, bushfires can start suddenly and without warning throughout the year. People have been killed and seriously injured during bushfires. If you are travelling or staying near bushland, fire is a real risk to you.

Bushfires in WA are becoming more common and the risks are increasing. This checklist will help you and the people you are travelling with to understand the risks and know what to do if a bushfire starts.

TRAVELLERS CHECKLIST

This checklist will help you and the people you are travelling with understand the risk so you can decide what you will do if a bushfire starts.

1. Do you know the most up to date Fire Danger Rating (FDR) for the area you are travelling to?

The FDR is based on the weather forecast and gives you advice about the level of bushfire threat on a particular day. When the rating is high, the threat of a bushfire increases.

Know the FDR for the area you are travelling to. Visit the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of WA (FESA) website www.fesa.wa.gov.au or the Bureau of Meteorology website www.bom.gov.au/wa for more information on FDRs and what they mean.

2. Is there a Total Fire Ban in the area you are travelling to?

Check out Bans, Restrictions and Ratings on the FESA website or call the **Total Fire Ban Information line** on **1800 709 355**. During a Total Fire Ban it is illegal to light a fire in open air or undertake any other activities that may start a fire. You can also get more detailed information about what is and isn't allowed, including restrictions around barbeques and campfires.

3. Are you prepared to change your travel plans on hot, dry and windy days?

On these days it's better to visit safe places such as cities and towns. If you plan to visit a place that is a bushfire risk area be prepared to change your travel plans at short notice should a fire start. Always advise your family of your travel plans.

4. What will you do if you encounter a bushfire while driving?

While travelling in Western Australia, you need to have a map and be aware of your surroundings. Watch for signs of a bushfire especially smoke and flames. If you see smoke and flames you should leave the area immediately by driving away from the fire. Do not wait and see.

What to do:

- If there is a lot of smoke, slow down and be aware. There could be people, vehicles and livestock on the road.
- Turn your car headlights on, close windows and outside vents.
- If you cannot see clearly, ensure you are not in the path of the fire and pull over to the side of the road.
- Keep your headlights and hazard lights on and wait until the smoke clears.



Fire Danger Rating sign board

If you become trapped by a fire:

- Stay in your car and turn your engine off.
- Park in an area with low or no vegetation on the side of the road furthest from the fire with your vehicle orientated towards the oncoming fire front.
- Close the doors, windows and outside vents and do not get out or open windows until the fire front has passed.
- Lie on the floor and cover your body with any available woollen or cotton blankets or cloths.

5. Have you packed a survival kit to help if you are caught in a bushfire?

A survival kit should include essential items such as an AM/FM portable radio, spare batteries, a first aid kit, woollen blankets, drinking water and protective clothing like long-sleeved cotton tops, pants, hats and sturdy shoes. You should also have a map of the area that you are travelling in.

6. Do you have the FESA Information Line saved in your mobile phone?

To keep up to date with emergency information call FESA on **1300 657 209** or the **National Relay Service** on **1800 555 677** if you are hearing impaired. To report a fire or in an emergency situation, call triple zero (**000**).



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7. If you are staying overnight, have you discussed how you will escape a fire?

Find out what bushfire safety plans are in place in the area where you are camping, caravanning or renting accommodation. Ask for information on alternative routes to leave the area. If a fire occurs, you should always take advice from emergency services personnel.

8. Do you know your local ABC radio frequency?

Find out the local ABC radio frequency in the area that you are travelling to. In a major emergency when lives and property are at risk, broadcasts will be issued at a quarter to and a quarter past the hour.

THE WA BUSHFIRE SEASON

- South West** is 1 November to 31 April
- Goldfields Midland** is 1 November to 31 March
- Midwest Gascoyne** is 1 October to 31 April
- North West (Kimberley and Pilbara)** is 1 June to 31 October depending on the seasonal rainfall

Visit www.fesa.wa.gov.au or the local Tourism WA Visitor Centre for further information