

WOODEND SUMMER FIRE PREPAREDNESS

ISSUE 1 | EVACUATION

DID YOU KNOW..?



The siren that can often be heard in Woodend is based at the CFA station on Urquhart Street. It's used to alert volunteers to an incident but it's also tested at 10.30am every Sunday.

The siren is not currently meant as a warning to residents, but it *is* a sign that there's an incident in the Woodend area.

The best place to find up to date, locally relevant information is the [VicEmergency App](#).



Listening to your questions

Over the past few weeks CFA volunteers have been asking Woodend residents what questions they have about bushfire preparedness. Below is a list of the themes that have emerged:

1. **Evacuation** - when to go, where to go, how to receive information.
2. **Preparing fire plans** - what to include, where to find resources or receive help?
3. **Property preparation** - advice on the best ways to prepare properties for bushfire.
4. **How to manage pets and livestock** in case of fire and/or evacuation?
5. **How to manage trees and weeds** to reduce fire risk. What to do about fire risk on neighbouring properties or public land?
6. **How to help and support neighbours** and other community members in their bushfire preparedness and response?



TOP TIP

The most important place to start when thinking about bushfire evacuation is the **FIRE DANGER RATING**. You'll have seen this scale as you enter Woodend, in newspapers, weather forecasts and in emergency preparedness apps such as the VicEmergency App.

This is your guide to the expected weather in your area in the coming days and it predicts how bad a fire will be if one starts. The higher the rating, the harder it will be to get a fire under control and protect people and property from danger.

Woodend is in a very high bushfire and grassfire danger area. This means that under EXTREME and CATASTROPHIC conditions firefighters will have little or no control over the spread and impact of fires, placing you at great risk if one occurs.

While 'LEAVING EARLY' is not generally referred to as evacuation, this option provides you with the best opportunity to stay safe.

What Bushfire Evacuation means for you

In this issue, we are going to focus on one of the most common themes that people have raised -

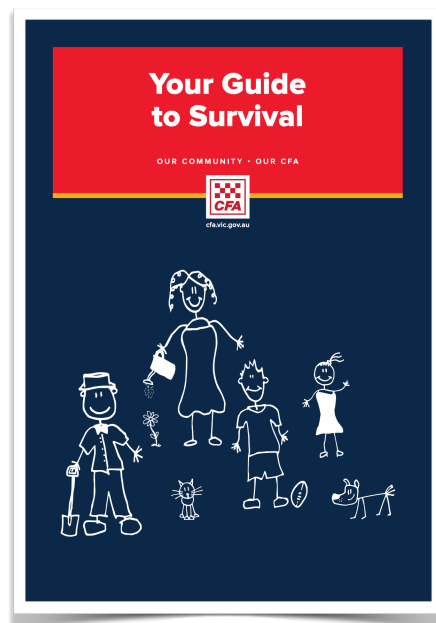
EVACUATION.

Finding out about when to evacuate, where to go and how to get up to date information is a really important step in summer bushfire preparedness and there's a lot of information out there to help.

For example, the [CFA GUIDE TO SURVIVAL](#) contains most of the information you need.

However, there isn't a 'one size fits all' solution that we can provide. Your evacuation options depend on your own circumstances and the conditions at the time, for example, when/where a fire starts and whether the roads are impacted..

This fact often stops people in their tracks when it comes to bushfire preparedness, because it's hard to sort through the bushfire safety advice to find the most useful and relevant information and we all tend to have very busy lives.



This guide provides essential information aimed at anyone who lives, works or travels in Victoria so that they are prepared for the summer fire season.

The person with the best knowledge of your home, family and work circumstances is YOU.

Our advice is to **talk about bushfire preparedness with your family, friends and neighbours** as a starting point. Once you've done this, you'll have a better idea of the types of information you need; either in preparation for a fire or if a fire occurs.

Below is a series of 10 questions that you may find useful as conversation starters as you plan for the summer (these are also in the CFA Survival Guide):

- **Which Fire Danger Rating is your trigger to leave?**
- **Will you leave early that morning or the night before?**
- **Where will you go?**
- **What will you take with you?**
- **What route will you take and what is your back-up route if a fire is already in the area?**
- **What are you going to do with your pets or livestock? Who else do you need to talk to about where you are going?**
- **What will you do if all members of your household are not home?**
- **How will you stay informed about warnings and updates?**
- **What will you do if there is a fire in the area and you cannot leave?**
- **What will you do if your household is not together when your trigger is reached?**



Should I go to the Buffalo Sports Stadium if there's a fire?

Buffalo Sports Stadium is a **Neighbourhood Safer Place: Bushfire Place of Last Resort**. It's

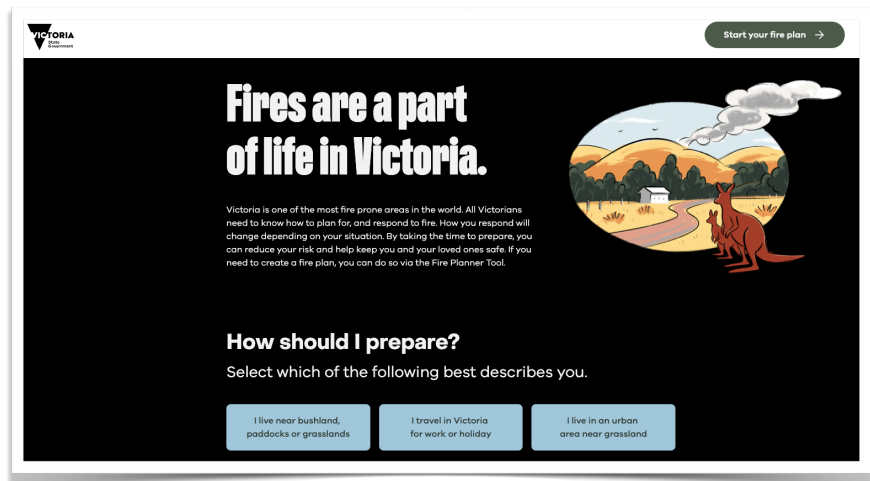
somewhere you can go when all of your other bushfire survival plans have failed.

It really is a last resort - these places do not guarantee your safety and no services are provided for people or pets.

To find out more, visit mrs.vic.gov.au/Neighbourhood-Safer-Places

Make your own fire plan in as little as 10 minutes

Use the Fire Planner online tool to make your own personalised fire plan in as little as 10 minutes: <https://fireplanner.vic.gov.au/>



Or drop-in to the **CFA stall at the Woodend Farmer's market** to ask any questions and get a hand in making your fire plan.



Woodend Summer Fire Preparedness is an initiative of the Woodend volunteer fire brigade. All information and advice within this document has been produced or sanctioned by the CFA.

For more information or to contact the team, please email woodendcfa@gmail.com