

BUSHFIRE-READY PROPERTY CHECKLIST FOR HOUSEHOLDERS

In most bushfire conditions in Tasmania, a well-prepared property will increase the likelihood of successfully defending your property. A well-prepared property is more likely to survive without being actively defended, meaning you can plan to leave early. It will also make it easier for firefighters to protect your property, if firefighters are available to protect it. If there is no time to leave safely, a well-prepared property will provide better shelter than an unprepared property.

For more information and for help with completing your checklist:

- Prepare a Bushfire Plan: bushfire.tas.gov.au
- Bushfire Safety Guide: bushfire.tas.gov.au
- Building for Bushfire resources: fire.tas.gov.au/Show?pageId=colBuildingForBushfire



Clear space – clear the area around your home where vegetation is managed to reduce the intensity of a bushfire. Defendable space can reduce the amount of direct flame contact and radiant heat affecting your home.



Vegetation management – reducing the amount of combustible materials (e.g. leaf litter, bark) and cutting back trees and shrubs to reduce the intensity of an approaching bushfire.



Water supply – a reliable water supply is a critical part of defending your property. Even if you plan to leave early, it is important to think about water supply in case things change and you cannot leave and need to actively defend your property.



Access – if your house is set back from the road, can a fire truck enter and turn around if it needs to respond to a bushfire. It is also important to ensure we can identify your property using a street number.



Building improvements – your house and any adjoining structures need to be well constructed to deal with the impact of bushfire, including having openings sealed to prevent embers entering.



Maintenance activities – like cleaning gutters, removing leaf litter, and testing firefighting equipment, can help to keep you bushfire-ready.



Personal capacity – consider the physical and psychological risks of staying and defending your property – it will be hot, scary, tiring, hard to see and breath, and extremely hard work.



Potential hazards – if you plan to stay and defend be aware of potential hazards like electricity supply, LPG, firewood storage that could impact your personal safety.

	Helps to protect your house from			Critical to actively defend your property
	Direct flames	Radiant heat	Ember attack	
Clear space	✓	✓		✓
Vegetation management	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water supply			✓	✓
Access				✓
Building improvements		✓	✓	✓
Maintenance activities	✓	✓	✓	✓
Personal capacity				✓
Potential hazards				✓

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Clear space

	YES	NO	N/A
Have you removed combustible materials from on, under and around the house?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you pruned low hanging branches from shrubs and trees, and removed highly combustible shrubs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you removed any buildup of leaves, bark and other bush litter?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Vegetation management

	YES	NO	N/A
Have you replaced highly combustible plants with flame resistant plants?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you used flame resistant mulch close to your house and buildings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you removed plants from against the walls of your house and buildings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Water supply

	YES	NO	N/A
Do you have water for firefighting (e.g. a steel or concrete 10,000 litre tank)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the tank have a Storz 65mm adaptor/coupling?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a petrol or diesel water pump? And spare fuel?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are water pipes and fittings metal?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If water pipes and fittings are plastic, are they buried underground?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access

	YES	NO	N/A
Is your street number clearly visible?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is a fire truck able to enter your property and turn around?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is your driveway at least 4m wide?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is your driveway clear to a height of 4m?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Building improvements

	YES	NO	N/A
Have you sealed gaps (more than 2mm) around house and other buildings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roof, windows, doors, vents Under the house, deck etc 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you installed valves on your downpipes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Maintenance activities

	YES	NO	N/A
Have gutters been cleaned?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you tested your firefighting equipment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you cleaned up leaf litter, long grass, pruned dead branches etc?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have combustible materials been moved away from the house and buildings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Personal capacity

	YES	NO	N/A
Are you physically and emotionally prepared to defend your property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you prepared appropriate clothing for defending your property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you prepared a bushfire emergency kit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have drinking water and food available?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Potential hazards

	YES	NO	N/A
Are LPG bottles away from vegetation? Can they be moved away from buildings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you stored firewood away from your house and buildings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will pets and livestock be safe and not pose a threat to firefighters?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>