

BUSHFIRE PREPARATION CHECKLIST

Is your home prepared for bushfires?

A well prepared property is easier to defend against ember attack, and could be your refuge if you're unable to leave in time. Plus protecting your home adequately will also reduce the risk to your neighbours.

To help you get started on your bushfire plan, we've prepared the following guide. Don't wait for smoke in the air ... start planning now!

TO THE HOUSE...

- Clear gutters & fit gutter guards.
- Check roof is ember proof & ensure roofing is firmly fixed.
- Check vents into roof space are screened with fine wire mesh.
- Check walls & cladding, seal any gaps.
- Fit metal screens or shutters on windows and weather strips on doors.
- Under-floor areas should be enclosed. If not, ensure access to put out spot fires.
- Flammable items need to be removed from around the house, e.g. woodpile & flammable materials such as newspapers, boxes, crates, hanging baskets, wooden garden furniture, door mats.
- Move garden beds away from the house & use stones instead of wood mulch.
- Plant fire resistant plants around your property.
- Remove vines & creepers from walls, cut back overhanging trees or shrubs.
- Replace wooden fences close to the house with metal fences
- LPG gas tanks are vented away from the house.
- Ensure fuels like diesel & petrol are stored away from the house.
- Keep emergency numbers at hand.



TO THE PROPERTY...

- Firebreaks prepared. A well watered lawn is a firebreak.
- Ensure that a fire truck can access your property.
- Remove overhanging branches from power lines
- Clear fire breaks around paddocks
- Keep water tanks full and connected to a pump.
- Run water pipework from tanks & dams underground and install a pump at the house.
- Keep farm equipment clean, well maintained and free from grease or debris that may catch a spark.



EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

- Buckets (preferably metal), mops, spray backpack units, rakes and shovels.
- Battery operated radio and torches in case of electricity failure, & spare batteries. Ladders for ready access to roof spaces
- Personal protective clothing (see Personal Protection)



FIREFIGHTING GEAR

- An engine drive fire pump, located close to a water source, fueled and primed with hoses connected.
- Remember that power to the home can fail before and during a bushfire. Do not rely on electric powered pumps.
- Hoses long enough to reach all sides of house (attached to taps if no fire pump available)
- Water supply from tank, dam or swimming pool, if available. Mains water will be in high demand and the pressure will drop. Try to store water during winter months.
- A garden or roof sprinkler system in full working order.



PERSONAL PROTECTION

- Dress in protective clothing (made from cotton or wool, NOT synthetics)
- Cover up ... wear a wide brimmed hat, long sleeved shirt & long pants for maximum coverage
- Sturdy footwear A face mask or a damp cloth ready to cover your nose and mouth
- Gloves & eye protections

Minimise the risk to your property and livestock with proper preparation and the right gear. Aussie Pumps is here to help. Check out our full Bushfire Survival Guide and contact us or one of our distributors for assistance with pump selection.