

# FIRE SAFETY ON THE ROADS THIS SUMMER HOLIDAY



You are travelling in one of Victoria's greatest holiday places.

To keep the summer holiday season safe, there are a few simple fire safety tips to bear in mind while driving through the countryside.

Smoke from bushfire or grassfire can blow across roads greatly reducing visibility. Smoke may also conceal flames, debris and stationary vehicles that may be on or beside the road ahead of you, making road travel extremely hazardous.

Don't risk being caught in a bushfire or grassfire.

## **Never drive through smoke - U-turn to safety.**

However, it may not be possible to turn around and go back to safety. In this case, your vehicle can provide protection if caught in a bushfire or grassfire.

- Look for an area beside the road that is clear of long grass/ thick undergrowth and overhanging trees. Pull over, but keep the engine running.
- Turn on your hazard and headlights so you are visible to other road users.
- Close all windows and external vents (or turn vents to recycle). Turn off air-conditioning.
- Get down below window level and cover all exposed skin with non-synthetic materials (such as a woollen blanket or clothing) to block radiant heat.
- Drink plenty of water to counter the effects of heat and to prevent dehydration.
- The heat intensity will reduce once the fire front has passed. It is then time to hop out of the car and have a look around to decide whether to stay where you are or try to move to a safer location.
- Falling trees and branches are hazardous after a fire has passed, and motorists should take extra care when driving through wooded areas.
- **Remember:** stay in the vehicle until the fire has passed. DO NOT get out and try to outrun the fire. Radiant heat is a killer. If outside your vehicle, you do not have any protection from radiant heat exposure.

**CFA hopes these simple tips will allow you to have a safe, fire free holiday.**