

Bushfire Relocation

Leaving early on high risk days

As part of bushfire planning and preparation, all at risk bushfire communities should consider their relocation options, including travel routes, well ahead of high risk fire danger days.

The CFA has advised communities that on days when the fire danger is Code Red, all individuals in bushfire prone areas should relocate to less fire prone areas either the night before or early in the morning.

On extreme and severe days, the safest option is to leave early in the day if you live in a bushfire prone area.

Think about relocation options now. These can include staying with family or friends in a low-risk area. Consider staying somewhere you are able to carry on with your day-to-day activities and a place where pets can be safe.

Depending on where you are, relocation options may include shopping centres, swimming pools, libraries, community centres, neighbourhood houses, public halls, cinemas, leisure centres and other community facilities out of a high risk area.

Check if your local council is extending opening hours of council-run facilities outside of high risk areas during a heatwave.

Make arrangements now as part of your Bushfire Survival Plan.

Seniors and those living with a disability should ensure their bushfire plans are up to date; make contact with personal support networks early and ensure that they are aware of their capabilities and needs during an emergency.

Isolated community members are urged to contact their local council to discuss potential support options that may be available in their local area.

Emergency Relief Centres

Emergency relief centres provide essential needs to people affected by an emergency.

An emergency relief centre may be operated by your local council during an emergency event. They will only open if there is a fire in the area. Activation of an emergency relief centre is usually determined once the location and scale of an emergency is known, to ensure the safety of those attending the centre.

Making Victoria FireReady:

While municipal council emergency management plans identify potential emergency relief centre sites, the location of a centre is not usually finalised until an emergency occurs.

Any decision to activate an emergency relief centre is made by Victoria Police with the relevant emergency service (for fires, this will be the CFA or DSE) and the council.

This fire season, community members should listen to emergency radio broadcasts on ABC radio or local commercial radio, contact the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667 or contact their local council to find out the location of any activated emergency relief centres.

Emergency relief centres are not the most comfortable of places as they typically provide only basic support services. Services available will vary between councils. There are no provisions for livestock and there may be no or limited facilities available for pets.

If attending an emergency relief centre you should bring with you:

- any medication, prescriptions and other personal health aids;
- personal identity documents;
- light bedding and clothing;
- cash, water and non perishable goods to last 12 hours; and
- baby necessities such as nappies and baby formula.

Neighbourhood Safer Places – places of last resort

Neighbourhood safer places are places of last resort, to provide shelter during the passage of a fire, when all other plans have failed. They should not be considered as places to relocate to when leaving early.

Safety and survival cannot be guaranteed at neighbourhood safer places and there are no support or services provided. They will offer minimum protection against radiant heat and embers.

Further Information

The State is working with providers for aged and disability services to ensure they have their bushfire survival plans in place and up to date. More information is available at:
www.health.vic.gov.au/bushfires

Information about neighbourhood safer places, including locations, will be available at:
www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Contact your local council for further information about local relief arrangements and relief centres.

1800 240 667
www.cfa.vic.gov.au

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