

# BUSHFIRE SAFETY

—  
ANAKIE



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We acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the Land, Waterways and Skies. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present. We Acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of our Greater Geelong community today.

## DISCLAIMER

The purpose of this document is to provide a quick reference of information specific to Anakie to assist you with your Emergency Planning for bushfire.

August 2021

# LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

Anakie is home to areas of significant native vegetation. The Brisbane Ranges National Park and many of the local rural roadsides have high environmental value due to the quality of the remnant native vegetation present and the habitat it provides.

The Anakie area is one of the few places in Greater Geelong that still supports large areas of native habitat. Many of the roadsides contain wildflowers including orchids and are important wildlife corridors.

A range of orchids can be found along Clarks Road towards the end of Winter through to early Summer. Look out for them when walking.



It is important to protect these areas and signage helps residents identify where native vegetation remains on roadsides.

Keep an eye out for Owlfred the Tawny Frogmouth, City of Greater Geelong's mascot.



## NATIVE VEGETATION AREA

This important roadside plant community is protected. Contact the City on 5272 5272 before doing any works in this area.

Penalties apply

# FIRE PREPARATION, ANAKIE

There are a number of agencies involved in fire safety in the Anakie area.

What do the agencies do to prepare the local area?

## PARKS VICTORIA

Parks Victoria (PV) are the responsible land managers for the Brisbane Ranges National Park. In partnership with Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV), we are also responsible for managing bushfire risk in the national park.

PV and FFMV do this through:

- The establishment and annual maintenance of strategic fuel breaks, such as those along Butchers Rd and Geelong-Ballan Rd.
- Planned burning in strategic locations within the Brisbane Ranges National Park to reduce fire risk, compliment fuel breaks and maintain ecological values.
- Assist with planning for and responding to bushfires in the area to limit the impacts to environmental, cultural and community values.

## REGIONAL ROADS VICTORIA

- Grass slashing, which involves cutting road verges to 3m and fence to fence if the road is a designated strategic fuel break.
- Vegetation fuel management at identified high risk locations such as Geelong–Ballan Rd, through Anakie.
- Assist the CFA in its annual roadside burn program.
- Conduct an annual audit of the DISPLAN (emergency response) Box located at the corner of Geelong – Ballan Rd and Staughton Vale Rd.



Pictured: The DISPLAN (emergency response) Box

## COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY

In addition to responding to emergencies, CFA undertakes several fire prevention activities and community awareness and education programs.

These include:

- Roadside management activities in collaboration with DoT and Councils.
- The delivery of community education programs in the Anakie area, including Property Advice Visits, Street Corner Meetings and Bushfire Planning Workshops.

## GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

- Undertaking fire hazard inspections on private land to ensure grass and fine fuels are minimised.
- Roadside slashing with works undertaken on both gravel and sealed roads.
- Inspection and maintenance of fire access tracks.
- Inspection of static water supply tanks for CFA use, like that at Butchers Road.
- Advocates for residents to attend Fire Preparation Workshops run by the CFA.

## CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

- Fire hazard inspections from November on all private property within the municipality.
- Inspections of trees along rural roads to ensure viability and safety.
- Roadside slashing on Council roads.
- Noxious weed control within nature reserves and along roadsides.
- Ongoing Emergency Management planning through the multi-agency Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee and the Municipal Fire Management Planning Sub-Committee.



# MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS

## **X** The Fire Brigade will come to my rescue

The local Anakie and nearby Maude Brigades have four fire tankers and two Ultra-light tankers between them to service over 300 houses in the Anakie area.

Do not wait for CFA to come and protect your house or tell you when to leave.

## **X** Someone will knock on my door or phone me and tell me when to leave

While every effort is made to notify the community early, emergency services and councils do not have the resources to visit every property and warn them of imminent danger. Under NO circumstances should you wait for a personalised warning.

## **X** I'll be safe at a Neighbourhood Safer Place (Place of Last Resort)

Anakie does NOT HAVE any Neighbourhood Safer Places (Places of Last Resort).

## **X** I don't need a written plan; I know what to do

Emergencies are stressful events. Important steps can often be missed during the rush of leaving if not written down.

## **X** I'm prepared to stay and defend my property

Do you have:

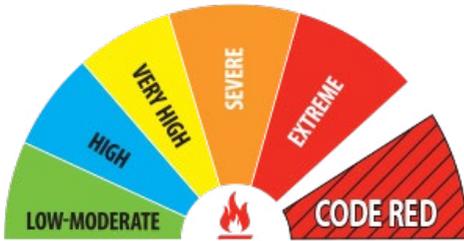
- at least two fit and able-bodied adults
- at least 10,000L of water
- protective clothing
- appropriate firefighting equipment and pumps
- a well-prepared home.

Houses are not designed or constructed to withstand fires in Code Red Fire Danger Rating Conditions.

**Leaving early is your safest option.**

# FIRE DANGER RATING & WARNINGS

## FIRE DANGER RATING



The Fire Danger Rating is your prompt to take action and stay safe. It tells you how dangerous a fire could be if one was to start.

Ratings are forecast using the Bureau of Meteorology data for up to four days ahead. They are based on weather and other environmental conditions such as fuel loads.

<b>CODE RED</b>	These are the worst conditions for a fire. Leaving high fire risk areas the night before or very early in the day is your safest option. Avoid travelling through forested areas, thick bush or long dry grass.
<b>EXTREME</b>	Expect extremely hot, dry and windy conditions. If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving. The safest place to be is away from high fire risk areas.
<b>SEVERE</b>	Expect hot, dry and possibly windy conditions. If a fire starts and takes hold, it may be uncontrollable. Be prepared to change your plans.
<b>VERY HIGH</b>	If a fire starts, it can most likely be controlled in these conditions.
<b>HIGH</b>	Be aware of how fires can start and minimise the risk. Plan your activities carefully on hot, dry and windy days.
<b>MODERATE</b>	

## WARNINGS

Warnings are issued when an emergency is likely to impact an area. They provide important information on the situation and advice on what you should do.

There are three different levels of warnings:



It is your responsibility to stay informed during summer.

During summer you need to:

- Be aware of weather conditions.
- Know what the Fire Danger Rating is for the next day.
- Know if it's a Total Fire Ban day.
- Regularly check for warnings.

# PREPARING FOR FIRE

**It is important that you have a written Bushfire Safety Plan. There is a template at the end of this document that can help you plan for bushfire.**

## **KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURS**

Getting to know your neighbours is an important part of planning for emergencies.

Neighbours can help each other in a number of ways and can include those in your street or broader community.

Knowing your neighbours makes it more likely you'll:

- Be able to support each other before, during and after an emergency
- Cope better with future emergencies

**Get to know your neighbours and their needs BEFORE an emergency situation occurs.**

## **INSURANCE AND YOU**

The Insurance Council of Australia identifies there are variations between insurance policies as to coverage for natural disasters like bushfires. It is important you know exactly what you are covered for as well as how much your insurer will pay in the event your property is impacted by a bushfire.

The insurance recovery process can take time. In general, there are four key steps:

1. Make Safe – if your property sustains damage your insurer will arrange emergency works to prevent further damage.
2. Assessing the damage – An insurance assessor will inspect the damage to your property.
3. Scope of Works – A written report of how repair/work is to be carried out.
4. Repair –If your insurer is managing the works, they will generally arrange a builder and any council approvals.

**The better prepared your home and property is, the better chance you have of minimising damage from bushfire.**

## PROPERTY PREPARATION

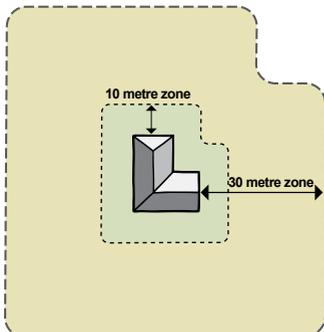
You can reduce the impact of bushfire on your home by having a well-prepared property before summer.

### Your 10-metre zone

- Keep gutters clear of leaves
- Remove flammable items from decks and verandas
- Cut back overhanging branches from your house
- Keep grass less than 10cm.
- Avoid having shrubs under trees
- Don't have plants higher than 10cm in front of windows or glass doors

### Your 30-metre zone

- Keep grass no longer than 10cm between trees and shrubs.
- Remove dry grass, leaves, twigs and loose bark
- Keep trees separated, by pruning back branches
- Prune tree branches at least 2 metres above the ground.



You may need a planning permit to remove native vegetation from your property.

Contact the City of Greater Geelong's Planning Unit on 5272 5272, or Golden Plains Statutory Planning Team on 5220 7111 to discuss and see whether any exemptions apply to your situation.

## PUTTING TOGETHER AN EMERGENCY KIT

As part of your bushfire planning and preparation put together an emergency kit including the following:

- Protective clothing
- Food and water for 5 days
- Woollen blankets
- Medications and toiletries
- Important documents (eg passport, insurance etc)
- First aid kit
- Mobile phone and charger
- Battery operated radio and torch and spare batteries
- Hand sanitiser, masks and antibacterial wipes.



# PLANNING FOR PETS, HORSES & LIVESTOCK

## When planning for bushfire remember to include your pets, horses and any livestock you might have.

It is also a good idea to identify someone you trust, neighbour, family member or friend that has a key to access your property and animals as a backup. This person should be familiar and comfortable with your animals.

### PETS

Ensure your pets can be easily identified either with a collar, tag or microchip.

If your plan is to leave early and your pet is going with you consider the following:

- How will you transport your pet? Leads, pet carriers or cages or dog trailers make transportation easier.
- Have you packed food, water, medication and bedding for your pets?
- Identify where you will go with your pets. This might be family, friends or other accommodation.

If your pets are remaining at home, ensure they have access to food and water and quiet area or room to stay in.

### HORSES

Many residents in Anakie own horses. If you are going to move them on severe, extreme or code red days have you considered the following:

- Can they be easily identified?
- Have you arranged somewhere to take them? Family or friend's paddock for example.
- Do you have a horse float to move them?
- Will they have access to food and water?

If your horses are remaining on your property, the following is important:

- Remove any rugs or halters that may burn on a very severe, extreme or code red day,
- Move your horses to a heavily grazed paddock, ideally one that has a dam

If your horse is difficult to catch you may consider leaving a leather halter on with identification tags.

### LIVESTOCK

If you have livestock, identifying a heavily grazed paddock with a dam should form part of your bushfire plan. Move your livestock into this paddock on each severe, extreme or code red day.

# WATER TANK SAFETY

## Prior to a bushfire

- Ensure your tanks are full prior to the fire season
- Clear roof of leaves & other debris
- Ensure your tank is properly sealed & maintained
- Disconnect the down pipes to your tank as soon as there is a bushfire risk.

## After a bushfire

- If you live in a bushfire affected area your private drinking water could be contaminated from debris, ash, dead animals, aerial fire retardants and water-bombing
- Only reconnect the downpipes when the roof has been cleaned (either manually or after a good flush of rain.
- If the water tastes, looks or smells unusual, do not drink, use for food preparation, brushing teeth or give to animals (pets or livestock). Use bottled water for drinking.

## WATER REPLACEMENT SCHEME

A water replacement scheme helps to relieve hardship in the community by replenishing essential private water supplies that have been used by fire services during bushfire emergencies.

The Victorian Government has a policy regarding replacing essential water used during bushfire fighting operations.

CFA and Forest Fire Management firefighters have the legislative powers to take water from any waterway or water source for firefighting purposes.

The water owner can request replacement of essential water under this scheme.

The water replacement scheme recognises that, while farmers understand the urgency of firefighting, their basic water interests have to be protected too.

If taken for firefighting purposes, a reasonable and sufficient volume of essential water will be provided to sustain the:

- health of affected residences and pets
- health and productivity of stock

**To lodge a request for essential water replacement, download and complete the Essential Water Replacement form then email it to [bushfire.recovery@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:bushfire.recovery@delwp.vic.gov.au).**

[www.ffm.vic.gov.au/recovery-after-an-emergency/public-land-recovery](http://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/recovery-after-an-emergency/public-land-recovery)

# IMPORTANT CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

## PHONE NUMBERS

Police, Fire and Ambulance  
000

City of Greater Geelong  
5272 5272

Golden Plains Shire Council  
5220 7111

VicEmergency Hotline  
1800 226 226

VicSES  
132 500

Beyond Blue  
1300 224 636

Lifeline  
13 11 14

## WEBSITES

VicEmergency website  
[www.emergency.vic.gov.au/respond](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/respond)

Road Closures and Traffic Alerts  
[traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au)

Planned Burns Victoria  
[plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au](http://plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au)

Bureau of Meteorology  
[www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

CFA  
[www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

VicSES  
[www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au)

## APPS

### VicEmergency App



Provides real-time information and warnings for all emergencies in Victoria.

The app is FREE to download and use for Apple and Android users.

### Emergency+ App

Uses GPS to provide accurate time and location information when dialling 000.

### Geelong City

Allows residents to report issues or request services. The app is FREE to download and use for Android and Apple users.

### Wildlife Emergency App

Provides a straightforward way to report wildlife impacted by bushfire in Victoria.

## RADIO AND TV

ABC Radio - 774AM

Bay FM - 93.9FM

K-Rock - 95.5FM

Sky News

# Bushfire Survival Plan



This planning template is designed for people who have a disability, chronic or acute medical condition or who are older.

As you fill this out, think about how your abilities and support needs affect your plan to leave early. This includes assistive technology, assistance animals and specific health management.

For an accessible word version or to print or download this template, go to [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/leaveearly](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/leaveearly)

CFA can visit you for free to provide advice about your property. Request a visit via email: [clientreferral@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:clientreferral@cfa.vic.gov.au)

Please complete the following details:

This Bushfire Survival Plan is for: \_\_\_\_\_

When living at: \_\_\_\_\_

My Fire Weather District is: \_\_\_\_\_

My plan was completed on: (dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. My Fire Danger Rating trigger to leave is



### CODE RED

Night before  Early in the morning

### EXTREME

Night before  Early in the morning

### SEVERE

Night before  Early in the morning



Code Red days are the worst conditions for fire.

Homes are not designed or constructed to withstand these conditions.

## 2. I will find out the daily Fire Danger Rating from



My neighbour, relative, friend, support worker or carer



Monitoring the VicEmergency app or website  
[www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au)



Listening to ABC Local Radio or my designated community radio station



Watching Sky News TV



Calling VicEmergency Hotline 1800 226 226



If you are deaf, hard of hearing or have a communication impairment contact VicEmergency via the **National Relay Service 1800 555 677**



If you do not speak English, call the **Translating and Interpreting Service 131 450** for translated information from VicEmergency

## 3. What I will take

**Personal items** (mobile phone, money, keys, identification, glasses, jewellery)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Essential items for daily living** (mobility aids, communication aids, assistive technology devices and chargers)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Medical equipment, medications and prescriptions**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Important documents** (will, insurance papers)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Other**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**My emergency kit is stored**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 4. I will stay at

Details	Option 1	Option 2
Name		
Telephone		
Mobile number		
Address		
I am able to stay more than one night	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

## 5. I will get there by



Driving my car

Always make sure you know alternative routes and have plenty of fuel



Public transport

Ensure you have a current timetable and that the service is operating



Taxi or other ride share options

Company

Telephone



My neighbour, relative or friend picking me up

Always make sure to call the day/night before to confirm they are still picking me up

Name

Telephone

## 6. What I will do with my pet(s) or assistance animal

Pet(s) will come with me  
(with their leads, food, bedding, crate etc.)

Pet(s) will be left with neighbours or in a kennel (with lead, food, bedding, vaccination certificates)

Pet(s) will be left at home  
(with fresh water and food)

Name of kennel

I have an assistance animal that travels with me

Telephone



Some fires can continue for many days, even weeks. It is important to factor this into your plan for your pets in case you cannot come back to your home.

## 7. I will tell these people that I am leaving early

Details	Name	Telephone or email
Personal contacts		
Service providers		

# Returning home

I will return home when the Fire Danger Rating is of lower risk. I will know this through the information I receive from my preferred source of information as noted in this plan.

# Backup plan

There may be some circumstances where a safe evacuation is not possible and you will be told it's too late to leave. You may need to seek another shelter option.

## If I am unable to leave as planned, I will

**Go to a nearby well-prepared property**  
(if previously discussed)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Go to a Place of Last Resort**

– Designated Neighbourhood Safer Place  
or Community Fire Refuge

Location \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Actively shelter at home**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Route(s) I will take to get there \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Version 1 | June 2020

**Remember, leaving early is always the safest option. You must plan your own survival.**

- When the Fire Danger Rating is Severe, Extreme or Code Red, leaving the night before or early in the morning is the safest option for your survival.
- Bushfires can occur suddenly and without warning.
- Sheltering in an unprepared house without active defence is extremely dangerous. The safest option is always to leave the day before or early in the morning.
- Disruptions to services such as power and water are common during bushfires. Expect interruptions to your NBN, electricity, telephones, mobile phones or mains water.
- CFA cannot guarantee a fire truck will come to your home to protect you during a bushfire.
- Older people, children and people with a disability should not remain in a bushfire-prone area during dangerous fire weather or a bushfire.
- Never wait to receive a warning, you may not get an official warning about a bushfire before its too late.
- You will not be told when to leave or assisted to leave during a bushfire. You must follow your plan.

**You must plan for your own survival.**