



# HOLIDAY RENTING AND BUSHFIRE SAFETY

If you are renting or staying in a house in a high bushfire risk area during the summer months then there are a few simple tips on fire safety you need to know.

The decision to stay with or to leave the house should be made well before a bushfire reaches the area. Only you can decide whether you are going to stay and actively defend the house or whether you are going to go on a high fire risk day. The trigger to go may be the declaration of a Total Fire Ban.

## If you choose not to stay-

- Go early, well before there is a fire in the area. Decide where you will go.
- Once you have decided to go then stick to it and don't change your mind at the last minute.
- Don't leave your decision too late as the roads may be closed to traffic, unsafe due to smoke and you may hamper fire-fighting efforts or cause an accident.

## You may prefer to stay-

- If you think that the house and surrounds are well prepared for a bushfire.
- If you and your family are prepared for the heat, smoke and work required to stay and actively defend the house.
- Sheltering in the house is safer than being caught in the open, in a car or on foot.

## Once you have made the decision to stay-

- Wear long-legged and long-sleeved clothing preferably of cotton or wool.
- Fill baths, buckets and bins with water to assist you in putting out any small spot fires that may start before and after the fire front has passed.
- Close all windows and doors to prevent smoke and embers from entering and place wet blankets or towels around the doors and windows.
- Block downpipes and fill gutters with water.
- Have torches and a battery operated radio handy as power is often lost in a bushfire, don't forget to have a stock of spare batteries.
- Hose down the side of the house and garden facing the fire to cool it down.
- Remember you may have to shelter in the house as the fire front passes, DO NOT decide to leave at the last minute.

## After the fire front has passed-

- Wear your protective clothing and extinguish any fires that you see around the house.
- Watch for small fires in the roof, under the house and anywhere embers may lodge.
- Continue to do this as small fires can go undetected for some time.

**CFA suggests that you develop a holiday fire survival plan and stick to it.**