



*Compassion in Times
of Crisis*



The Department of Justice in partnership with the Victorian Council of Churches have teamed up to promote a single and consistent messaging campaign for the fire season. You will receive important communicate throughout the fire season that will provide information for you to pass on to your network.

Fire planning for summer

This summer, parts of Victoria are at above average risk of bush and grassfire.

Although it's important to prepare your property for fire, it's also essential to plan for what you're going to do if a fire starts.

The most important preparations you can undertake are to understand your risk, talk to your household about what you will do if a fire starts, and know how to use Fire Danger Ratings and warnings.



Fire risk is different depending on whether you live on a city fringe next to grassland, or in a rural area close to scrub, grass or bushland. For information on the risk in your area and tips on leaving early, you can talk to your local CFA brigade or visit cfa.vic.gov.au.

Fire planning and preparation should include a discussion with your household at the start of summer about when you will leave before a fire and where you will go. You also need to decide where you will shelter if you get caught out and cannot leave your property or area.

Understanding how to use Fire Danger Ratings is an important part of your preparations. Fire Danger Ratings tell you how bad a fire would be if one started. On a Code Red day, if a fire starts it will be uncontrollable. This means you need to leave the area the night before or early in the day that the Code Red rating is declared. On a Severe or Extreme day, if your house is not prepared and you are not able to defend it, leaving early in the day is your safest option. Remember, leaving early is always the safest option to protect yourself and your family.

Wherever you live, you need to know where to check fire warnings. Fire warnings are available at emergency.vic.gov.au, by calling the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667, or on the FireReady smartphone app. You should always access more than one source for warnings, and you can also listen to local radio or follow CFA's Facebook page and Twitter feed for this information.

Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministry

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New FireReady App

The new FireReady app will help you stay up to date with fire warnings and advice throughout the summer months.

The app, which is available for download on Android and Apple devices, provides a live incident map for your location that includes incidents, Total Fire Bans and Fire Danger Ratings.

App users automatically receive notifications of Severe, Extreme and Code Red days as well as Total Fire Bans to their device.

To receive localised incident and warning alerts on their mobile device, you need to set up a watch zone. Setting up a watch zone allows you to monitor the areas you are interested in, such as your home or workplace. For step by step instructions on creating a watchzone, go to firereadyfaq.emergency.vic.gov.au

If you are an Apple user, you can download the new app from the iTunes store. If you are an Android user, you can download the new app from the Department of Justice's Google store.

Remember, it's important to check more than one source of information for fire warnings. As well as checking the FireReady App, you can visit emergency.vic.gov.au, check CFA's Facebook page or Twitter, listen to local radio, or ring the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.

For more information on the FireReady app, visit firereadyfaq.emergency.vic.gov.au.

Prepare for power outages

This summer, electricity businesses will be modifying their powerline safety settings on Total Fire Ban and Code Red days to reduce the risk of bushfires. This may delay restoring power if a fault occurs.



Consider your need for back-up power if you are highly reliant on electricity. Remember power outages can also affect phones, radios and water pumps.

- Have a battery-powered radio and spare batteries or a wind-up radio available to hear alerts and warnings in case power fails
- Have a landline with a cord, a fully charged mobile phone as backup and a spare battery
- Have a non-electric pump available that can be operated from an alternative water supply such as a swimming pool, concrete or metal tank, or dam.

If you lose power, contact your electricity distribution business on the "Faults and Emergencies" number on your most recent electricity bill.

For more information go to www.energyandresources.vic.gov.au/power-outage-guide