



# COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY

# SUMMER CHECKLIST



## Bushfire

The start of summer is often synonymous with devastating bushfires. If you live in an area surrounded by bushland, be aware of the risks and visit [www.fire.nsw.gov.au/community](http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/community) for important safety advice.

To be prepared for a bushfire ask yourself:

- Should I stay or should I go?
- Is my property defensible?
- What is an ember attack and how will I prepare for it?
- How can I reduce fuel loads outside my home?

## Camping and caravan safety

### Remember:

- Ensure gas cylinders on caravans are located on the outside of the caravan, are secured and the valves face away from the van;
- Install a smoke alarm in your caravan;
- Extinguishers should be placed near the sleeping area for easy access;
- Fire blankets are best located near cooking facilities;
- Fully extinguish any campfires before you go to sleep or leave the site;
- Make sure your campfire is lit in a clearing, a safe distance from tents and caravans;
- Consider buying a flame retardant tent;
- Always observe total fire bans; and
- Familiarise yourself with the location of hose reels and public phones.

Camping holidays over the summer break are an Australian tradition, but we all need to ensure we protect the area we visit and ourselves.



## Kids and fire safety

Children have a natural curiosity and reduced sense of risk or danger. It is important that they know that fire is a tool not a toy.

### Ways to educate your children:

- Visit the NSWFB's website [www.fire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au) for children's activities, games and fire safety information;
- Talk to your child's school about participating in the FireEd program;
- Play the fire safety game on-line at [www.aami.com.au](http://www.aami.com.au) for some fun fire safety lessons;
- Always supervise children appropriately when fires are being used for cooking or heating;

Parents or carers who suspect their children have fascination with fire can contact the Fire Brigades Intervention and Fire Awareness Program (IFAP) on **1800 600 700** for advice and information.

## Away from home fire safety

Just because your home is empty during the holidays, it doesn't mean the risk of fire also goes away.

Some things to remember are:

- Turn off all unnecessary appliances;
- Ensure any electrical items you decide to leave on, or on a timer, are in good working order and are the correct wattage to prevent overheating;
- Prepare and protect your home properly before you leave, particularly if you live in a bushfire prone area;
- Make sure your home and contents are fully insured;
- Know exits and escape routes if you are sleeping away from home; and
- Let a neighbour or family friend know of your whereabouts and contact details. Ask them to watch your home and to notify the Fire Brigades on **Triple Zero (000)** if they hear your smoke alarms going off.





## FIRE SAFETY TIPS

## SUMMER

07



## Holiday Fire Safety Tips

- 1 Fire safety equipment:** Make sure your holiday home or caravan has a working smoke alarm. A photoelectric smoke alarm is recommended.
- 2 Firefighting equipment:** A fire blanket and dry powder portable fire extinguisher are recommended for holiday homes and caravans.
- 3 Phone coverage:** Check if your holiday site has mobile phone coverage, if not, know where the closest phone is to your site. Remember in an emergency dial triple zero (000).
- 4 Cooking with fire:** Locate camp fires downwind and a safe distance from the tent. Extinguish cooking fires and turn off lanterns and stoves before going to bed and never leave them unattended.
- 5 Cooking with gas:** If you are using a gas bottle, check its hose and fittings are in good working order and remember to never cook in a tent.
- 6 Plan ahead:** Take a moment to make an 'Escape Plan' in case of fire. If you have children they can help. Make sure nothing blocks your escape route. Practice your escape plan, as a window rather than the door may be your exit in a fire.
- 7 Children:** Children watch and copy behaviours so remember, even on holidays, educate that fires are 'tools not toys' to only be used by responsible adults.
- 8 Pets:** Be vigilant of pets around open fires. Make sure your pet has a collar with a phone number on it as they may run off in a fire situation. Advise firefighters, when they arrive, of any missing pets.
- 9 Stay informed:** In case of an approaching bushfire, listen to news and weather reports on either TV or radio. Have a portable radio with spare batteries handy in case you need to evacuate quickly.
- 10 Bushfire evacuation:** In case of a bushfire at your holiday home, you need to have a plan based on whether you decide to stay and defend the property or would it be wiser to evacuate to a safe location.

