

4. OUR FIRE PLAN

(Complete and affix to fridge or visible place.)

IS OUR PROPERTY READY FOR A FIRE?

- Are we properly insured?
- Do we have house interior & exterior photos for our insurers?
- Can we cope if power goes off?
- Are our pets ID chipped in case they escape?
- DO WE HAVE?**
- A sufficient water supply to defend our house?
- A defensible space around our house?
- Clean, leaf-free gutters?
- No firewood/flammables close-by?
- Hoses ready?
- Hose fitting on a tap inside the house?
- Firefighting equipment at the ready?
- Protective clothing: leather boots and gloves, broad-brimmed hat, filter mask, protective goggles, moisturising eye- drops?
- Torches with spare batteries? Candles, matches or lighter?
- First aid kit and medications?
- Fire extinguishers/ Fire blankets?
- Bottled drinking water?
- Access for a fire truck?** If access is not sufficient, the fire truck may not enter as it is too dangerous for firefighters.
- Water the fire truck can access and use?**

IF WE STAY* – WHO WILL: (write in names/initials)

- Wet down garden:
- Wet down wood windows and decks:
- Fix hosepipe inside house:
- Fill up baths, basins, buckets:
- Turn off gas bottles and store safely:
- Close all doors and windows and put wet towels under doors:
- Move flammable items like doormats inside:
- Remove curtains and move furniture away from windows:
- Remove fuel, motorbikes, etc to safety:
- Open the gate so help can arrive:
- Inform the school /family to keep the children safe:

WHAT ROOM WILL PROVIDE BEST REFUGE FROM RADIANT HEAT UNTIL THE FIRE PASSES?

(It needs to be away from the likely direction of the fire and have at least two exits).

Places NOT to Take Refuge In

SWIMMING POOLS: As your face, head and lungs will be exposed to radiant heat and smoke. **WATER TANKS:** Plastic tanks can melt. Metal tanks can overheat. **CELLARS** or underground garages should not be considered as you cannot patrol your house for ember attacks or keep an eye on the fire. Plus smoke may enter the confined space and there may only be one exit

DO WE AGREE WE WANT TO STAY AND PROTECT OUR HOME – OR EVACUATE?

Are we mentally, emotionally and physically able to cope with the intense smoke, heat and noise of a fire, if we stay?

(Even if you decide to leave you must still prepare your house and property **as if you were staying**. You must ensure that a fire doesn't travel through your property to your neighbours.)

IF WE EVACUATE, WHERE WILL WE MEET UP/STAY?

IF WE EVACUATE – who will: (write in names)

Inform the FMU COMMS team and get an update on best evacuation routes?

Inform family?

Inform friends?

Evacuate animals with water, leashes, etc.?

Pack computer, laptop, tablets?

Pack cellphone/tablet chargers?

Pack weekend bag?

Pack medicines, toiletries?

Pack firearms?

Pack valuable documents, passports, etc.?

Pack jewellery?

Pack photos/irreplaceable mementos?

DO OUR VEHICLES HAVE:

- Filtered masks for every family member?
- A woollen blanket?
- Container of water?
- A first aid kit?
- Adequate fuel at all times?

*Following major bushfires in South Australia all investigations have come to the same conclusions:

Lives, assets and most houses are unlikely to be lost if someone defends them, and the safest place to be is in a well prepared house and property.

”Houses were generally ignited by wind driven embers lodging in the eaves or beneath the house”.

”Majority of urban houses were unattended at the time they caught alight”.

”Over 50% of the people who died escaping from their house, but the house did not catch on fire”.

”The survival rate for houses actively defended by able-bodied occupants was 90%”.