



Leaving Early

LEAVE EARLY AND SURVIVE A BUSH FIRE

The safest option in a bush fire is always to leave early, well before the fire threatens. You should leave if:

- The Fire Danger Rating is Catastrophic.** On these days fires will be so intense it is not safe to defend any home - no matter how well prepared. Extreme and Severe days are also very dangerous and leaving early will always be the safest option.
- You have not** prepared yourself or your property to give you and your home the best level of protection from a fire.
- There are children, elderly, or disabled people in your home.** People who are vulnerable due to age, health or any other reason should always leave early.
- Your house is not defensible.** Some houses, because of their location, construction, or surrounding vegetation are not safe to defend. The NSW RFS Bush Fire Household Assessment Tool (www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) can help you assess your home's level of risk and make an informed decision. On some days no properties will be defensible.



You should never "wait and see what happens" during a bush fire. Leaving late means you will be on the road when conditions are the most dangerous, or you may not be able to get out at all. The longer you wait to leave the greater the risk to your life.

Preparing to leave early means:

- Completing a Bush Fire Survival Plan, available at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au
- Planning where you will go, how to get there, and what you will take
- Knowing the daily Fire Danger Rating in your area and what it means
- Having transport organised for all members of the family, including pets
- Actively seeking information on the fire situation and weather conditions from TV, local radio and the internet so you know when to leave
- Having a back-up plan in case you aren't able to leave early enough. What other safer places are there you could get to?
- Talking to family, friends, and neighbours about your plan to leave early

DID YOU KNOW
Being well away from a bush fire is the **ONLY** way to ensure your safety.

