

# Preparing Your Secondary Property

## ARE YOU BUSHFIRE READY?

[areyouready.wa.gov.au](http://areyouready.wa.gov.au)

There are many ways that you can improve the chance of your property surviving a bushfire even if you are not there. Check with your local council about the risk of bushfires occurring in the area and download the **Prepare Act Survive** booklet at [www.dfes.wa.gov.au](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au)

If you own a secondary property in a high bushfire risk area, you are responsible for preparing and maintaining your property.



### Preparing your secondary property

- **Starve the fire** – there will be no fire if there is nothing to burn, so reduce the risk by clearing debris and overgrown trees around your house.
- **Make a safety zone** – clear an area of at least a 20 metre radius around all buildings.
- **Fill the gaps** – Close in the eaves and other gaps that lead into the roof or under the house, place metal fly screens on vents, windows and evaporative air conditioners.

### Fire breaks and hazard reduction

- Hazard reduction measures include controlled burning, mechanical clearing like slashing and mulching and reducing vegetation.
- A firebreak can reduce the spread of fire by starving the fire of fuel and can allow safe access for firefighting vehicles.
- Property owners are legally required to comply with these notices and fire break inspections are conducted by local councils.
- Under Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, local councils may issue notices requiring owners to install firebreaks and undertake hazard reduction.

### Tips for holiday home owners

- Make sure you have the appropriate insurance cover to avoid severe financial loss in the event your home or contents are destroyed by bushfire.
- Provide your guests with copies of relevant DFES factsheets and information, local bushfire risks and where to access DFES bushfire warnings.
- Provide the local ABC radio frequency.



Neighbours can be an excellent source of information if a bushfire occurs near your secondary property. Getting to know your neighbours is an important step in effectively responding in an emergency situation. Contact your neighbours to discuss local risks and ways to prepare.

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



Government of Western Australia  
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