

# Fire proof your home

YOU can't control the weather, but if you take steps to prepare and plan for bushfire season, you can at least minimise your risk.

Preparing your home is one of these steps. An unprepared property is not only at risk itself, but may also present an increased danger for your neighbours and their homes. Firefighters will carefully assess the risk to themselves and others before deciding if they are able to defend unprepared properties.

Below are some of the ways you can prepare your property for the bushfire season. Once these have been done, it is important to conduct a regular maintenance routine.



- ✓ Always maintain a buffer zone between a bushfire hazard area and buildings. Known as an asset protection zone, the recommended width varies according to slope, vegetation, fire danger index and construction level.
- ✓ Mow your grass regularly.
- ✓ Remove excess ground fuels and combustible material (long dry grass, dead leaves and branches).
- ✓ Clear leaves, twigs, bark and other debris from the roof and gutters.
- ✓ Trim low lying branches two metres from the ground surrounding your home.

You should also:

- ✓ Enclose open areas under your decks and floors.
- ✓ Install fine wire mesh screens on all windows, doors, vents and weepholes.

- ✓ Relocate flammable items away from your home including woodpiles, paper, boxes, crates, hanging baskets and garden furniture.
- ✓ Seal all gaps in external roof and wall cladding so hot embers cannot enter.
- ✓ Prepare Yourself. Bushfires can impact the health, safety and welfare of you and your family. You will experience stress, anxiety and a range of strong emotions during a fire caused by the heat, noise, flames and burning embers. It is vital that you are well prepared, both mentally and physically.