Preparing for bushfires: safety checklist

Bushfire survival plan

It is recommended that every home and business in a bushfire prone area has a bushfire survival plan in place. Home and business owners should consider the following when preparing a survival plan:

- ☐ Is the home adequately constructed, maintained and prepared to withstand the impact of fire?
- ☐ Are you capable of making bushfire preparations for your property and family?
- ☐ Does the plan cater for young, elderly or infirm residents?
- ☐ In the event of a rapid onset fire, where is the nearest shelter and how you families get there?
- ☐ Do you have the necessary knowledge, skills, confidence and fire fighting equipment to protect your property?
- ☐ Is fire fighting equipment well maintained and does everyone in the house know how to use it?
- ☐ If you make the decision to leave early, where will you go, how will you get there and what will you take?

Preparing your property

- ☐ Cut back any overhanging trees or shrubs and dispose of cuttings appropriately. Keep grass short.
- ☐ Check the condition of the roof and walls. Repair any damage to roof tiles and close gaps in the walls. Enclose underfloor areas
- ☐ Clean leaves from the roof and gutters and fit quality metal leaf guards. Screen the vents on roof voids with fine metal wire mesh.
- ☐ Remove any flammable items, including woodpiles and garden piles, or store them away from the house.
- ☐ Install the correct fire protection equipment and service it regularly.
- ☐ Ensure adequate water storage and distribution facilities are in place. Invest in a long hose which can reach every part of the house. Consider purchasing a portable pump to use from your swimming pool or water tank.

During bushfire season

- ☐ Closely monitor media reports and observe fire danger ratings and fire bans issued by fire departments.
- ☐ Prepare pets and livestock. At the start of bushfire season, consider slashing a paddock to create a safer area for relocating livestock.
- ☐ At the start of bushfire season, double check the location of and routes to neighbourhood safe centres.

For further details or to speak to a GAAM representative call 1300 302 208 or visit www.gaam.com.au

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