



PREPARE



DISCUSS



KNOW



KEEP

## GET READY FOR FIRE ON YOUR PROPERTY USEFUL TOOLS TO MAKE YOUR FARM FIRE PLAN

Getting ready for bush and grass fires is easier than you think. Just 5 minutes discussing what you'll do in a fire could save you, your family and your livelihood.



[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)





## **STEP 1: PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY AND TAKE ACTION**

THE TOP FIVE ACTIONS TO MAKE  
YOUR PROPERTY SAFER



# STEP 1: PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY AND TAKE ACTION

## THE TOP 5 ACTIONS TO MAKE YOUR PROPERTY SAFER

There are some simple things you can do around your property to prepare it against the risk of fire. You need to prepare well beforehand as leaving it to the last minute is too late.

Here are five simple things you can do now to prevent the threat of fire.



### 1. CLEAR / SLASH

Clear flammable materials (e.g. gas cylinders) and slash areas of long, dry grass around structures like the home and shed.



### 2. BURN

If you have the required permits, approvals and skills and the conditions are suitable, conduct a controlled burn on your property to reduce fuel.



### 3. PLOUGH

Plough firebreaks around each paddock boundary to prevent the spread of fire.



### 4. ROTATE

Rotate stock across the property to ensure paddocks are well-grazed.



### 5. PREPARE

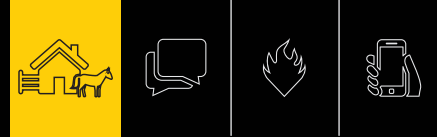
Prepare and maintain sturdy hoses and water pumps in case you need to defend your property.



If you've conducted slashing on your own property recently, you've already completed one of the top five ways to make your property safer.







# STEP 1: PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY AND TAKE ACTION CREATING A PROPERTY MAP

As part of preparing your property against fire, it's important to create a map of your property with the location of important features. This will help you identify and prevent fire risks in and around your property.

## MAPPING YOUR PROPERTY

Your map can be a photocopy of the property map, an aerial photograph or a map you draw yourself.

**STEP 1:** Using a **GREEN** pen, label all of the areas of your property where you will need to take action and minimise the risk of fire to protect key assets.

*This may include different paddocks on the property, areas of landscaped garden or zones around important assets (e.g. sheds).*

**STEP 2:** Use a **BLACK** pen to map assets / buildings on your property.

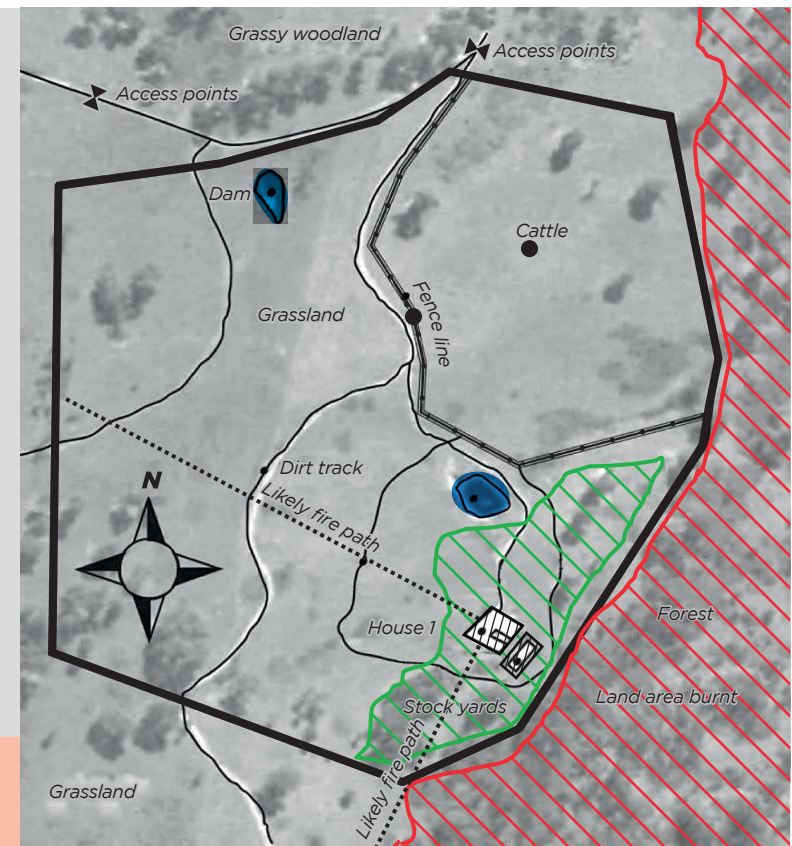
*This may include houses (both occupied and unoccupied), machinery, storage or shelter sheds, fences, power lines as well as stables.*

**STEP 3:** Locate and map any water sources using a **BLUE** pen.

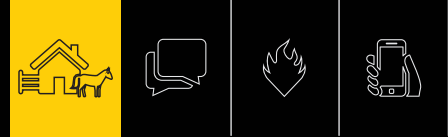
*These could include dams, bore water supplies, rivers / creeks, water tanks, swimming pools, pumps and hydrant points.*

**STEP 4:** Identify and map any areas of burnt vegetation in **RED** pen.

**TIP:** If you have internet access, use a satellite view map (such as Google Maps) as a guide to create your property map.







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## CREATE YOUR PROPERTY MAP

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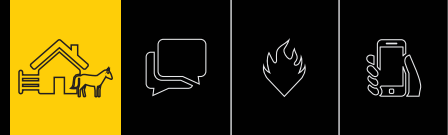
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DATE MAP CREATED / /
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# STEP 1: PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY AND TAKE ACTION

## DEVELOPING AN ACTION PLAN

Once you have completed your property map, identify the top five risks on your property and the action needed to reduce those risks. The NSW Rural Fire Service recommends keeping the action plan in a central location where everyone on the property will have access to it. If you need any assistance completing the action plan, contact your local Fire Control Centre.

FIRE ACTION PLAN FOR PROPERTY: ..... UPDATED ..... / ..... / .....

TOP 5 IDENTIFIED RISKS	AREA	ACTION REQUIRED	TO BE COMPLETED BY	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	INITIAL WHEN COMPLETED
Fire breaks not in place	Home Paddock	Plough 3m wide fire breaks around paddock	14 / 09 / 18	Dave Smith	DS
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					





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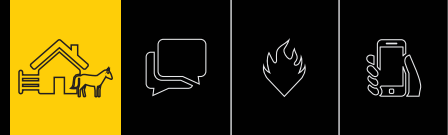
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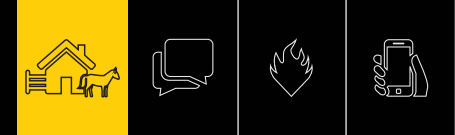
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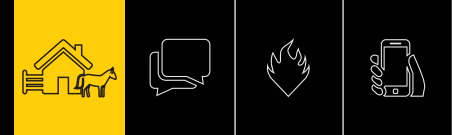
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# PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY AND HOME

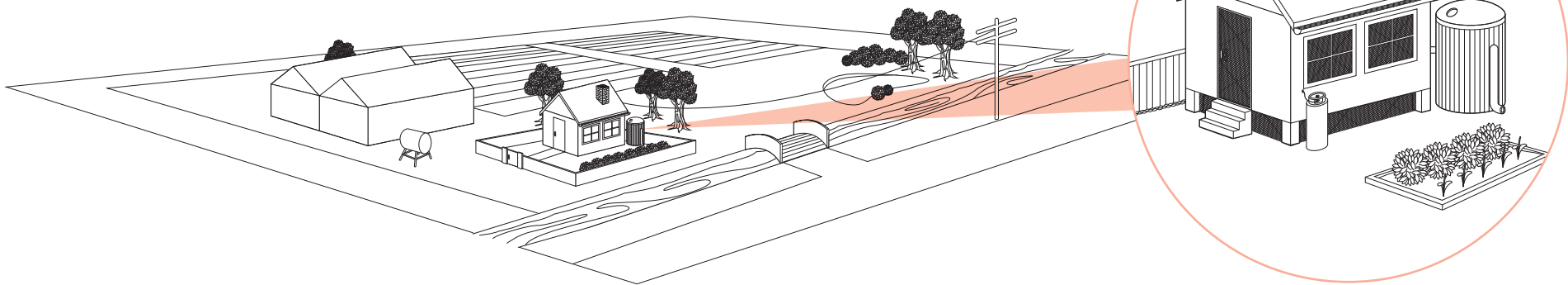
Make sure your property is prepared for fire by taking these action. These may also form part of your Fire Plan.

## AROUND THE PROPERTY

- Manage vegetation around buildings, assets and infrastructure
- Ensure access gates and tracks are wide enough and have a height clearance to allow a fire truck access to your home and property. Ensure access roads are clear of debris and overhanging tree branches that may hinder the progress of a fire truck.
- Clear fire breaks along paddock boundaries
- Place water pipes from dams underground and install pump to the house
- Make sure all hoses have spray nozzles
- If possible, keep water tanks full and connect them to pumps

## AROUND THE HOME

- Keep a well-maintained area around the home and sheds
- Store petrol, diesel and gas away from home
- Block up areas like eaves where embers can enter the house
- Move garden beds away from the home



A cleared area around your home can slow a fire spreading and give firefighters a safe area to work.





## STEP 2: DISCUSS

### WHAT WILL YOU DO IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE?

Get your family and any staff on the property together and take 5 minutes to answer these three simple questions.





## STEP 2: DISCUSS HAVE A 5 MINUTE FIRE CHAT

In the event that a fire becomes uncontrollable, you may only have minutes to react. In order to protect your family, your workers, and your livelihood it's important you know what you will do:



### 5 MINUTE FIRE CHAT



**1** WHEN WILL YOU LEAVE?

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**2** WHERE WILL YOU GO?

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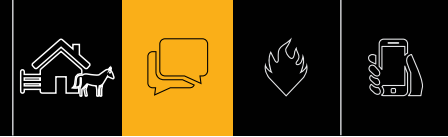
**3** WHAT WILL YOU TAKE?



For a more detailed plan, use the following page which will guide you through the important questions you need to consider for your property. For more information, visit [www.myfireplan.com.au](http://www.myfireplan.com.au)







## DECIDE TO STAY, BUT BE PREPARED ACTION CHECKLIST

Defending structures on your property can be physically and mentally demanding. It's important that everyone knows exactly what to do if a fire happens. You may need to make a decision early as to what structures on the property (e.g. homestead, machinery shed etc.) you want to defend.

### BEFORE (well before the fire has arrived)

- Move flammable items away from all buildings (e.g. home, shed, stable etc.)
- Move stock to a well-grazed or ploughed area away from the house and wind
- Check all equipment is working and easily accessible (this includes testing all pumps, hoses and vehicles)
- Block downpipes and fill gutters with water
- Patrol any structures well before the fire arrives to put out embers and spot fires
- If possible, wet the side of the structure that faces the fire
- If in a house, close any doors, windows and vents
- Soak towels and rugs and lay them across external doorways
- Move your firefighting equipment to a place where it won't burn inside

### DURING (as the fire is upon you)

- Don't get caught in the open as a fire approaches
- As the fire approaches take shelter to protect yourself from the heat of the fire
- If possible, shelter on the opposite side from the approaching fire, or behind a solid object to protect yourself from the heat
- Make sure that there is always more than one exit in case you need to escape
- Drink lots of water to stay hydrated

### AFTER (immediately after the fire has passed)

- If possible, and safe to do so, check everyone on your property are OK
- Contact relatives or friends to tell them you are safe
- Patrol your home for several hours, looking for small fires and burning embers



Any safe place of shelter should have two or more exits.



# DECIDE TO STAY, BUT BE PREPARED

## EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

Defending your property from a fire can be challenging and you will need the right equipment.

Remember, while firefighters and emergency services will do everything they can to help you, there's no guarantee that there will be a fire truck available when you need it. Anyone who plans to stay and defend in a fire has a responsibility to know how to use firefighting equipment.

### FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT WE WILL NEED:

- A certified road-worthy vehicle capable of carrying a firefighting slip-on unit
- A slip-on unit with working pump and hoses
- Multiple water sources with 10,000 litres or more (eg. dams)
- Water tanks fitted with 65mm Stortz outlets and metal valves
- A first aid kit
- UHF radio transmitter

**Remember, it's essential to ensure that all firefighting equipment and vehicles are tested, and in working order every year.**

### PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

- Wide-brimmed hat
- Eye protection goggles
- Moistened facemask or cloth
- Loose, long sleeved cotton shirt
- Gloves
- Long cotton pants/jeans
- Sturdy leather shoes or boots



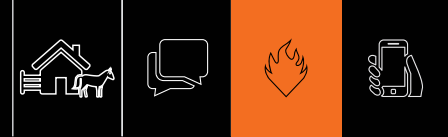
We commit to testing equipment on:

Equipment is stored in:

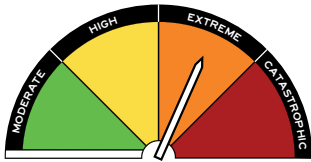


There is no guarantee that a fire truck will arrive at your property in the event of a fire.





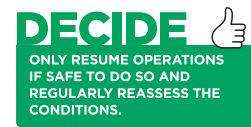
## STEP 3: KNOW THE CONDITIONS



### FIRE DANGER RATINGS

Before a fire even starts, monitor the Fire Danger Ratings daily at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fdr](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fdr) and be aware of conditions in your area.

The higher the rating, the more dangerous the conditions.



### HARVEST SAFETY ALERTS

**Harvest Safety Alerts** provide a signal to farmers that they should be taking extra precautions during harvesting operations to prevent the ignition and spread of fire due to the prevailing weather conditions.

Get your **Grain Harvester Guide** from your local Fire Control Centre.



### TOTAL FIRE BANS

A **Total Fire Ban** (TOBAN) may be issued on days of increased fire danger.

Check the NSW Rural Fire Service website to stay up-to-date: [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)

### DURING A TOTAL FIRE BAN:



All fire permits are suspended



No fire may be lit in the open



No welding, grinding etc. should be done in the open



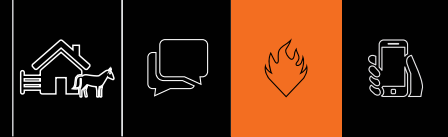
NSW RFS recommends you avoid using machinery or slashing



If you're burning, check conditions. Don't light up unless it's safe. Heavy fines apply for the unsafe use of fire if your fire escapes.







## STEP 3: KNOW THE BUSH FIRE ALERT LEVELS

### WHEN A FIRE OCCURS

There are some simple things you can do around your property to prepare it against the risk of fire.

You need to prepare well beforehand as leaving it to the last minute is too late.



### ADVICE

A fire has started.  
There is no immediate danger.  
Stay up to date in case  
the situation changes.



### WATCH AND ACT

There is a heightened level of threat.  
Conditions are changing and you need  
to start taking action to protect you and  
your family.



### EMERGENCY WARNING

An Emergency Warning is the highest  
level of Bush Fire Alert. You may be  
in danger and need to take action  
immediately. Any delay now puts  
your life at risk.



## STEP 4: KEEP UP TO DATE

In the event of a fire, it's important that you stay up to date on conditions in your area. The NSW Rural Fire Service strongly advises saving these numbers, links and apps now.



### IN AN EMERGENCY CALL TRIPLE ZERO (000)

For information on bush fire, call the Bush Fire Information Line  
1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737)



NSW Rural Fire Service Website: [rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://rfs.nsw.gov.au)  
Fire Danger Ratings: [rfs.nsw.gov.au/fdr](http://rfs.nsw.gov.au/fdr)



'Fires Near Me NSW' Free smartphone app



Local radio, local ABC/emergency  
broadcaster frequency, TV



[facebook.com/nswrfs](https://facebook.com/nswrfs)  
[twitter.com/nswrfs](https://twitter.com/nswrfs)

The contact number of my local Fire Control Centre is:

( ..... ) .....

( ..... ) .....

During a fire in our area, the NSW RFS may use UHF channel:



.....



Hang these key information contact details in a prominent location in the house  
or on the property so anyone can access them.  
Next to the phone is a great place to keep the contacts for easy access.





**NSW RURAL  
FIRE SERVICE**



## **It's a fact.**

**If you and your property are well prepared, you stand a better chance of surviving bush and grass fires. Join your community to ensure that your home, property and livelihood are protected by following the Four Simple Steps to getting ready for fire.**

**#MyFirePlan**

**NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE**

**[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)**

Cover image by Dean Sewell