If you live in, travel through or visit bushfire risk areas it is critical that you recognise the need to have a plan and be prepared.

The risk is real and you should be prepared for the worst at all times. The consequences can be both devastating and terrifying, so why risk it?

Here are some points to be seriously considered when getting your property ready for summer and help greatly reduce the risk of being adversely affected by a bushfire:

- Clean out your gutters on sheds and buildings keeping them free from debris such as leaves and bark. Removing branches of trees that are overhanging any of your buildings is advised.
- Create a defendable space around your home by reducing vegetation
- Rake up leaves and removed excess rubbish and debris from around buildings and other structurers
- Move flammable objects away from house
- Ensure you have a well-stocked emergency kit
- Place wire ‘ember’ mesh over wall vents
- Ensure your dogs and cats are identified and registered in case you become separated.

If you are planning to leave early in the event of a bushfire, consider what items you may need to include in your emergency kit for your pets, suggestions include:

- Plastic containers for water and food
- Small amounts of pet food
- Suitable bedding
- Pet medication
- Animal documentation such as identification and vaccination certificates
- Update your 5 Min Bushfire Plan – don’t have one... make your our 5 Minute Plan today by visiting the CFS website and take all precautions necessary. Follow this link for more details: https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/bebushfireready/index.html

Remember to also think of others in the community and alert them to potential hazards and check on them in the event a bushfire occurs.

Important points to remember on “High Risk Fire Days”

- If you have to leave your home during the day you will need to decide whether to take your animals to a safer place.
- Keep in mind that, if there is a fire, you may not be able to return to your home for some time.
- If you are home, keep your pets inside (where possible).
- Check you have the necessary pet items in your emergency kit if you plan to leave early.
- Have somewhere pre-arranged to accept your animals [if large number are being moved]
- When leaving your home keep all dogs on a lead and confine other animals in cages or suitable carrying devices.
- Cover cages with a woollen blanket to minimise distress and secure all pets in a car or vehicle that provides adequate protection for transportation.

5 MINUTE BUSHFIRE PLAN DO NOW