

Sheltering in Your Home

Bushfire Fact Sheet

Sheltering in your home during a bushfire should be your last option, when all other plans fail and you are unable to leave.

Bushfires are very unpredictable and you need to be well prepared to change your plans if you can no longer leave your property.

Even if you do not intend to stay and actively defend your property, you need to be physically and mentally prepared if sheltering in your home becomes your only option.

When the fire front passes, the heat will be extreme and you must shelter at this time whether you planned to or not.

If it is too late to leave the property

- Stay in the house when the fire front is passing.
- If people are expecting you to leave, let them know you are now staying.
- Take shelter inside in the room furthest from the fire front.
- Make sure all doors and windows are sealed as best as possible.
- Soak towels and rugs in water, and lay them along the inside of external doorways.
- Soak woollen blankets and keep them handy for protection against radiant heat.
- Take down curtains and push furniture away from windows.
- Get down low to limit your exposure to smoke.
- Actively defend your property by putting out spot fires.
- Remember to check the roof cavity through the manhole for any spot fires.
- Drink plenty of water to avoid becoming dehydrated.



People have died sheltering in bathrooms and other rooms without an exit door leading outside. Make sure you can easily escape and shelter in a room with at least two ways to get outside and one that has a water supply (eg. a laundry with a door that goes outside or a kitchen).

Preparing to evacuate

Shelter in the house for as long as possible. Many people have died from toxic smoke and fumes when their house has caught fire.

If your house catches on fire and the conditions inside become unbearable, leave through the door furthest from the approaching fire and go to an area that has already been burnt.

The majority of people die in a bushfire from radiant heat. You should protect yourself from radiant heat with long sleeves, long trousers and strong leather boots.



**For more information visit dfes.wa.gov.au
or contact DFES Community Engagement – 9395 9816**

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