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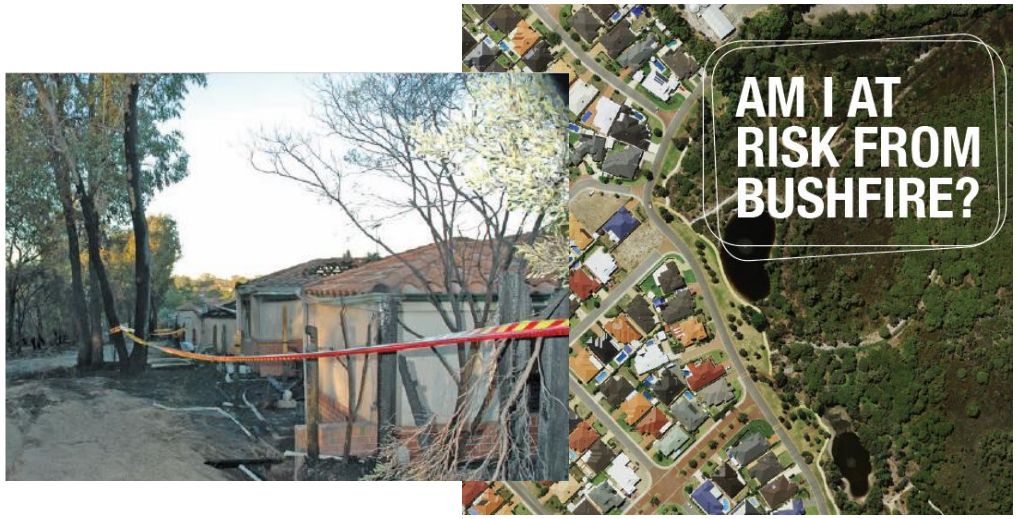
FOR A SAFER STATE

Know your bushfire risk.

If you live near bushland, you are at risk of bushfire.

Know Your Bushfire Risk

- More than 90% of Western Australia is bushfire prone.
- If you live near bushland, **you are at risk of bushfire**.
- Bushland doesn't just mean trees and forest, it also includes areas of scrub, grassland, parks, reserves, farms and paddocks.
- There are not as many fire trucks as there are houses.
- Fire fighters will be busy fighting the fire. It is **YOUR** responsibility to reduce your risks and take action to survive a bushfire



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Flames are not the only risk you face in a bushfire

- **Ember Attack** – embers consist of burning bark, leaves or twigs and can start new fires up to 25km ahead of the fire front.
- **Radiant Heat** – Bushfires can generate an incredible amount of heat that may ignite fuels before the flames have even reached them.
- **Smoke** – Lung injuries and suffocation can occur where the body is exposed to smoke and super-heated air.



Image Source: www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/dec/31/nsw-fires-three-people-missing-and-homes-destroyed-as-bushfires-rage-on-south-coast#img-1

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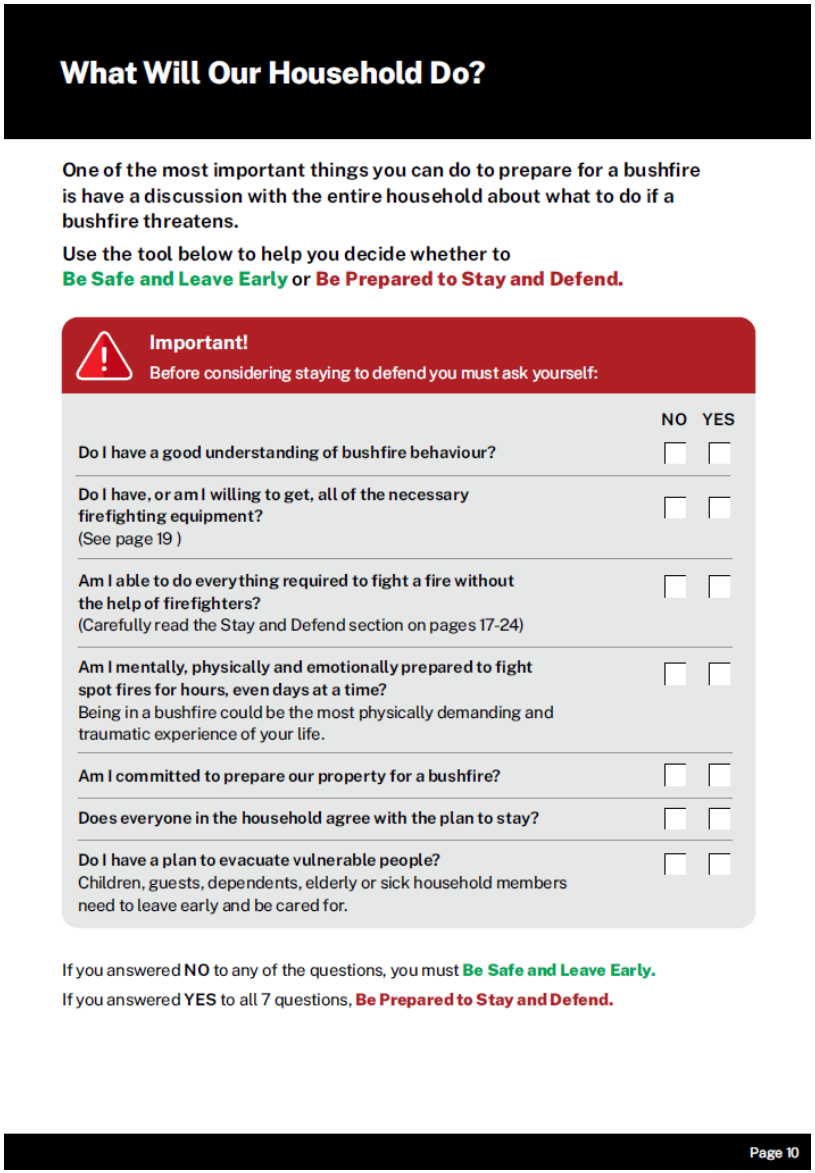
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Planning for bushfire.

Planning for Bushfire

In a bushfire, every minute counts. The single biggest killer is indecision.

- Deciding in advance when you'll leave and where you'll go, gives you and your loved ones the best chance of survival.
- Knowing your plan in advance will help to keep you and your family safer.
- Talk with all members of your household and decide whether to **Be Safe and Leave Early** or **Be Prepared to Stay and Defend**.



What Will Our Household Do?

One of the most important things you can do to prepare for a bushfire is have a discussion with the entire household about what to do if a bushfire threatens.

Use the tool below to help you decide whether to **Be Safe and Leave Early** or **Be Prepared to Stay and Defend.**

Important!
Before considering staying to defend you must ask yourself:

	NO	YES
Do I have a good understanding of bushfire behaviour?	☐	☐
Do I have, or am I willing to get, all of the necessary firefighting equipment? (See page 19)	☐	☐
Am I able to do everything required to fight a fire without the help of firefighters? (Carefully read the Stay and Defend section on pages 17-24)	☐	☐
Am I mentally, physically and emotionally prepared to fight spot fires for hours, even days at a time? Being in a bushfire could be the most physically demanding and traumatic experience of your life.	☐	☐
Am I committed to prepare our property for a bushfire?	☐	☐
Does everyone in the household agree with the plan to stay?	☐	☐
Do I have a plan to evacuate vulnerable people? Children, guests, dependents, elderly or sick household members need to leave early and be cared for.	☐	☐

If you answered **NO** to any of the questions, you must **Be Safe and Leave Early.**

If you answered **YES** to all 7 questions, **Be Prepared to Stay and Defend.**

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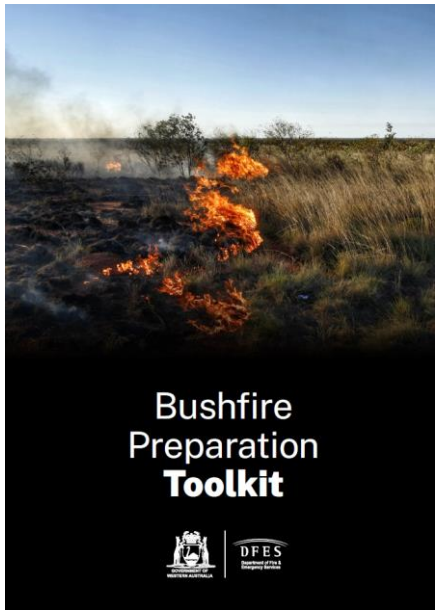
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Planning for Bushfire

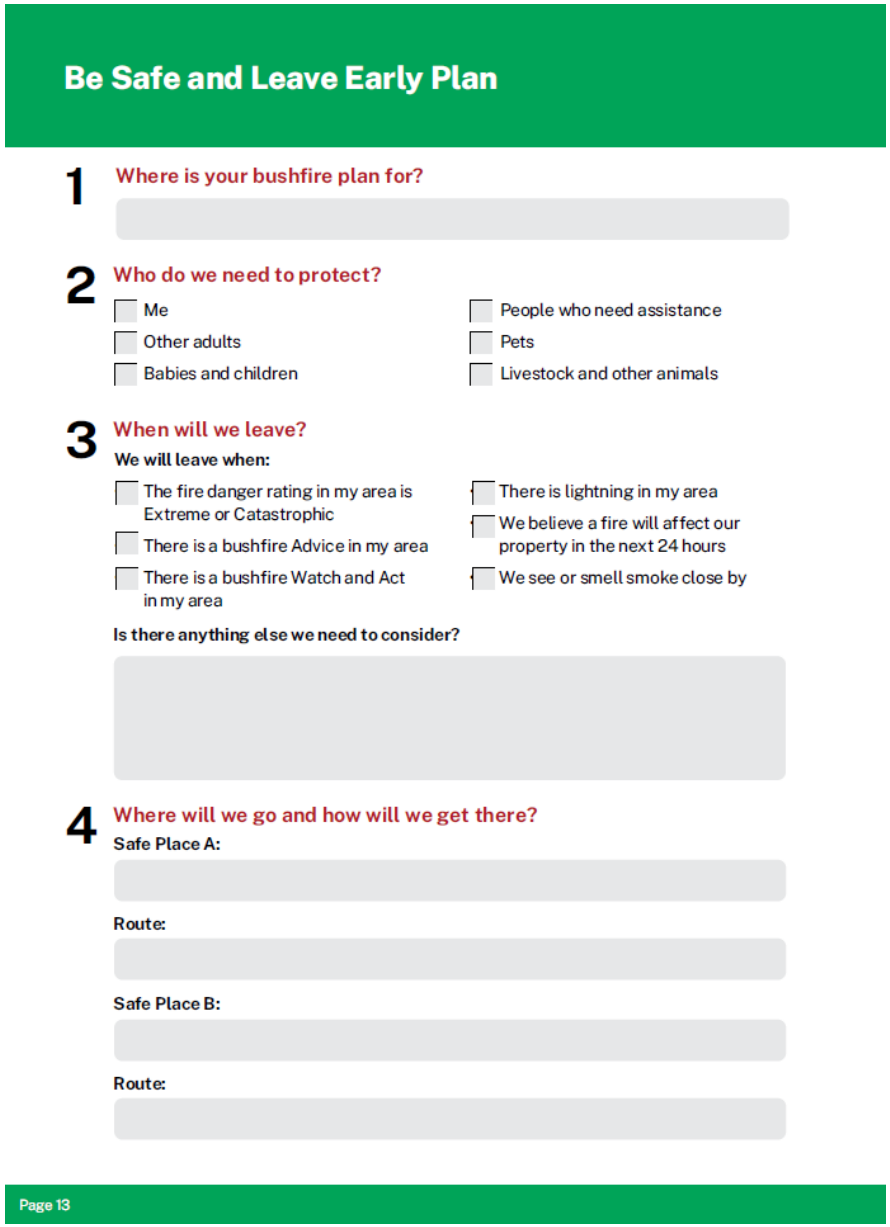
There are two main tools you can use to help you create your bushfire survival plan:

- My Bushfire Plan Website or App: https://mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au/ Google Play or the App Store
- Bushfire Preparation Toolkit





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Be Safe and Leave Early Plan

1 Where is your bushfire plan for?

2 Who do we need to protect?

- ☐ Me
- ☐ Other adults
- ☐ Babies and children
- ☐ People who need assistance
- ☐ Pets
- ☐ Livestock and other animals

3 When will we leave?

We will leave when:

- ☐ The fire danger rating in my area is Extreme or Catastrophic
- ☐ There is a bushfire Advice in my area
- ☐ There is a bushfire Watch and Act in my area
- ☐ There is lightning in my area
- ☐ We believe a fire will affect our property in the next 24 hours
- ☐ We see or smell smoke close by

Is there anything else we need to consider?

4 Where will we go and how will we get there?

Safe Place A:

Route:

Safe Place B:

Route:

Page 13

Planning for Bushfire

- My Bushfire Plan or the Toolkit will help you to develop a plan that is appropriate to YOUR circumstances.
- It will also ask you to consider multiple scenarios.
- Regardless of whether you plan to be safe and leave early, or be prepared to stay and defend, these tools will assist you with information about
  - Preparing your property
  - Sheltering in place.

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Safer places in a Bushfire

Consider the use of a safer place as part of your backup plan when you are not able to carry out your Bushfire Plan.

Safer places have their limitations.

Safer places:

- do not guarantee safety in all circumstances.
- There may be a risk with travelling to your safer place.
- Firefighters may not be there, they may be fighting the main fire front elsewhere.
- Your safer place may not provide shelter from the elements of a bushfire, particularly flying embers and hot weather



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Sheltering in your home

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

- Take shelter inside in the room with two exits, furthest from the fire front.
- Make sure all doors and windows are sealed as best as possible.
- Get down low to limit your exposure to smoke and heat.



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Packing an emergency kit

Preparing an emergency kit can save precious time during an emergency.

- If your plan is to be safe and leave early, you may be away from home for several days.
- If your plan is to be prepared to stay and defend, you may lose access to utilities like power, gas or water.

Make sure your emergency kit is well stocked with essential items.

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FOR A SAFER STATE

Preparing your property.

Preparing your property



- Whether you plan to stay or leave, there are a number of things you can do to prepare your property and reduce your risk.

- The Bushfire Preparation Toolkit and My Bushfire Plan contain information on how to prepare your property to stay or leave.

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Preparing your property

- Bushfire Risk Treatment Standards
- Asset Protection Zones
- www.dfes.wa.gov.au/prepare



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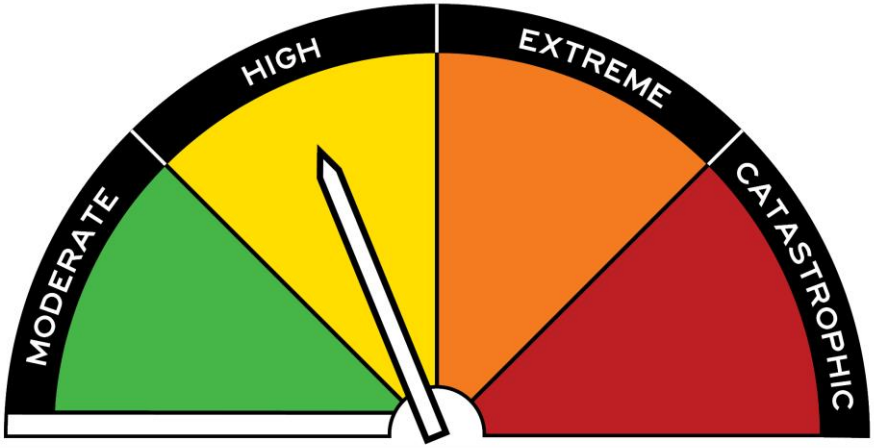
FOR A SAFER STATE

Understanding the Australian Fire Danger Rating System.

Fire Danger Ratings

Fire danger ratings tell us how dangerous a fire will be IF one starts.

- **No Rating:** Minimal risk. Fires are not expected to spread in a dangerous or life-threatening way. *You still need to remain alert and abide by local seasonal laws and regulations*.
- **Moderate:** Plan and prepare. Most fires can be controlled. *Check your bushfire plan and monitor conditions.*
- **High:** Be ready to act. Fires can be dangerous. Decide what you will do if a fire starts. Review your bushfire plan.



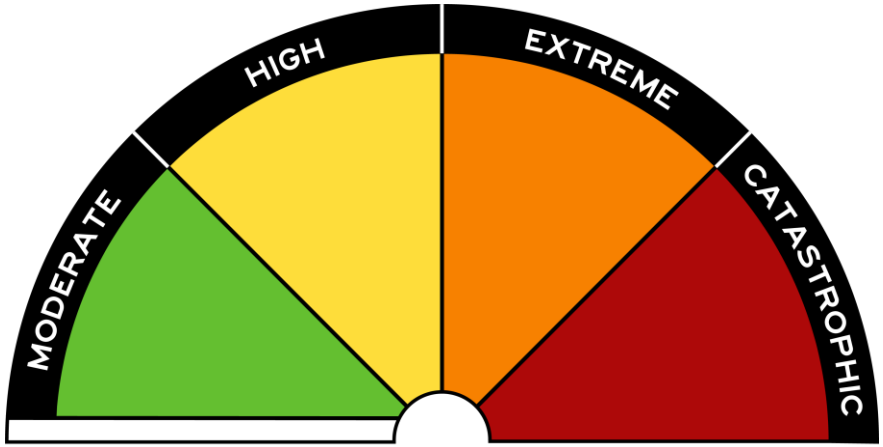
FIRE DANGER RATINGS

MODERATE	PLAN AND PREPARE
HIGH	BE READY TO ACT
EXTREME	TAKE ACTION NOW
CATASTROPHIC	LEAVE BUSHFIRE RISK AREA

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Fire Danger Ratings

- **Extreme:** Take action now to protect your life and property. Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous. If a fire starts, take immediate action. *If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, plan to leave early.*
- **Catastrophic:** For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas. If a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost. It may be too late to make a bushfire plan. Prepare your emergency kit and choose where you will go and different ways to get there. *Stay safe by going to a safer location early in the morning or the night before.*



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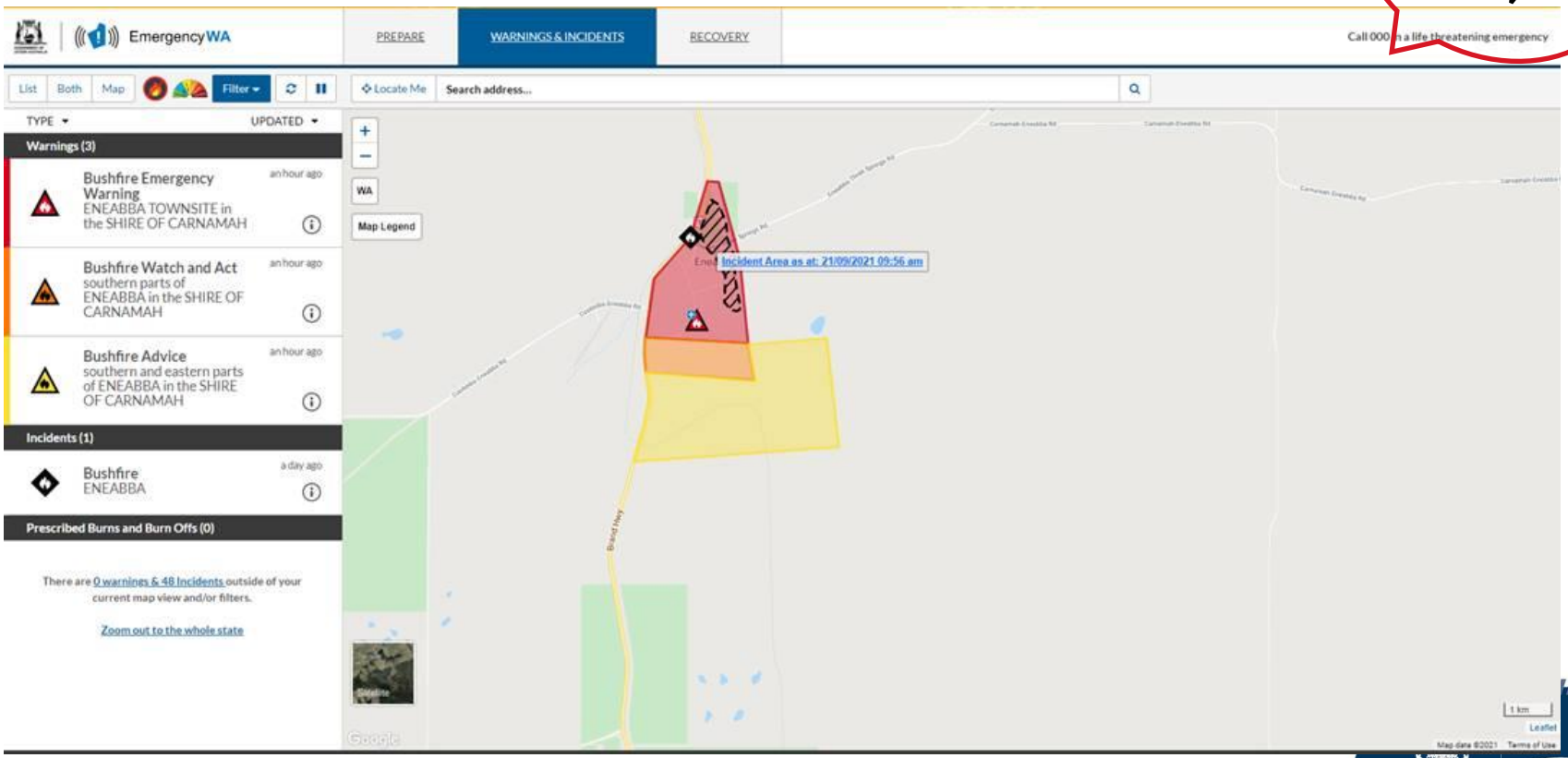
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Understanding the Bushfire Warnings System

Bushfire Warnings System
EmergencyWA

desktop view

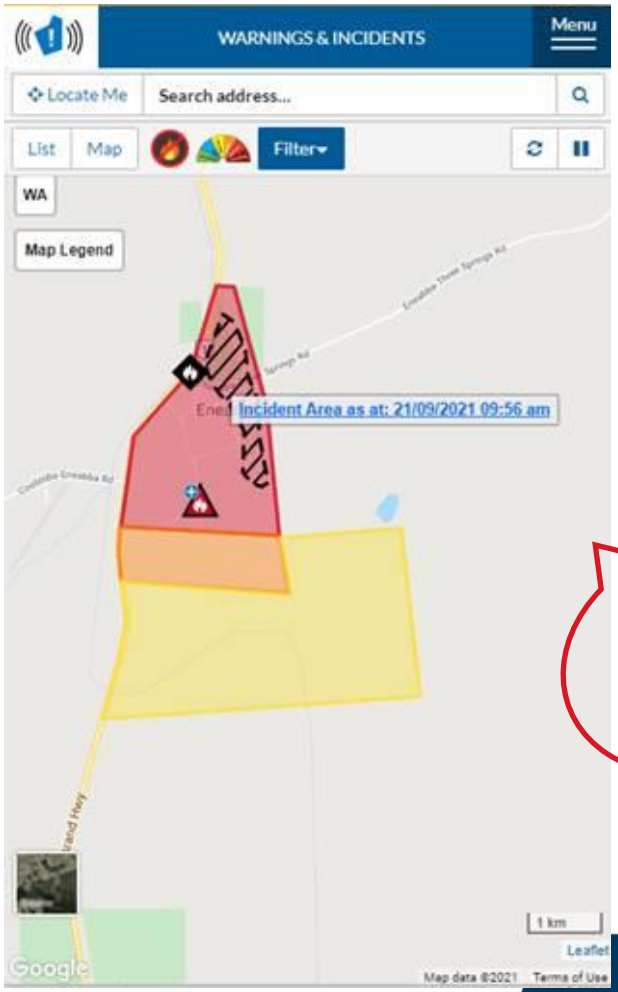


www.emergency.wa.gov.au

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Bushfire Warnings System

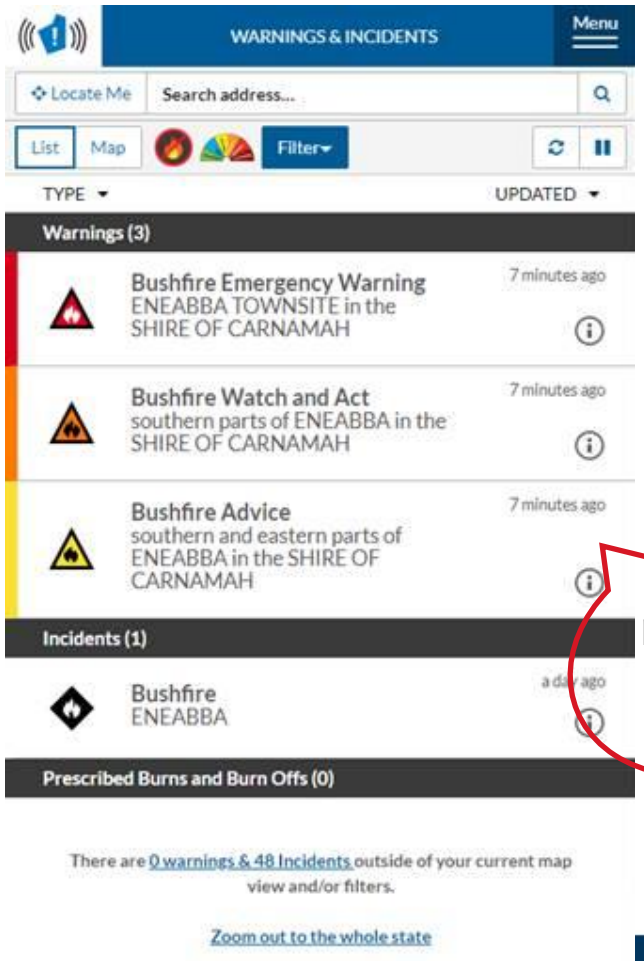
- **Advice:** A fire has started but there is no immediate threat to lives or homes. *Stay alert and watch for signs of fire.*
- **Watch and Act:** A fire is approaching and is out of control. There is a possible threat to lives and homes. *Put your plan into action now. If your plan is to leave, leave now. If your plan is to stay, only do so if you are mentally, physically and emotionally prepared to defend your property, and have the right equipment.*



mobile view

Bushfire Warnings System

- **Emergency Warning:** An out of control fire is approaching very fast. You must act now to survive. If you haven't prepared your home it is too late – you must leave now if it is safe to do so.



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Finding reliable information during a bushfire

Finding information during a bushfire



- www.emergency.wa.gov.au
- 13DFES (13 33 37)
- ABC Radio (AM 720)
- DFES Facebook (dfeswa) and Twitter (dfes_wa)
- Evacuation Centre
- YOUR SURROUNDINGS



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FOR A SAFER STATE

Where to from here?

Where to from here?

- Create a bushfire survival plan with all members of your household.
- Pack your emergency kit
- Prepare your property
- Get familiar with the EmergencyWA website, www.emergency.wa.gov.au

Want more? Chat to us about joining a Bushfire Ready Group – a community led program that helps neighbours to work together to prepare and protect their families and properties from bushfire.