



## Where to go on high fire danger days

Leaving a bushland area early, before a fire starts, is always the safest option for your survival.

## Stay alert and informed

Travelling in Tasmania during the bushfire season needs to be done with caution and vigilance.

- Know where to get Total Fire Ban information ([www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au))
- Check the Fire Danger Ratings in the weather forecasts [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)
- Listen to local radio ABC to hear bushfire warnings
- Check the TFS website: [www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au), subscribe to the TFS twitter and facebook page.
- Check with an accredited visitor centre.
- Use your own senses: What's the weather look like? Can you smell smoke? (You may not get an official warning)
- Do not rely on electronic mapping devices like GPS or mobile phones as they may be affected by smoke and local conditions, or reception gaps in remote areas. Keep a hard copy of the local map.

**Bushfires are unpredictable and you need to be prepared for the unexpected. Do not rely solely on one source of information.**



[alert.tas.gov.au](http://alert.tas.gov.au)



## Travelling on the road

**Driving through smoke, ash and glowing embers is stressful and dangerous.**

A drive that would normally take five minutes may take several hours through road closures, smoke, embers, fallen trees or power lines. If you are aware of bushfires before you leave, plan an alternative route and do not travel to the affected area. If you come across smoke while travelling, turn around and go back. Listen to the radio and ask locally for help to find a safe way through.

### PREPARE. Ensure you and your vehicle are ready

Find out whether you are in – or will be travelling through – a bushland area and what today's Fire Danger Rating at [www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au).

Stay alert and informed.

### ACT. In the event of a bushfire

Remain vigilant of your surroundings, and follow any advice or directions provided by emergency services personnel or via an emergency broadcast on local radio. Let someone know your plans and how to contact you.

As the fire front passes, properties will be subject to heat, flame contact, ember attack, smoke, loud noise, darkness, and power failure.

### SURVIVE. Protect yourself from radiant heat

Radiant heat can kill. To protect yourself, you need to cover up, dress appropriately and take refuge.

If you are unable to leave the area before a fire starts and are caught out, solid structures and appropriate clothing may provide protection from radiant heat. Cover all exposed skin in natural fibres (e.g. wool, cotton) to protect yourself from radiant heat. Radiant heat cannot penetrate solid objects, which means your best (but not guaranteed) protection is in a well-prepared house or structure.

### For emergency warnings and alerts, tune into ABC local radio in or near your location.

ABC Local Radio		
EAST COAST	WEST COAST	NORTH/NORTH EAST
Bicheno 89.7 FM	Savage River/Waratah 104.1 FM	Launceston 102.7 FM
Fingal 1161 AM	Strahan 107.5 FM	Lileah 91.3 FM
St Helens 1584 AM	Queenstown/Zeehan 90.5 FM	NE Tasmania 91.7 FM
Swansea 106.1 FM	Rosebery 106.3 FM	Weldborough 97.3 FM
St Marys 102.7 FM	Waratah 103.3 FM	SOUTHERN
	NORTH WEST	Hobart 936 AM
	Devonport 100.5 FM	
	Burnie 102.5 FM	
	King Island 88.5 FM	



Tasmania Fire Service

# Bushfire safety for travellers



DISASTER RESILIENT AUSTRALIA  
**GET READY**



1800 000 699  
[www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au)



To report a fire, call triple zero '000'



## Bushfire safety for travellers

Bushfires can occur without warning and can quickly impact your travel route.

Being out on the road during a bushfire is extremely dangerous – last minute evacuations are a deadly option.

If you are planning to travel anywhere in Tasmania you need to think about bushfire safety.

This leaflet will help you manage your travel plans and help you prepare yourself and your vehicle in case a bushfire does occur.

## Tasmanian Fire Season

The Fire Danger Season normally runs from November to March. During the season, fire restrictions and strict controls apply to the lighting of fires and the use of certain tools and machinery in order to reduce the chance of bushfires starting.



## Know your risk

Most people underestimate the risk of bushfire, so it's important to be aware of where you are travelling, and what the risk is.

The declaration of a Total Fire Ban day is an indicator of risk. The Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) may declare Total Fire Bans in some regions or even across the whole state on days when conditions cause fires to become uncontrollable. On Total Fire Ban days – which usually have high temperatures, strong winds and low humidity – activities that may start a fire are prohibited.

Fire Danger Ratings are another indicator of your risk, and give more detailed information on what you should do.

**Fire Danger Ratings aren't a prediction of how likely a bushfire is to happen, but tell us how bad a bushfire could be if it did start on that day.**

## Things to consider on severe, extreme and catastrophic fire danger days.

On severe, extreme and catastrophic fire danger days or Total Fire Ban days, it is best to postpone any trip into the bush because of the dangers of fire starting and moving rapidly.

If your travel or activities place you in areas of high risk, you should postpone your trip or plan an alternative route or activity.

Can it be done on another day or in another safer location?

Do your plans involve activities or use of tools banned on a Total Fire Ban day?

Do you know where the safest place to relocate is?

### Restrictions apply on days of Total Fire Ban

Refer to the [www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au) for more information on the fire restrictions.

**STAY ALERT AND INFORMED.**

	DANGER RATING	WHAT SHOULD I DO?
 <b>FIRES CAN THREATEN SUDDENLY AND WITHOUT WARNING</b> <b>WATCH</b> for signs of fire, especially smoke and flames. <b>KNOW</b> the Fire Danger Rating in the area you are travelling and be aware of local conditions in the area through or to which you are travelling. <b>CHECK</b> Tasmania Fire Service and/or Tas Alert website for information on current fires. <b>CALL</b> 000 to report a fire <b>TO SEEK INFORMATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>listen to local ABC radio</li> <li>go to <a href="http://www.fire.tas.gov.au">www.fire.tas.gov.au</a></li> <li>or call the Bushfire Information Hotline on <b>1800 000 699</b></li> <li><b>Check</b> with an accredited Visitor Information Centre </li> </ul> 	<b>CATASTROPHIC</b>	<p><b>You need to act now.</b></p> <p><i>These are the worst conditions for a bushfire – if a fire starts, it will be extremely difficult to control and will move very fast. Buildings are not built to withstand these fires.</i></p> <p>The safest place to be is away from any bushland areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid travelling through forests, thick bush or long dry grass</li> <li>Leave bushland areas the night before or early in the morning</li> </ul> <p>Act immediately – do not wait and see.</p>
	<b>EXTREME</b>	<p><b>You need to get ready to act</b></p> <p><i>Fires that start under these conditions will be unpredictable, fast-moving and difficult to control.</i></p> <p>The safest place to be is away from any bushland areas: leave them early in the day, and do not travel into these areas.</p>
	<b>SEVERE</b>	<p><b>You need to be aware.</b></p> <p><i>Fires that start under these conditions will be difficult to control.</i></p> <p>If possible, avoid travelling into bushland areas.</p> <p>If not, only travel if you and your vehicle are well prepared. Know where to go if there is a bushfire. Watch out for smoke or any changes in conditions.</p>
	<b>VERY HIGH</b>	<p><b>You need to be prepared.</b></p> <p><i>Fires that start under these conditions are likely to be controlled.</i></p> <p>Buildings can provide safety. Know where to get more information about the weather and bushfires, and watch out for any changes.</p>
	<b>HIGH</b>	
	<b>LOW-MODERATE</b>	