



# Bushfire traveller safety

At work or on holidays, stay safe  
this bushfire season



Government  
of South Australia

Bushfire Information Hotline  
1300 362 361 (TTY 133 677)  
[www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)



# Bushfire safety for travellers

Bushfires can occur without warning and can quickly impact your travel route.

In South Australia, bushfires occur regularly. Being out on the road during a bushfire is extremely dangerous—last minute evacuations are a deadly option

If you are planning to travel anywhere but the inner suburbs of Adelaide you need to think about bushfire safety.

This leaflet will help you manage your country travel plans and help you prepare yourself and your vehicle in case a bushfire does occur.

## **South Australia is divided into 15 Fire Ban Districts.**

It is important to be aware of which district you live, travel or work in, as each District has its own Fire Danger Season, daily Fire Danger Ratings, and Total Fire Ban declarations. **Some boundaries have changed since last Fire Danger Season.**

The Fire Danger Season generally runs from November to April. During the season, fire restrictions and strict controls apply to the lighting of fires and the use of certain tools and machinery in order to reduce the chance of bushfires starting.

1. Adelaide Metropolitan Area
2. Mount Lofty Ranges
3. Kangaroo Island
4. Mid North
5. Yorke Peninsula
6. Murraylands
7. Riverland
8. Upper South East
9. Lower South East
10. Flinders
11. North East Pastoral
12. Eastern Eyre Peninsula
13. North West Pastoral
14. Lower Eyre Peninsula
15. West Coast

## **Know your risk**

Most people underestimate the risk of bushfire, so it's important to be aware of where you are travelling, and what the risks are.

The declaration of a Total Fire Ban day is one indicator of risk. The SA Country Fire Service (CFS) may declare Total Fire Bans in some districts or on days when conditions could cause fires to become uncontrollable. On total Fire Ban days—which usually have high temperatures, strong winds and low humidity—certain activities that may start a fire are prohibited.

Fire Danger Ratings are another indicator of your risk, and give more detailed information on the level of risk.

**Fire Danger Ratings aren't a prediction of how likely a bushfire is to happen, but tell us how bad a bushfire could be if it did start on that day.**

## **On fire danger days**

On fire danger or Total Fire Ban days, it is best to postpone a trip into the bush because of the dangers of fire starting and moving rapidly.

If your travel or activities place you in areas of high risk, can you postpone your trip or plan an alternative route/activity?

Can a work-related job be done on another day or in another, safer location?

Do your plans involve activities or tools banned on a Total Fire Ban day?

Do you know where the safest place to relocate is?

## **Even tighter restrictions apply on days of Total Fire Ban.**

Refer to the CFS website for more information on the restrictions during the Fire Danger Season.

# Where to go on high fire danger days

**Leaving a bushfire prone area early, before a fire starts, is always the safest option for your survival.**

CFS has developed a hierarchy of places that can offer relative safety from bushfire. Use the CFS website ([www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)) or the Alert SA mobile phone app to find out more information and maps of these places.

<b>SAFEST</b> ↕ <b>LEAST SAFE</b>	<b>BUSHFIRE SAFER PLACE</b>	Inner Adelaide Metropolitan suburbs	If you need to relocate early. Suitable for use during forecast bad weather or during a bushfire. May be subject to sparks, embers and smoke.
	<b>LAST RESORT REFUGE</b>	Designated ovals and buildings in rural areas.	If your plan has failed.  Not suitable for extended use and may provide only limited protection during bushfire.

# Stay alert and informed

Travelling in the country during the bushfire season needs to be done with extreme caution and vigilance.

- Know your Fire Ban District
- Check the Fire Danger Ratings in weather forecasts every day
- Listen to local radio to hear bushfire warnings
- Check the CFS website; download the Alert SA mobile phone app; subscribe to the CFS RSS feed, email updates, twitter or facebook to see the latest incident information
- Use your own senses: What's the weather like? Can you smell smoke? (You may not always get an official warning)
- Do not rely on electronic mapping devices like GPS or mobile phones as they may be affected by smoke and local conditions, or reception gaps in remote areas. Keep a hard copy of the local map.

Bushfires are unpredictable and you need to be prepared for the unexpected. Do not rely solely on one source of information.

## **FIRES CAN THREATEN SUDDENLY AND WITHOUT WARNING**

**WATCH** for signs of fire, especially smoke and flames

**KNOW** the Fire Danger Rating in your area and be aware of local conditions

**HAVE** your Bushfire Survival Plan and kit ready

**CALL 000** to report a fire

## **TO SEEK INFORMATION**

- listen to local radio,
- go to [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)
- or call the Bushfire Information Hotline on 1300 362 361 (TTY133 677)

<b>DANGER RATING</b>	<b>WHAT SHOULD I DO?</b>
<b>CATASTROPHIC TOTAL FIRE BAN</b>	<p><b>You need to act now.</b></p> <p>These are the worst conditions for a bushfire if a fire starts, it will be extremely difficult to control and will move very fast. Buildings are not built to withstand these fires.</p> <p>The safest place to be is away from any bushfire prone areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Avoid travelling through forests, thick bush or long dry grass</li><li>• Leave bushfire prone areas the night before or early in the morning</li></ul> <p>Act immediately—do not wait and see.</p>

DANGER RATING	WHAT SHOULD I DO?
<p><b>EXTREME</b> TOTAL FIRE BAN</p>	<p><b>You need to get ready to act</b></p> <p><b>Fires that start under these conditions will be unpredictable, fast-moving and difficult to control.</b></p> <p>The safest place to be is away from any bushfire prone areas: leave them early in the day, and do not travel into these areas.</p>
<p><b>SEVERE</b> TOTAL FIRE BAN</p>	<p><b>You need to be aware.</b></p> <p><b>Fires that start under these conditions will be difficult to control.</b></p> <p>If possible, avoid travelling into bushfire prone areas.</p> <p>If not, only travel if you and your vehicle are well prepared. Know where to go if there is a bushfire. Watch out for smoke or any changes in conditions.</p>
<p><b>VERY HIGH</b></p>	<p><b>You need to be prepared.</b></p> <p><b>Fires that start under these conditions are likely to be controlled.</b></p> <p>Buildings can provide safety. Know where to get more information about the weather and bushfires, and watch out for any changes.</p>
<p><b>HIGH</b></p>	
<p><b>LOW-MODERATE</b></p>	



## **If you need to use your vehicle as a shelter from a bushfire:**

Research shows that sheltering inside a vehicle is a high risk strategy and it is highly unlikely that a person will survive in all but the mildest circumstances.

The only sure way to survive a bushfire is to be nowhere near the threat.

### **Before the fire front reaches you**

- Park behind a solid structure to block as much heat as you can. If this isn't possible, find a clearing away from dense bush and flammable material on the ground, such as branches and leaves.
- Park the vehicle off the roadway to avoid collisions in poor visibility
- Face the vehicle towards the oncoming fire front.
- Turn headlights and hazard warning lights on
- Tightly close all windows and doors.
- Stay inside your vehicle—it offers better protection from the radiant heat than being in the open
- Shut all the air vents and turn the air conditioning off.
- Turn the engine off.
- Get down below the window level into the foot wells and shelter under woollen blankets.
- Drink water to minimise the risks of dehydration

## **As the fire front passes**

During a bushfire the critical time for personal safety is during the 5 to 10 minutes it takes for the fire front to pass.

- Stay in the vehicle until the fire front has passed
- Fuel tanks are very unlikely to explode.
- Smoke gradually gets inside the vehicle and fumes will be released from the interior of the vehicle. Stay as close to the floor as possible to minimise inhalation and cover mouth with a cloth.
- Tyres and external plastic body parts may catch alight. In more extreme cases the vehicle interior may catch on fire.
- Once the front has passed and the temperature has dropped, cautiously exit the vehicle (be careful—internal parts will be extremely hot).
- Move to a safe area such as a strip of land that has already burnt.
- Stay covered in woollen blankets, continue to drink water and wait for assistance.

## **Travelling on the road**

**Cars are a very dangerous place to be during a bushfire, as they offer little protection from radiant heat, and driving conditions are often difficult and stressful.**

A drive that would normally take five minutes may take several hours through road closures, smoke, fallen trees, power lines and embers.

If you are aware of bushfires before you leave home, plan an alternative route and do not travel to the affected area. If you come across smoke while travelling, turn around and go back. Listen to the radio and ask locally for help to find a safe way through

### **PREPARE. Ensure you and your vehicle are ready**

Find out whether you are in—or will be travelling through—a bushfire prone area and what today's Fire Danger Rating is.

Keep several woollen blankets, protective clothing, a first aid kit and a supply of fresh water in your vehicle, just in case you are caught in a bushfire.  
Stay alert and informed

## **ACT. In the event of a bushfire**

Remain vigilant of your surroundings, and follow any advice or directions provided by emergency services personnel or via an emergency broadcast on local radio (see back page for frequencies).

Let someone know your plans and how to contact you.

As the fire front passes, properties will be subject to radiant heat, flame contact, ember attack, smoke, loud noise, darkness, and power failure.

## **SURVIVE. Protect yourself from radiant heat**

Radiant heat can kill. To protect yourself, you need to cover up, dress appropriately and take refuge.

If you are unable to leave the area before a fire starts and are caught out, solid structures and appropriate clothing may provide protection from radiant heat. Radiant heat cannot penetrate solid objects, which means your best (but not guaranteed) protection is in a well-prepared house or structure.

Coverall exposed skin in natural fibres (e.g. wool, cotton) to protect yourself from radiant heat.

## **Driving during a bushfire is a last resort**

# For emergency warnings and alerts, tune into one of our Emergency Broadcast Partners

**Emergency Broadcast Partners:** ABC Local Radio, FIVEaa Radio, Sky News Television, Commercial Radio Australia

Radio frequencies in SA		
Adelaide	891 ABC Adelaide	891AM
Adelaide	Cruise 1323	1323 AM
Adelaide	FIVEaa	1395 AM
Adelaide	Nova 91.9	91.9 FM
Adelaide	Mix 102.3	102.3 FM
Adelaide	Triple M	104.7 FM
Adelaide	SA FM	107.1 FM
Andamooka	ABC North & West	105.9 FM
Ceduna	Flow FM	106.1 FM
Clare/Mid North	Flow FM	107.5 FM
Coober Pedy	ABC North & West	106.1 FM
Coober Pedy	Flow FM	99.7 FM
Cook	ABC North & West	107.7 FM
Coonalpyn	Flow FM	97.7 FM
Glendambo	ABC North & West	106.1 FM
Kapunda/Barossa	Flow FM	99.5 FM
Kingscote	Flow FM	95.5 FM

<b>Radio frequencies in SA</b>		
Kingston SE	Flow FM	107.3 FM
Leigh Creek Coalfield	ABC North & West	99.3 FM
Leigh Creek South	ABC North & West	1602 AM
Maitland	Flow FM	90.9 FM
Marree	ABC North & West	105.7 FM
Minlaton	Flow FM	98.9 FM
Mintabie	ABC North & West	88.7 FM
Mt Barker	Power FM	100.3 FM
Mt Gambier	5SE	963 AM
Mt Gambier	Star FM	96.1 FM
Murray Bridge	5MU	1125 AM
Murray Bridge	Power FM	98.7 FM
Naracoorte	ABC South East	1161 AM
Naracoorte	Star FM	100.9 FM
North Mt Gambier	ABC South East	1476 AM
Oodnadatta	ABC North & West	95.3 FM
Padthaway East	Flow FM	100.3 FM
Pinnaroo	Flow FM	96.5 FM
Port Augusta	5AU	1242 AM
Port Lincoln	5CC	765 AM
Port Lincoln	ABC Eyre Peninsula	1485 AM
Port Lincoln	Magic FM	89.9 FM

<b>Radio frequencies in SA</b>		
Port Pirie	ABC North & West	639 AM
Prominent Hill	Flow FM	91.3 FM
Riverland	5RM	801 AM
Riverland	ABC Riverland	1062 AM
Riverland	Magic FM 93.1	93.1 FM
Roxby Downs	Flow FM	97.9 FM
Roxby Downs	ABC North & West	102.7 FM
Streaky Bay	ABC Eyre Peninsula	693 AM
Streaky Bay	Flow FM	99.3 FM
Victor Harbor	Power FM	99.7 FM
Woomera	ABC North & West	1584 AM
Woomera	Flow FM	101.7 FM
Wudinna	Flow FM	106.9 FM
Yalata	ABC North & West	105.9 FM

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**To report a fire, call 000**