

# Making Victoria FireReady:

## PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP LEAVING A BUSHFIRE AREA EARLY

All Victorians should be prepared and ready to act if bushfire threatens.

But for some, leaving early is the only option – especially for some older or frail people, people with a physical disability, or those who have problems thinking clearly or acting quickly in a stressful situation.

To stay safe, these people need to leave early on Extreme and Severe days, and well before a Code Red day.

Remember: leaving early is always the safest option, and making last minute decisions could put lives at risk.

### I need help leaving early:

If you need help to leave early, complete a copy of the Red Cross 'Bushfires – preparing to leave early' plan.

This plan will help you make decisions about when you will leave, where you will go, how you will get there, and when you will return.

If you need help filling out the plan, ask your family, friends or anyone else who could assist, such as a neighbour or carer.

The plan will prompt you to make sure you have transport organised, preferably with someone you can rely on. Plan to go early to a safe place that is well away from any fire risk.

Remember: even if you are on some form of community or local council list, you can't rely on anyone calling you or coming to evacuate you in an emergency. This is why you need to fill out a plan and talk to people who could help you leave early.

### I know someone who needs help leaving early:

You may have a family member, neighbour or friend who needs help leaving early. Some isolated members of your local community might also need help to leave early.

If they are happy to talk to you, you might want to ask them if they would like assistance preparing their own Red Cross 'Bushfires – preparing to leave early' plan.

If you are going to be responsible for helping the person leave early, make sure their plan includes what will happen if you are away or unavailable to help.

**The Red Cross 'Bushfires – preparing to leave early' plan is available at [cfa.vic.gov.au/redcrossplan](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/redcrossplan). It can be filled out online, or printed out and completed.**

**The plan is also available for free by calling the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667. For people who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment, call the National Relay Service on 1800 555 677.**

**1800 240 667**  
**[www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)**

**PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.**

---

**FireReady** 