PREPARING YOUR HOME AND PROPERTY FOR A BUSHFIRE

You should prepare your home to survive the passage of a bushfire, even if your plan is to leave. A well prepared and constructed house is more likely to survive a bushfire than an unprepared one. **Firefighters cannot defend every property and are unlikely to defend a poorly prepared property; remember their lives are at risk too.**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Firebreaks have a number of purposes.**
They are used to stop the spread of a bushfire and are also used by firefighters to gain access around all areas of your property and as a place from which to fight a fire.

Remember that firebreaks must be wide enough and have enough vertical clearance to let a firefighting truck pass.

Maintain your firebreaks to ensure your property can be defended during a fire.

- Create a minimum 20 metre building protection zone around your home and other buildings. This area needs to be cleared of all rubbish, long dry grass, bark and material that may catch fire.
- Prune lower branches (up to two metres off the ground) to stop a ground fire spreading into the canopy of the trees.
- Clear vegetation around your property to create a fire break, particularly the overhanging branches. Make sure you meet your local government’s firebreak requirements.
- Cut grass to less than 10 centimetres high and prune shrubs to remove dead material.

For more information visit [www.dfes.wa.gov.au](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au) or contact DFES Community Engagement 9395 9816