

Bushfire Risks and Dangers



Flames are not the only risk you face in a bushfire.

Bushfires happen every summer. They can start suddenly and without warning. It's important to understand your risks and plan what you'll do to keep safe when a bushfire threatens your life or home.



Ember Attack

Embers consist of burning bark, leaves or twigs and can start new fires up to 25km ahead of the fire front.

Embers can:

- Set alight flammable items such as plants, leaves in gutters or outdoor furniture
- Occur before, during and after a fire front passes.



Radiant Heat

Bushfires can generate an incredible amount of heat, known as radiant heat. It is important to consider flammable material near and around your home.

Radiant heat can:

- Dry and ignite fuels even before the flames have reached them.
- Cause injury and death from burns, heat exhaustion and possible heart failure.



Smoke

Lung injuries and suffocation can occur where the body is exposed to smoke and super-heated air.

You should:

- Seek shelter when heat and smoke becomes too intense.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a mask.

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You don't have to live in the bush to be at risk from bushfires

If you live in or near any of these environments, bushfire is a real threat to you and those you live with. You will need to prepare your home, property and household in case of a bushfire.



Coastal scrub

Coastal scrub fires can be hot and move very fast. If you live near areas of coastal scrub, you're at risk.



Forest and bushland

Fires in these areas can be very intense and extremely difficult for emergency services to reach and extinguish. If you live near forest or bushland, your risk is very high.



Grasslands

Grass fires can start easily and spread quickly. If you live near grasslands, you're at risk.



Farms and paddocks

Fires can spread quickly over large areas like paddocks. If you live on or near farmlands, you're at risk.



Parks and reserves

Flames and flying embers can travel many kilometres, crossing roads and impacting homes. If you live near parks or reserves, you're at risk.



Get ready

To learn how to prepare your household and property, visit dfes.wa.gov.au/bushfire

To create your bushfire survival plan, visit mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au