Bushfires

* Residents in bushfire prone areas should be self-reliant to ensure their safety.
* If you live or work in an at risk area, there are a few steps you need to take to make sure you’re prepared.

**Know your risk**

* Bushfires don’t just happen in the bush, they can impact anyone, anywhere in Queensland.
* You are likely to be at a heightened risk of bushfires if you:
  + live within a few kilometres of bushland;
  + your local area has a bushfire history;
  + you have trees and shrubs within 20 metres of your house; or
  + your home is built on a slope.
* To find out about your home’s level of risk, check the [Rural Fire Service post code checker](https://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au/BushFire_PostCodeChecker/index.html?gclid=Cj0KCQjwtsv7BRCmARIsANu-CQcSTGYt9qYYJ9iNhlFMsSmW1u9wdlxI40ERMSa3L1G2gMd4-oIBhooaAnR1EALw_wcB) and talk to your local council or fire station.

**Prepare your household**

* In the event of a bushfire, you’ll need to make a decision to leave early or stay and fight the fire.
* The best way to protect your loved ones is to leave early but it’s important that your household has a bushfire survival plan so everyone knows what to do in the event of a bushfire.
* You can create one with your family at <http://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au/>.
* If a fire is on its way, you might have as little as five minutes to leave your home.
* Now’s the time to pack an evacuation kit for every member of your household so you’re able to leave at a moment’s notice.
* Your evacuation kit should include essential items like:
  + plenty of drinking water and non-perishable snacks;
  + a first-aid kit including prescription medication;
  + copies of identification and other important documents;
  + a torch;
  + a battery-operated radio and spare batteries;
  + toiletries including hand sanitiser, face masks and disinfectant wipes;
  + some spare cash;
  + a change of clothing;
  + bedding or blankets; and
  + books and games to help pass the time.
* Organise now to stay with friends or family out of town in case you need to evacuate.

**Prepare your property**

* An unprepared property is not only at risk itself, but may also present an increased danger for neighbours.
* Clear leaves, twigs, bark and other debris from the roof and gutters.
* Remove dead leaves and branches from the ground.
* Trim low-lying branches two metres from the ground surrounding your home.
* Conduct maintenance checks on pumps, generators and water systems.
* Mow your grass regularly.
* Display a prominent house or lot number, in case it is required in an emergency and ensure there is plenty of access for fire trucks.
* Check your insurance policy is up-to-date and call your insurer to make sure you have adequate cover.

**Tune into warnings**

* Don't assume you'll receive a warning as a fire approaches and don't assume a fire crew will be available to assist every home.
* Stay informed by tuning in to your local radio station, visiting [ruralfire.qld.gov.au](file:///\\qldra.local\dfs\user_data\YuenT\Council%20resouces\ruralfire.qld.gov.au) and following Queensland Fire and Emergency Services on Facebook: @Qldfireandemergencyservices.

**For more information on how to prepare for bushfires, visit** [**ruralfire.qld.gov.au**](file:///\\qldra.local\dfs\user_data\YuenT\Council%20resouces\ruralfire.qld.gov.au) **and** [**getready.qld.gov.au**](file:///\\qldra.local\dfs\user_data\YuenT\Council%20resouces\getready.qld.gov.au)**.**