

## Bush fire survival plan

### Preparation

- ✓ Ensure you have a bush fire survival plan. See [rfs.nsw.gov.au](https://rfs.nsw.gov.au) for tips and templates on making a plan for your property.
- ✓ A well prepared home will increase the safety of fire fighters and is more likely to survive a bush fire even if you leave early.
- ✓ Know your bush fire alert levels.
- ✓ Know the bush fire danger rating.

### As a bush fire approaches

- ✓ Plug downpipes with rags or plastic bags half-filled with sand.
- ✓ Fill gutters with water.
- ✓ Have buckets of water filled and wet towels placed around the house ready to use in putting out small (spot) fires.
- ✓ Fill the bathtub with water in case of mains water failure.
- ✓ Keep a battery operated AM/FM radio handy for updates.

## IN AN EMERGENCY

Call Triple Zero (000) and ask for Police, Fire or Ambulance.

If you are hearing or speech impaired call 106.

Download these apps to assist in an emergency and during the fire season



Emergency +



Fires Near Me NSW



MyFirePlan



## Useful Contacts

### Help to make your property safe

For information or how to prepare your property for bush fire contact the following:

NSW Rural Fire Service  
Northern Beaches District  
9450 3000  
[rfs.nsw.gov.au](https://rfs.nsw.gov.au)

Your local Fire & Rescue NSW Station

Northern Beaches Council  
1300 434 434  
[northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au](https://northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au)

### Fire restrictions and updates

Phone: 1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737)  
Bush Fire Info Line  
[rfs.nsw.gov.au](https://rfs.nsw.gov.au)  
[facebook.com/nswrfs](https://facebook.com/nswrfs)

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# Bush Fire Prevention



northern  
beaches  
council

Keep this leaflet handy for the bush fire danger period





## Preventing bush fires in the northern beaches

Being surrounded by bushland means living with the threat of bush fires during warmer months, especially when weather conditions are windy and hot.

Studies show that your home is most at risk from burning embers carried by wind. This can lead to small fires starting in your homes and yards. By preparing your home properly you can reduce the risk of bush fire threat.

For a fire to start, it needs bush fire fuel. This can be twigs, bark, leaves or garden clippings. Logs and trees are not considered to be hazardous fire fuel, even though they will burn in fires.

## Reducing bush fire risk

### Public Land

Land managers are responsible for managing bush fire risk on public lands. They work closely with the Northern Beaches Bush Fire Management Committee to ensure the bush fire risk is managed in line with the local Bush Fire Risk Management Plan. The committee is made up of Council, the NSW RFS, Fire and Rescue NSW, National Parks, Police and other land management agencies.

Methods include manual fuel reduction by Council through weed eradication and removal of fine fuels that reduces the fuel load on the private/public land interface.

Contact the NSW RFS if you are concerned about a bush fire hazard on public property.

### Private Property

Permission must be obtained to remove bushland and trees, although up to 10% of the tree canopy may be pruned without a permit. If you believe that bushland or trees have to be removed to assist in developing an 'asset protection zone' you must apply for a hazard reduction certificate through the NSW RFS.

For the clearing of any native vegetation from your land permission from Council must be obtained. Native trees and bushland are protected by law and substantial fines apply for clearing without a permit.

Grass clippings, leaves and other dried plant material should be removed in vegetation cleanups. A build up of these materials around your home could ignite, threatening your property from an ember, hours before or after a bush fire impacts your immediate area.

### Illegal and Suspicious Activity

Illegal dumping in reserves can also be a major bush fire hazard to you and your neighbour. If you see any illegal dumping please report it immediately to Council. Mobile phone camera footage can assist us in carrying out successful prosecutions.

If you observe any suspicious behaviour call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000  
To report a fire emergency call Triple Zero (000)

Visit [northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au](http://northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au) for more information.

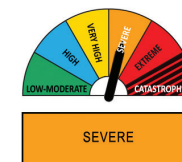
## Reducing bush fire fuel

### Reducing risk to your property

- Create an 'asset protection zone' within your property by removing garden debris such as leaves and bark.
- Remove cardboard, paper from under or near houses.
- Clear weeds away from wooden structures such as old garden sheds or fences.
- Consider installing metal roller shutters over glass.
- Locate woodpiles away from fences, house and sheds.
- Clean dead branches and leaves from gutters.
- Lop overhanging branches near the roof, as long as it's less than 10% of the tree canopy, no approval is required.
- Enclose open areas under the house.
- Replace plastic insect screens with metal mesh screens.
- Check that taps, hoses, pumps and sprinklers are ready for use and any water tanks are full.
- Store flammable liquids away from the house.
- Mow your grass regularly.
- Seal all gaps in external roof and wall cladding so hot embers cannot enter.
- If you have a water tank, dam or swimming pool, install 'SWS' signs which can help in an emergency. These are free from your local fire station.
- Make sure any fences that you build are non-combustible.
- Special conditions may apply to your home if it is located in an area specified at risk of bush fire. (Australian Standard AS 3959-2009 'Construction of buildings in bush fire prone areas'.)

### FOLLOW ANY FIRE RESTRICTIONS OR BANS

Call 1800 679 737  
visit [rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://rfs.nsw.gov.au)



**NO FIRES WITHOUT A PERMIT**