

A fire can be terrifying, with strong winds, intense heat and flames, and thick smoke.

### IF YOU'RE CAUGHT IN A FIRE:

- Call Triple Zero **000**
- Don't panic, don't try to outrun the fire
- If you see smoke, turn back or find an alternate route
- Find a cleared area. Look for rocks, hollows, embankments, streams or roads to protect you. Head to lower ground, avoid going uphill and do not shelter in water tanks
- Keep low and cover your skin
- Drink water and cover your mouth with a damp cloth
- Move to burnt ground when the fire has passed
- Let someone know what is happening.

### As a **LAST RESORT:**

Choose a place with fairly clear ground and flames less than one metre deep and high. Take a deep breath, cover your face and run through the flames to already burnt ground.



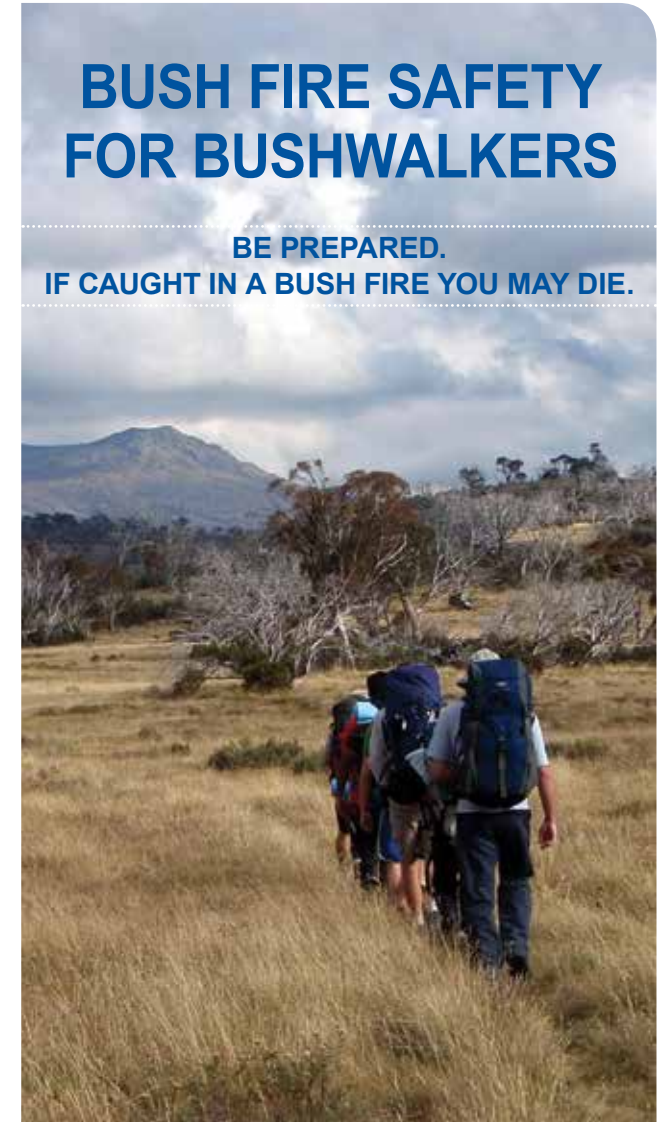
**PREPARE.** You must make important decisions before the fire season starts.

**ACT.** The higher the Fire Danger Rating, the more dangerous the conditions.

**SURVIVE.** Fires may threaten without warning so you need to know what you will do to survive.



**BUSH FIRE INFORMATION LINE**  
**1800 NSW RFS**  
 1 8 0 0 6 7 9 7 3 7



# BUSH FIRE SAFETY FOR BUSHWALKERS

**BE PREPARED.**  
**IF CAUGHT IN A BUSH FIRE YOU MAY DIE.**





### BEFORE BUSHWALKING YOU SHOULD CHECK:

- Fire Danger Ratings and Bush Fire Alerts at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) or on the Fires Near Me Smartphone application
- Weather conditions at [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)
- Whether a Total Fire Ban or a National Park Fire Ban is in place
- If it's a Total Fire Ban day you will not be able to light a fire or use a stove, and many National Parks may be closed.

### What is a Park Fire Ban?

The National Parks and Wildlife Service put a Park Fire Ban in place when there are active fires or the potential for a fire to start. The area may have limited access, or very dry or overgrown areas that could cause a bush fire to move quickly.




If the conditions aren't good, don't go!

### SO YOU'RE GOING BUSHWALKING?

- Tell someone where you plan to go and who is with you. Tell them when you return safely home.
- Consider carrying an Emergency Beacon. This will help emergency services locate you if necessary. Many local Police Stations and National Parks offices will offer these on either a fee or free basis.
- Save the Rural Fire Service information line number and Emergency 000 to your phone. Emergency 112 for mobile phones is for use when a phone is locked, has insufficient credit or your provider is unavailable.
- Note features on your map that may be a safe place to shelter from a fire and maintain your navigation so you always know where you are.
- Have someone in your group that knows how to treat burns, shock, asphyxiation, smoke inhalation, foreign matter in the eyes, and heat induced illness.
- Try to wear clothing that will protect you from radiant heat. Synthetic clothing can melt and burn skin severely.

Fires should always be attended by a responsible adult

### Camp fires and stoves

- Camp fires can be dangerous and the wood used can destroy habitat for many insects and animals. Take a fuel stove or food that can be eaten cold. Some areas prohibit the use of fires year round.
- If you do light a fire, use existing fire sites and don't surround the fire with rocks as some types may explode. Don't light fires on peat soil, as they may burn after you leave.
- Always place your fire or stove in a cleared area where the wind will blow flames away from tents.
- Make sure you have enough water to put out a fire properly. If you don't have enough water, dig a small hole before you build your fire, and reserve the dirt to bury the fire when you are finished. Not only will you have a hotter, more efficient fire, but the ground will return to the level it was when you arrived.
- Don't cook or smoke in tents.
- Extinguish fires, candles and lanterns before bed.

