



NEWS

Bushfire Plan



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My work with DOGS NSW takes me over vast distances and varied locations across NSW. This year has highlighted to me, more than in any previous years, that we are potentially facing a very dangerous fire season.

I have written in the past about how important it is to have a

survival plan in case of any emergency and I need to reiterate that message. Anyone that has travelled around NSW would have seen first hand just how our countryside is badly affected by the current drought. Almost everywhere our landscape is extremely dry, waterways have dried up and significant rainfall is not expected until at least next Autumn.

Bushfires in non-drought times pose life-threatening situations that can prove difficult to bring under control, in drought situations that threat increases phenomenally. Quick action, more than ever before, will be necessary in an emergency, to save the lives of your family and animals.

The NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) has excellent information to assist you all in preparing your survival plan. Take the time now to assess your risk. The environment varies greatly across the state, so make yourself informed on what risks could threaten your area.

The RFS has broken down their recommended survival plan into 4 simple steps:

STEP 1 **DISCUSS WHAT TO DO IF A BUSH FIRE** **THREATENS YOUR HOME**

Many households find that having a discussion over dinner works best as everybody is together and focused.

STEP 2 **PREPARE YOUR HOME AND GET IT READY FOR** **BUSH FIRE SEASON**

There are simple things you can do around your home to prepare it for a bush fire, like keeping the grass low and having a cleared area around your home.

STEP 3 **KNOW THE BUSH FIRE ALERT LEVELS**

If there is a fire in your area you will find its alert level on the NSW RFS website and in the 'Fires Near Me' app. You need to keep track of the alert level, so you know what you should do.

STEP 4 **KEEP ALL THE BUSH FIRE INFORMATION** **NUMBERS, WEBSITES AND THE SMARTPHONE** **APP**

In a bush fire, it's important that you stay up to date on the conditions in your area.

Please visit the RFS website at: <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/bush-fire-survival-plan> to download a huge amount of information that will improve your chances of saving life and property in a fire emergency.

Be mindful of others in your community and be prepared to offer assistance if need be. Identify areas that you could safely find temporary refuge, away from danger zones. DOGS NSW's Bill Spilstead Complex for Canine Affairs at 44 Luddenham Road, Orchard Hills may be used as a temporary refuge.

The RFS have also prepared some very useful Fact Sheets for a variety of fire situations and emergencies, see link: <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/factsheets>

Be prepared and stay safe, we can only wish we will never need to put a survival plan into action.

