

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION > BUSHFIRE-READY NEIGHBOURHOODS NEWSLETTER

Issue 10 • 2017 Get Ready Edition • November 2017



Helping Tasmanian communities work together to prevent, prepare for and respond to bushfires.

Welcome to edition number 10 of the Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhoods newsletter.

With summer just around the corner, the theme for this edition is Get Ready.

- Seasonal bushfire outlook for Tasmania

- Towards Disaster Resilient Communities: SES & Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhoods
- Volunteer engagement with BRN – Under the Spotlight
- Ember Attack
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- Disaster Resilient Schools Project
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- Hoses and Ladders Game

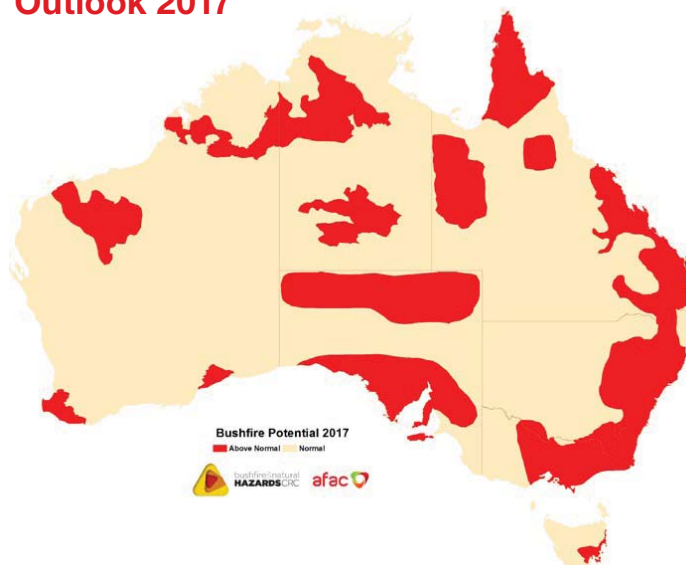
Seasonal bushfire outlook for Tasmania

Despite significant floods during the winter of 2016 in many catchments, long term underlying dryness continues in some parts of Tasmania. Most of the state has received below average rainfall during 2017, with recent months very dry, especially in the South and East. Soil moisture levels are still well below normal in some places and significant rain would be required to recharge these soils. Tasmania is expecting above normal fire potential in the South, in the Derwent Valley and in the East, along the coastal strip. The fire season has begun early in these areas and, subject to conditions, may produce significant fires, like we have recently seen near St Helens. The remainder of Tasmania is classified as normal fire potential.

Download the Hazard Note at:

www.bnhcrc.com.au/hazardnotes/38

Southern Australia Seasonal Bushfire Outlook 2017



St Helens bushfire a warning for all of us

October saw the start of the bushfire season with multiple fires occurring in southern and northern Tasmania. Of particular note was the Argonaut Road, St Helens fire, which burnt approximately 7,500 hectares. This fire threatened communities, with emergency warning and watch and act alerts being activated to warn communities. This fire is a timely reminder that we all need to be prepared

for the summer ahead.

We encourage you to read this issue of the Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhoods newsletter and continue to prepare and be bushfire-ready. Know your bushfire risk and make a plan.

Peter Middleton

A/Manager Community Development & Education



Tasmania Fire Service

fire.tas.gov.au/brn

Towards Disaster Resilient Communities: SES and Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhoods

Since Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhoods (BRN) began in 2014, there have been a number of stakeholder and community engagement events and initiatives around the state that have assisted people to be more bushfire and disaster ready. SES volunteers are very much local key players and contributors to the Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhood program's success in high-risk communities.

We thought it would be a good time to highlight and celebrate the SES – TFS partnership in community safety programs so far.

In 2015, SES and BRN along with the Tourist Visitor Information Network worked together on a statewide 'bushfire and flood safety for travellers' project. This included the development of brochures, posters and display boards, and providing staff and volunteers of tourist centres with preparedness information. This partnership became very important in January 2016 when fires in the North West and floods in the North put our tourism industry and emergency services under enormous pressure.

In the southern region in 2016, the Sandford Volunteer Fire Brigade, SES Colleen Ridge, DPI/PWE Vet and BRN co-presented a horse owner emergency planning workshop in Sandford. This assisted local horse owners with important planning information about fire, flood and storm for their families and animals. Meanwhile, on the East Coast at the bushfire-ready Dolphin Sands pop-up café, the Glamorgan Spring Bay SES unit came along with resources to chat with locals about emergency response and disaster preparedness. Down south at Magra, a bushfire EXPO was held where Derwent Valley SES volunteers participated in various displays and demonstrations. Here, a burn table demonstration for residents provided an example of fire behaviour in relation to slope, vegetation and weather. In the North-West, the Waratah Wynyard Council Emergency Management and Recovery Coordinator, SES and BRN co-presented on disaster preparedness at Yolla.

SES and TFS will be working together more and more in the future, not only in emergency response and recovery but also importantly in the preparedness of residents to all disasters. TFS Chief Officer Chris Arnol suggests that "it is much more efficient to support community prevention



programs and take a proactive response approach (for example, through community risk modelling, operational planning and readiness) so we are intervening as early as possible in emergencies rather than relying on the traditional 'wait and see' response model that often leads to protracted, costly and time-consuming campaign events."

The Community Development and Education Unit of TFS Community Fire Safety who deliver the Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhoods program looks forward to future collaborations delivering disaster preparedness in high-risk communities.

*Lesley King
Community Development Officer (South)*



Volunteer Engagement with BRN – Under the Spotlight

The Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhoods program aims to bring together ‘neighbourhoods’ of people with a common focus on reducing the risk associated with bushfire in their area. In previous newsletters we have highlighted some of those key stakeholders and the asset that they are in engaging the broader community with the preparedness message. When I consider our aim of bringing about sustainable behaviour change in the way communities prepare for the bushfire season, I can’t help but think about the impact that our TFS Volunteer Brigade have on their patch. The volunteers are an incredible asset not just because they give of their time so freely for their community, but also because they live and work in and are an active part of the communities that BRN is trying to empower to become more prepared. I have worked closely with a range of Brigades across the North West and Central North and thought I would take the opportunity to put a volunteer under the spotlight.

Errol Gleeson Western Tiers Group Officer

Who is Errol Gleeson?

Errol lives with his wife in Deloraine where he has lived all of his life. He has two grown-up children and he and his wife look after their grandchildren regularly (probably getting his grandfather fix). In his spare time, Errol makes toys for children but mostly is busy with TFS activities associated with being a Group Officer and mowing lawns at Youngtown.

How long have you been a TFS Volunteer?

Errol has been a volunteer at Deloraine for 40 years. He has fulfilled a variety of Officer roles including Brigade Chief and now Group Officer. The Group Officer role has Errol at Group meetings three to four times a year, attending Fire Management Area Committee (FMAC) meetings, supporting the Brigades across the Western Tiers region, visiting at training, running Group activities, helping with memberships where he can, providing a support and mentor role to Brigade Chiefs, liaising with District Officers on their behalf and more. Errol is passionate about the changing regulations on the ‘modern day Brigade Chief’, the future of recruiting volunteers into Brigades and the need for smaller Brigades to merge and join up to support each other.

Why did you want to become a volunteer?

Errol was asked to join up. “In those days you only had to apply when the vacancies came about,” so he applied and got in. Errol said he “just wanted to do it and had an interest in firefighting.”



Errol Gleeson with Japanese visitors

How important is it for the community to be active in preparing themselves and their properties for bushfire?

“Very important. If everyone does a bit, it makes life a lot easier, it makes for more continuity of preparation that ultimately helps firefighting and the TFS vollies.”

How does BRN help?

“It’s great. It’s created a team effort, helped a lot of people to join together and helped with team work. Nine out of ten people probably know what to do, or what they think they will do, but there is always going to be that one person who doesn’t.”

How have you been involved and why did you get involved?

Errol was involved in the BRN work in both Golden Valley and Jackeys Marsh. Activities that Errol was involved in include: Community Forum, community BBQs, Property Assessment Field Day at Golden Valley, Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhood group meetings at Jackeys Marsh, development of the Phone Tree system at Jackeys Marsh and more.

Errol got involved with BRN because he can “see the larger picture and not just the Brigade perspective. I am worried about communities at risk such as Jackeys Marsh and Golden Valley.”

Errol is clearly passionate about his area, very well connected with his broader community and is making a very real difference to the community by being engaged with helping them prepare.

*Suzette Harrison
Community Development Officer (North/Northwest)*



Ember Attack

With the bushfire season outlook predicting above average fire dangers in parts of Tasmania, especially for areas of the East Coast, now is the time to consider your bushfire survival planning and property preparations.

It's safe to say that anyone living in East Coast communities may face the threat of bushfire in any year, but remember you don't have to live next to bushland areas to be at risk from the effects of bushfire.

Ember Attack can be a significant risk and put many properties under threat. Embers can travel many kilometres ahead of a fire front and still have the potential to cause fires, known as spot fires. At the extreme fire danger ratings, embers can travel as far as 6km; at the catastrophic fire danger rating they can travel as far as 20km. These spot fires can occur anywhere.

For firefighters these can be very dangerous, but for residents these embers can be disastrous.

Embers can be carried by wind ahead of the fire and land on and around a property. If they land on fine fuels such as dry grass, leaves and roof gutters, they will quickly develop into a fire which has the potential to ignite your home or other buildings and structures.

It is essential that you clean up around your property by removing built up fine fuels from the ground and other structures. This can be particularly important for shack owners who may not visit shacks regularly. Property preparedness needs to be an all year process but now is the time to plan for your survival and the survival of your property.

It's a good idea to talk to your neighbours about your plans and get to know their plans also.

Before the fire season, you should begin to mow your grass and remove it from your site. Don't leave firewood stacked next to your home, make some vent covers for wall vents and have a gutter plug ready to block your roof gutters if needed. Consider what equipment you may need to have available to extinguish embers as they land on your property and begin to ignite.

Outdoor furniture, timber decks and balconies, pine bark garden beds, even outdoor dog beds, boat and caravan covers, BBQ covers and open shed doors can become ember traps.

Preparedness is essential to the survival of your property. Put together a kit of equipment needed to defend your property including protective clothing, P2 dust mask, wide brim hat, safety glasses, solid boots and a pair of overalls. Include equipment that may help you such as some large



Embers ignite dry leaf litter in roof gutters



20 litre buckets, an old floor mop to use as a beater, a spare garden hose, a ladder and some towels to block gaps under doors and windows.

If you live in or near a bushfire prone area, this may help improve your safety and allow you to actively defend your property or that of your neighbours, family and friends in your community.

Research has shown that a well prepared property has a better chance of surviving a bushfire even if you're not there to defend it.

For more information about preparing your property and bushfire survival planning, visit TFS Online at www.fire.tas.gov.au or free call 1800 000 699 and where possible attend a **Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhoods** event.

*Dave Cleaver
Community Development Officer (North)*



Flames of Fear

Flames of Fear was published in February 2017 to coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the 1967 Bushfire Disaster.

Hardbound, 396 pages, the book covers all the major fires in Tasmania since 1820 and contains dozens of unpublished photos, stories of those affected by the fires and those people who fought them.

Derwent Valley, Dunalley, East Coast and North-West Coast fires are covered in depth, with considerable new material regarding the 1967 disaster published for the first time.

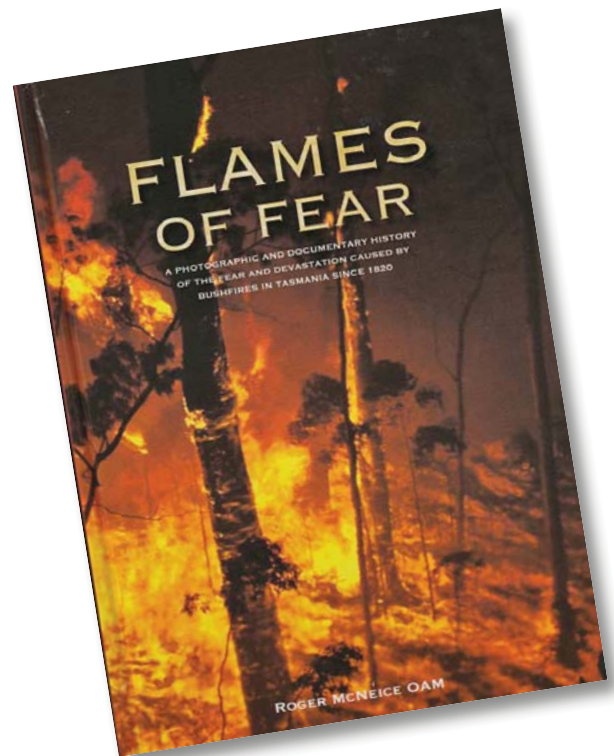
The book normally retails for \$75. **This offer is \$50** per copy, a considerable saving.

Available from the author, Roger McNeice OAM

TO ORDER

Phone 0408 279 276 or email to rvmn@internode.on.net

Or write to PO Box 27 Kingston Tas 7051



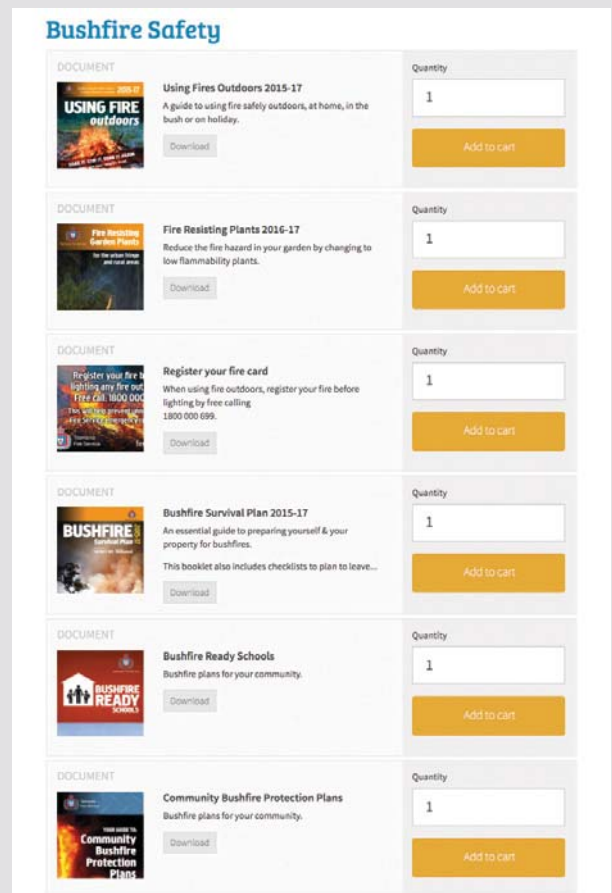
TFS Publications

TFS has a range of free home fire safety and bushfire safety giveaways and publications.

Order online: www.tfseducation.com.au/online-ordering

Print your own giveaways and posters (pdf):

www.tfseducation.com.au/resources/giveaways



Disaster Resilient Schools Project



The Disaster Resilient Schools Project aims to build the capacity of Tasmanian schools to undertake bushfire mitigation, preparation and emergency planning. The Project began in June 2017 and is currently in Phase 1 of a planned two-year project that will complement the existing Bushfire-Ready Schools (BRS) program within the Bushfire Planning and Policy unit.

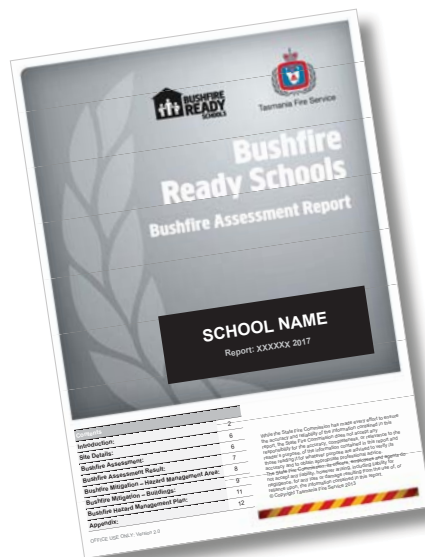
The Project builds on the BRS program that has been operating since 2013 by providing practical assistance and support to schools at higher risk to improve their bushfire safety and preparedness.

Lessons learnt from the BRS program indicate school emergency managers require more specialist advice and support to effectively implement the mitigation and preparedness strategies identified in the BRS assessment reports.

The first phase of the project involves working with a number of schools statewide to take action in physically managing their bushfire hazards in accordance with their BRS assessment and work towards improving their bushfire safety rating.

The next phase is the development of a comprehensive and contextualised bushfire emergency management resource package. This will support schools to develop, implement and maintain customised bushfire emergency management plans.

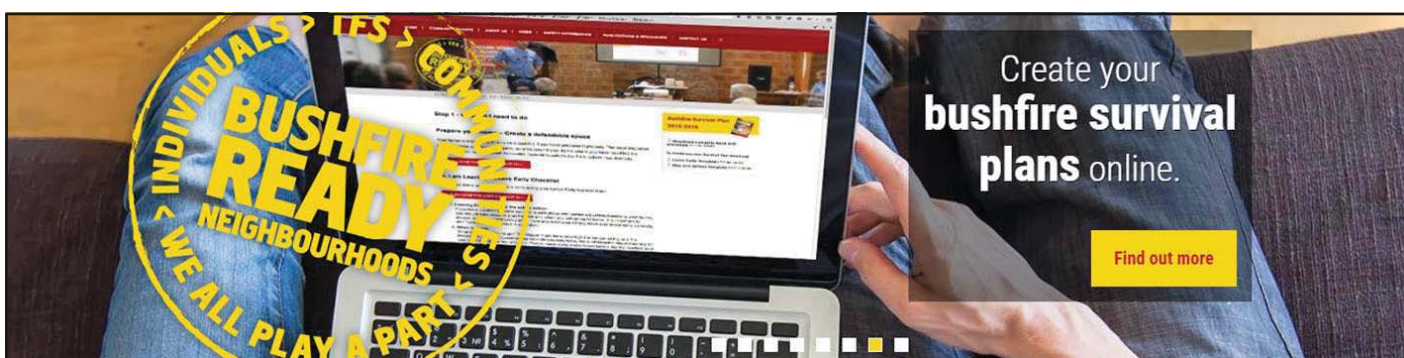
Year two of the project will expand to incorporate an all-hazards approach to school safety; extend support for bushfire risk reduction to schools at moderate risk and other



sites with vulnerable groups such as aged care facilities; and partner with school communities to support the delivery of child-centred disaster risk reduction and resilience education. This is due to start in June 2018.

The project is funded by the Tasmanian Bushfire Mitigation Grants Program. If you have any questions or you would like further information about the project please contact Petrina Nettlefold on 6230 8623 or email petrina.nettlefold@dpfem.tas.gov.au.

Petrina Nettlefold,
Project Manager – Disaster Resilient Schools



By following four simple steps, you can create your own Bushfire Survival Plan/s.

Click on the link below to get started:

www.bushfirereadyneighbourhoods.tas.gov.au/create-your-bushfire-survival-plans





Reminder: Volunteer Engagement Kits available

TFS has three regional volunteer brigade engagement kits that include: a 'bushfire-ready event here today' sign, community protection plan banner and fire danger rating banner.

If you or your brigade want to borrow one of these kits, contact communityed@fire.tas.gov.au or call 1800 000 699.



Use water to make sure your fire is completely extinguished. Do not use soil.

Fires can still smoulder under soil and can stay hot for more than eight hours.

fire.tas.gov.au



Tasmania Fire Service

1800 000 699

fire.tas.gov.au/brn

communityed@fire.tas.gov.au





HOSES AND LADDERS

BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL GAME

INSTRUCTIONS

The aim of the game is to be the first player to reach the end by moving across the board from square 1 to square 100. You will travel the board from base to top, left to right, right to left and so on, following the numbers. Use the information in this game to learn about home fire safety tips and how you can prepare your property for bushfire.

How to Play

Each player throws the dice and the player with the highest number goes first, the player with the lowest number goes last. Each player then takes their turn to roll the dice and move the number of squares shown on the dice. If a player rolls a six, they can have their move and roll the dice again.

If a player lands on a square that has the head of a HOSE on it, the player must slide down the hose to the square at the end of the hose. If a player lands on a square that is at the base of the LADDER, the player can move to the square at the top of the ladder. A player can also move forward if they land on a green MOVE # SQUARES and must move backward if they land on a red GO BACK # SQUARES.

100 WINNER EVERYONE IS SAFE!	99 Check TFS Online fire.tas.gov.au	98 Person lights a fire on a day of Total Fire Ban	97 CATASTROPHIC again, leave early and visit friends in town MOVE 2 SQUARES	96	95 Fire Danger Rating = CATASTROPHIC GO BACK 6 SQUARES	94 Hot Day? Drink more water	93 Hot and windy 35°	92 Firefighters put fire out MOVE 4 SQUARES	91 Ring the Bushfire Information Line 1800 000 699
81 Check your Emergency Kit is ready and full	82 Hot windy day	83 Fire Danger Rating = SEVERE GO BACK 2 SQUARES	84 Going on holidays – check local bushfire information for our destination	85 Review the family BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLAN and stick with it!	86 A fire is close, but you + your property are prepared – you STAY AND DEFEND	87 The fire front has passed, you extinguish spot fires from embers	88 Fire Danger Rating = EXTREME GO BACK 4 SQUARES	89 Hot and windy day	90 Radio says fire in area – this triggers you to LEAVE EARLY
80 Auntie Beryl arrives. We talk about our plan	79	78 Firefighters put fire out MOVE 4 SQUARES	77 Lightning starts a bushfire	76 Getting better prepared	75 30°	74 Grandpa flicks his cigarette butt out the car window	73 NO FIRES allowed on Total Fire Ban Days	72 Neighbours come over for a BBQ. We talk about our plan	71 Update our family Emergency Kit
61 Sheep in the paddock reduce vegetation around the house	62 Check the locations of your Nearby Safer Place	63 NSP Nearby Safer Place	64 27°	65	66 Go for a swim	67 Grass won't stop growing	68 Rake up leaves and bark	69 Old tractor not maintained – starts a grass fire	70 Firefighters put fire out MOVE 4 SQUARES
60	59 Prepare our property – put metal flyscreens on windows MOVE 2 SQUARES	58 Firefighters put fire out MOVE 4 SQUARES	57 Uncle Bob's welding starts a grass fire GO BACK 5 SQUARES	56	55	54 Damp hay in the shed fire.tas.gov.au	53 Kids are home alone on school holidays. We talk about our plan	52 23°	51
41 Show Mum the TasAlert website 	42 Prepare our property for fire season – Dad cleans out the gutters	43 Drying clothes too close to a heater	44 More growth (bushfire fuel)	45 Get a copy of TFS Bushfire Survival Plan	46 	47 Family completes BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLAN	48 Check our plan includes what we'll do with our pets and animals during a fire	49 Hot and windy day	50
40 Don't leave the cooking unattended	39	38 Bushfire Alert Levels ADVICE WATCH & ACT EMERGENCY	37 Learn about Bushfire Alerts so we can make informed decisions	36 Clear the gutters of leaves and twigs	35 Kids learn "Get Down Low + Go Go Go" MOVE 2 SQUARES	34	33 It's raining again!	32 000 EMERGENCY	31 Put Emergency Numbers on the fridge or save them in your mobile phone
21	22	23	24 More rain!	25 fire.tas.gov.au – TFS Online	26 Mum catches you playing with matches	27 Grass is starting to grow	28 Hay shed on fire	29 Firefighters put fire out MOVE 4 SQUARES	30 Bushfire Permit Period begins
20	19	18 Firefighters put fire out MOVE 4 SQUARES	17 HOUSE FIRE – Lucky no one is hurt	16	15 Check the TFS Facebook page for information	14	13 Cover your face when you Stop, Drop, Rock and Roll to protect your face and airway	12 House Fire? Get Out and Stay Out! Go to your Safe Meeting Place	11
1 START HERE	2	3	4 Always cool a burn under cold water for 20 minutes	5 Left campfire unattended GO BACK 4 SQUARES	6 Kids practice Stop, Drop, Rock and Roll MOVE 2 SQUARES	7 It's raining	8 Local firefighters visit our school	9	10 Place a fire blanket in the kitchen MOVE 1 SQUARE

Know **YOUR** bushfire risk.
Make a plan.

For more information on what you can do to prepare for the fire season,
visit fire.tas.gov.au or call 1800 000 699

Credit: NSW Rural Fire Service