

Bushwalking

It is advisable not to go bushwalking during fire danger days, but if you are caught in a bushfire you should:

- Never try to outrun the flames.
- Head for a natural fire break, e.g. streams, clearings or rock outcrops.
- Keep away from high ground in the path of the fire.
- Never shelter in an above ground water tank or dam.
- Cover yourself or shelter behind a solid object such as a rock, to protect yourself against radiant heat.

Camping and houseboats

People on camping and houseboat holidays must ensure they are familiar with local fire restrictions.

If camping or staying in a caravan park, enquire if a safe refuge area has been designated. A brick toilet building or shower block may be the best option.

Be careful using generators and make sure you are familiar with restrictions applying to fires and barbeques. (see Fact sheet 9.1 for more information on safe campfires and barbeques)

If visiting a national park, ask the Rangers about the local fire and barbecue regulations, as they can vary.

This also applies to houseboat users when lighting fires along riverbanks.



Fire safety on holiday

Bushfires can occur without warning and can quickly impact your holiday location. If you are planning a holiday, you need to think about bushfire safety and how to avoid bushfire dangers.

This leaflet will help you to prepare if a bushfire does occur in your holiday area.

Before you leave on a trip

- Check the Fire Ban District and the Fire Danger Rating for the area in which you will be travelling.
- Find out if there is a Bushfire Safer Precinct or Last Resort refuge in the area in case bushfire impacts without warning.
- Be prepared to change your itinerary on hot, dry and windy days to avoid areas where bushfires may occur.
- Check for any fire restrictions that may be in force including Total Fire Bans.
- Consider taking picnic food and drinks that do not require cooking or heating.
- Make sure you and your vehicle are prepared for an emergency.
- Inform a friend or family member where you are going and keep them informed if your plans change significantly.

While you're away

- Always avoid travelling in areas where bushfires are burning.
- Stay alert. Do not expect an official warning or immediate assistance from Emergency Services.
- Stay aware of daily Fire Danger Ratings and enjoy bushfire safe activities on dangerous days.
- Do not rely on electronic mapping devices like GPS or mobile phones as they may be affected by smoke and local conditions. Keep a hard copy of the local map.
- Be aware that some parks are closed on fire danger days - you may be instructed to leave your campsite.
- If you see or smell smoke, try to find out if there is a bushfire nearby that could threaten you:
  - Tune into one of the emergency broadcasters listed in this brochure
  - Call the Bushfire Information Hotline on 1300 362 361 (TTY 133 677)
  - Visit the CFS website, facebook or twitter pages, or use one of our mobile phone apps to find local incidents

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	891 AM	Leigh Creek Coalfield	ABC North & West	99.3 FM	Port Lincoln	Magic FM	89.9 FM
Adelaide	Cruise 1323	1323 AM	Leigh Creek	ABC North & West	1602 AM	Port Pirie	ABC North & West	639 AM
Adelaide	FIVEaa	1395 AM	Maitland	Flow FM	90.9 FM	Prominent Hill	Flow FM	91.3 FM
Adelaide	Nova 91.9	91.9 FM	Marree	ABC North & West	105.7 FM	Riverland	5RM	801 AM
Adelaide	Mix 102.3	102.3 FM	Minlaton	Flow FM	98.9 FM	Riverland	ABC Riverland	1062 AM
Adelaide	Triple M	104.7 FM	Mintabie	ABC North & West	88.7 FM	Riverland	Magic FM 93.1	93.1 FM
Adelaide	SA FM	107.1 FM	Mt Barker	Power FM	100.3 FM	Roxby Downs	Flow FM	97.9 FM
Andamooka	ABC North & West	105.9 FM	Mt Gambier	5SE	96.3 AM	Roxby Downs	ABC North & West	102.7 FM
Ceduna	Flow FM	106.1 FM	Mt Gambier	Star FM	96.1 FM	Streaky Bay	ABC Eyre Peninsula	693 AM
Clare/Mid North	Flow FM	107.5 FM	Murray Bridge	5MU	1125 AM	Streaky Bay	Flow FM	99.3 FM
Coober Pedy	ABC North & West	106.1 FM	Murray Bridge	Power FM	98.7 FM	Victor Harbor	Power FM	99.7 FM
Coober Pedy	Flow FM	99.7 FM	Naracoorte	ABC South East	1161 AM	Woomera	ABC North & West	1584 AM
Cook	ABC North & West	107.7 FM	Naracoorte	Star FM	100.9 FM	Woomera	Flow FM	101.7 FM
Coonalpyn	Flow FM	97.7 FM	North Mt Gambier	ABC South East	1476 AM	Wudinna	Flow FM	106.9 FM
Glendambo	ABC North & West	106.1 FM	Oodnadatta	ABC North & West	95.3 FM	Yalata	ABC North & West	105.9 FM
Kapunda/Barossa	Flow FM	99.5 FM	Padthaway East	Flow FM	100.3 FM			
Kingscote	Flow FM	95.5 FM	Pinnaroo	Flow FM	96.5 FM			
Kingston SE	Flow FM	107.3 FM	Port Augusta	5AU	1242 AM			
			Port Lincoln	5CC	765 AM			
			Port Lincoln	ABC Eyre Peninsula	1485 AM			

To report a fire, call 000

Over Image - Flickr/ThurbyEnter



Bushfire Information Hotline  
1300 362 361 (TTY 133 677)  
www.cfs.sa.gov.au



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# Holiday safety and survival

during the bushfire season





Travelling in the country during the bushfire season can put you at risk. Recognise the warning signs, and learn what to do to keep yourself safe.

## Fire ban districts

Fire restrictions apply throughout South Australia's Fire Ban Districts - including metropolitan Adelaide - during the fire danger season. Knowing which Fire Ban District you are visiting is the first step in finding out which restrictions apply.

## Do you know which Fire Ban District you're in or travelling to?

## Total fire bans

The CFS may declare Total Fire Bans in some Districts or even across the whole state on days when severe weather - such as high temperatures, strong winds and low humidity - could cause fires to become uncontrollable. Certain activities like barbeques and camp fires are banned on these days.

Do you know what you can and can't do today?

## Fire danger ratings

Every day during the Fire Danger Season, weather and other factors are used to calculate Fire Danger Ratings for each District. These ratings are not predictors of how likely a bushfire is to occur, but how dangerous it could be if it did occur.

## Do you know today's rating?

You can find out all of these for your holiday location by visiting the CFS website, calling the Bushfire Information Hotline, or through the CFS mobile phone app.

## On fire danger days

On fire danger days or Total Fire Ban, it is best to postpone a trip into the bush, since the dangers of fires starting and moving rapidly are extremely high. Think about what you will do on those days: obey fire bans, avoid activities that could start a fire (such as driving through long grass, campfires), and avoid activities that can place you in areas of high risk. For example instead of bushwalking, go swimming or visit local attractions in the low fire risk areas of Safer Settlements and Precincts (below). Your local tourism centre may have some ideas for alternative fire-safe holiday activities.

## 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 our mobile phone app to find out more information and maps of these places

<div> <div>Safest</div> <div> <div>↑</div> <div>↓</div> </div> <div>Least Safe</div> </div>	<b>BUSHFIRE SAFER SETTLEMENT</b>	Inner Adelaide Metropolitan suburbs	Suitable for use during forecast bad fire weather or during bushfire.
	<b>BUSHFIRE SAFER PRECINCT</b>	Designated within outer suburbs and rural settlements.	Suitable for use during forecast bad fire weather or during bushfire. May be subject to spark and ember attack and smoke.
	<b>LAST RESORT REFUGE</b>	Designated ovals and buildings in rural areas.	Not suitable for extended use and may provide only limited protection during bushfire.

↑	<b>DANGER RATING</b>	<b>WHAT SHOULD I DO?</b>
<b>FIRES CAN THREATEN SUDDENLY AND WITHOUT WARNING</b>	<b>CATASTROPHIC</b> TOTAL FIRE BAN	<p><b>You need to act now.</b></p> <p><i>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.</i></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>
<b>WATCH</b> for signs of fire, especially smoke and flames		
<b>KNOW</b> the Fire Danger Rating in your area and be aware of local conditions		
<b>HAVE</b> your Bushfire Survival Plan and kit ready	<b>EXTREME</b> TOTAL FIRE BAN	<p><b>You need to get ready to act</b></p> <p><i>Fires that start under these conditions will be unpredictable, fast-moving and difficult to control.</i></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>
<b>CALL</b> 000 to report a fire		
<b>TO SEEK INFORMATION</b>	<b>SEVERE</b> TOTAL FIRE BAN	<p><b>You need to be aware.</b></p> <p><i>Fires that start under these conditions will be difficult to control.</i></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>
• listen to local radio, • go to <a href="http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au">www.cfs.sa.gov.au</a> • or call the Bushfire Information Hotline on 1300 362 361 (TTY 133 677)		
↓	<b>VERY HIGH</b>	<p><b>You need to be prepared.</b></p> <p><i>Fires that start under these conditions are likely to be controlled.</i></p> <p>Buildings can provide safety. Know where to get more information about the weather and bushfires, and watch out for any changes.</p>
	<b>HIGH</b>	
	<b>LOW-MODERATE</b>	

## 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.

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

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

## Radiant heat

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

Solid structures and appropriate clothing may provide protection from radiant heat. Radiant heat cannot penetrate through solid objects, which means your best protection is in a well-prepared house or structure if you are unable to leave the area before the bushfire starts.

**Cover all exposed skin to protect from radiant heat. Wear:**

- Long sleeved shirt and trousers in natural fibres (for example, wool or cotton).
- Wide-brimmed hat and solid shoes or boots.

## 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.

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.

Ensure your vehicle is properly maintained for the journey you are undertaking.

Keep several woollen blankets and a supply of fresh water in your vehicle, just in case you are caught in a bushfire.

**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 personal 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 moist 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.