Bushfire Factsheet

When it comes to extreme weather events in Queensland, it’s not so much a matter of ‘if’ but ‘when’. The more prepared we are, the faster we’ll bounce back.

What is a Bushfire?

You don’t have to live in the bush to be threatened by bushfire – you just have to be close enough to be affected by burning material, embers and smoke.

All Queenslanders should be familiar with the official bushfire warnings levels and have a completed bushfire survival plan for action.

When there’s a bushfire in your area, it’s your responsibility to take notice, seek information, make decisions and act.

All residents should be prepared for bushfire, but if you answer yes to any of these four questions, you are likely to be at a heightened risk.

• Do you live within a few kilometers of bushland?
• Does your local area have a bushfire history?
• Do you have trees and shrubs within 20 metres of your house?
• Is your home built on a slope?

Visit www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au for more info


How could this affect you?

• You may experience heightened emotional or physical reactions. For example, you may have trouble focusing or sleeping, experience feelings of anger or increase your use of alcohol. In order to take care of other loved ones, you need to take care of yourself. Eat healthy, get enough sleep and make time to stay connected with social networks.

• Do you have children? To assist their recovery, stay calm and maintain regular routines, limit their exposure to media and others conversations about the flood, be positive — talk about how people are working to clean up, help families with their needs and to rebuild the community and continue to reassure your kids that they’re safe if they keep expressing concern or worry.

• You may lose your home, your business and your means of transport? Have you taken steps to secure and protect your home or business? Do you have insurance? Do you have a Plan?

• Be aware that sounds, sights, smells or even a hot and windy day can trigger emotional or physical reactions. Be patient, remind yourself or others that you are not currently in danger and identify ways to calm down such as talking with a friend or loved one, meditation or saying a prayer.

PREPARING FOR A BUSHFIRE!

✓ Prepare your home and business: understand your risk and prepare your Bushfire Survival Plan. An unprepared property is not only at risk itself, but may also present an increased danger for neighbours.

✓ Prepare an emergency kit: every year and three months before bushfire season begins. Having an emergency kit is an important step to prepare for, survive and cope during a bushfire.

✓ Prepare for evacuation: will you leave early or will you stay? Discuss these scenarios with your household and have a checklist.

✓ Check your neighbours: make the time to get to know your neighbours and their needs. Check in on them and let them know what your plans are.

✓ Pet emergency planning: it may not be possible to take your pet with you to an evacuation shelter or Neighbour Safer Place so plan ahead and prepare a pet emergency kit.

✓ Register for warnings and alerts and tune in: contact your local council to register for warnings and alerts. Tune into your local ABC radio or TV station for weather and warning updates or visit the Bureau of Meteorology website.

Visit https://getready.qld.gov.au/be-prepared/ for more information on disasters and how to be prepared.