



BUSHFIRE

What is it?

Bushfires and grassfires are common throughout Australia. Grassfires are fast moving, passing in five to 10 seconds and smouldering for minutes. They have a low to medium intensity and primarily damage crops, livestock and farming infrastructure, such as fences. Bushfires are generally slower moving, but have a higher heat output. This means they pass in two to five minutes, but they can smoulder for days. Fire in the crown of the tree canopy can move rapidly. *[Definition from Geoscience Australia].*

What are the local risks?

Wildfires can happen here although we live in the tropics with humid conditions. They may be started through arson (deliberately lit), carelessness (such as discarded cigarettes, sparks from machinery or unattended fires), as the result of an accident or, rarely, as the result of a controlled/prescribed burn. If you light a fire, on purpose or accidentally, you are responsible for controlling it.

If there is a long spell of hot, dry weather and it's windy, the fire risk increases. Generally, the fire season in Central Queensland is through the winter ("dry" season) and spring months. Information about fire risk and fire danger periods will be issued by fire authorities as required. In the region, there are extensive areas of medium bushfire hazard and several smaller areas or high bushfire hazard. You don't have to live in the bush to be threatened by bushfire, just close enough to be affected by burning material, embers and smoke.

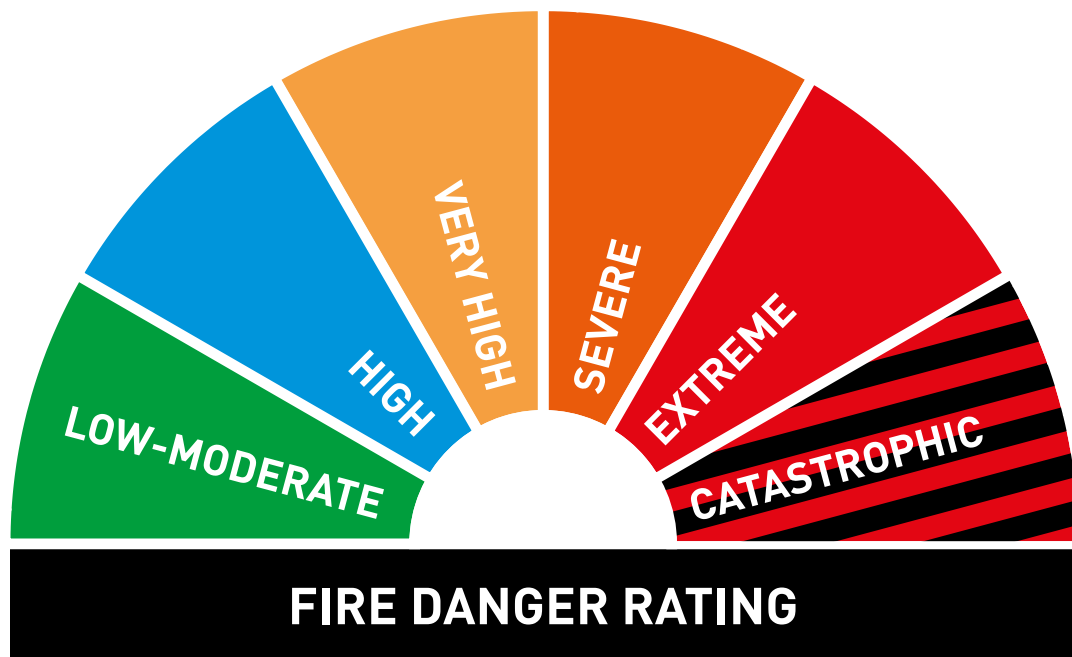
There are lightly timbered but heavily grassed nature reserves and open space which back up to residential housing and pose a threat to life and property.

What should I do?

- It is important to include wildfire in your household emergency plan and consider completing a wildfire survival plan as part of your household preparations.
- Keep an eye on the Rural Fire Service website ruralfire.qld.gov.au when hot, dry conditions exist.
- Keep grass cut and vegetation clear of the property.
- Don't dump garden rubbish in neighbouring reserves or bush areas.
- Move flammable items away from the house (such as woodpiles, boxes, hanging baskets, garden furniture).
- Keep access ways to the property clear for fire trucks.
- When warnings are given, act immediately on the instructions provided. Don't wait. Leave when advised, even if it feels safe where you are at the time. Take your household emergency kit with you. Go in the direction advised for your location.

USEFUL LINKS:

For more information, visit
ruralfire.qld.gov.au or qfes.qld.gov.au



Warning levels and action-oriented messages

In Australia, there are three levels of bushfire warnings. New Queensland bushfire community warnings focus on action-oriented messages.

During a bushfire, different people will turn to different agencies for information. However, official

bushfire warnings can change quickly and it is imperative that the most current warning is available to the community across all information channels.

It is important that QFES remains the central point for current bushfire warnings.

For more information, visit ruralfire.qld.gov.au or qfes.qld.gov.au.

