

CFS FACT SHEET

PLANNING TO LEAVE EARLY



Planning to leave early requires planning and consideration, you need to understand what the triggers are to leave and know what actions you should take before leaving.

Remember to consider the Fire Danger Rating when planning to leave early.

Preparing a Bushfire Survival Plan will help you work through some of the questions below and provide you with a plan that can be practised before putting it into action under real circumstances.



When will you leave?

It may be appropriate to leave early well before a fire starts on fire danger days either very early in the morning or even the night before. If you decide to wait until a bushfire starts in your area, keep a regular lookout and monitor the radio. This will ensure you leave well in advance of the arrival of the fire front. Never wait until the last moment.

Leaving in smoky conditions is leaving too late. Do not drive or flee through smoke. The majority of bushfire fatalities occur when people leave too late in their vehicles. It is unsafe to drive or be on the road during a bushfire.



Where will you go?

Go to a location outside of the bushfire risk area for example, a shopping centre. Alternatively you may wish to shelter with family or friends in a nearby town or even in your well-prepared neighbour's house. Decide in advance where you will go, and ensure that it is a safe area to relocate to. You should also work out how long it will take you to get there and plan alternative routes in case the fire or fallen trees block your way.

What will you take?

You should take your pre-prepared 'relocation kit' for your family and pets. (Refer to CFS Fact Sheet - 'Bushfire Survival Kits').

How will you travel?

Travel by car if possible and if travelling with a neighbour organise it well in advance. Plan a number of routes.

Consider how long it will take to travel out of the area. Identify a number of alternative routes to take if the need arises.

Preparations should include having adequate fuel, a woollen blanket, container of water, and a first aid kit in the vehicle in case you are caught in the passage of a fire.



Government
of South Australia

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.



What if family members are separated?

Plan what you will do in the event your children are at school or family members are away at work. Find out the school policy if bushfire threatens. Don't allow panic to drive anyone out in life threatening conditions searching for missing family members or pets. Ensure that all members of your family are familiar with your Bushfire Survival Plan and have options in case you are separated.

What if you are unable to leave?

A situation may arise during a bushfire that makes it difficult or dangerous for you to leave, placing you in a situation where you have to stay. It is imperative therefore that you have a contingency plan to cater for such situations so you can seek refuge accordingly.

Further information including the in-depth fact sheet 'On the Day of a Bushfire' and the Bushfire Survival Plan can be obtained from: www.cfs.sa.gov.au or SA CFS, GPO Box 2468, Adelaide, SA 5001. 08 8463 4200.



Government
of South Australia

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

