



Summer here we come!

As summer fast approaches the landscape will continue to dry out, growth from winter and spring rains will create an abundance of fuel for bushfires that may affect you and your dogs.

If you live in, travel through or visit bushfire risk areas it is critical that you recognise the need to have a plan and be prepared.

The risk is real and you should be prepared for the worst at all times. The consequences can be both devastating and terrifying, so why risk it?

Here are some points to be seriously considered when getting your property ready for summer and help greatly reduce the risk of being adversely affected by a bushfire:

- Clean out your gutters on sheds and buildings keeping them free from debris such as leaves and bark. Removing branches of trees that are overhanging any of your buildings is advised.
- Create a defensible space around your home by reducing vegetation
- Rake up leaves and removed excess rubbish and debris from around buildings and other structures
- Move flammable objects away from house
- Ensure you have a well-stocked emergency kit
- Place wire 'ember' mesh over wall vents
- Ensure your dogs and cats are identified and registered in case you become separated.

- Ensure your pets' vaccinations are up to date in case they need to be placed in kennels.
- Be sure you can adequately restrain or confine your pets as it may become frightened and distressed.
- Have an appropriate container, vehicle or equipment to transport your animal.

If you are planning to leave early in the event of a bushfire, consider what items you may need to include in your emergency kit for your pets, suggestions include:

- Plastic containers for water and food
- Small amounts of pet food
- Suitable bedding
- Pet medication
- Animal documentation such as identification and vaccination certificates
- Update your 5 Min Bushfire Plan – don't have one... make your own 5 Minute Plan today by visiting the CFS website and take all precautions necessary. Follow this link for more details:
<https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/bebushfireready/index.html>

Remember to also think of others in the community and alert them to potential hazards and check on them in the event a bushfire occurs.

Important points to remember on "High Risk Fire Days"

- If you have to leave your home during the day you will need to decide whether to take your animals to a safer place.
- Keep in mind that, if there is a fire, you may not be able to return to your home for some time.
- If you are home, keep your pets inside (where possible).
- Check you have the necessary pet items in your emergency kit if you plan to leave early.
- Have somewhere pre-arranged to accept your animals (if large number are being moved).
- When leaving your home keep all dogs on a lead and confine other animals in cages or suitable carrying devices.
- Cover cages with a woollen blanket to minimise distress and secure all pets in a car or vehicle that provides adequate protection for transportation.

5 MINUTE BUSHFIRE PLAN

DO NOW