

## **Bushfire Safety for Tourism Operators; Some Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Do the National Fire Danger Ratings constitute explicit advice?**

Yes, the National Fire Danger Ratings System comprises explicit advice regarding recommended actions and potential fire behaviour and impact for different levels of the Fire Danger Index.

The Fire Danger Rating is a major variable in your personal or organisational bushfire survival planning and action. **However**, it is one variable of many and the implications for your business need to be determined by an individual bushfire risk assessment.

### **What are the factors I need to consider to prepare my tourism business for *catastrophic* fire days?**

Bushfires can occur anywhere at anytime and without warning in regional and peri-urban areas in SA. As a tourism operator running a business in a bushfire prone area, you need to be bushfire ready with a practiced Bushfire Plan for all levels of Fire Danger, not just *catastrophic*. You are responsible for your own preparation and action and need to make decisions based on your own risk assessment and circumstances. CFS have identified six key steps to getting your organisation bushfire ready including: understanding bushfire danger, determining your bushfire risk, preparing your organisation, people and sites and documenting and practicing your plan. Detailed information on Organisational Bushfire Safety can be found [here](#).

### **If my plan is to leave early, on or before a bad fire day, where do I go?**

CFS has developed a hierarchy of places that can offer relative safety from bushfire. They are broken into three categories, and are called *Safer Settlements*, *Bushfire Safer Precincts* and *Refuges of Last Resort*. It is important that you know what each of these are, where they are, and what risk you may be exposed to if you use one of these options during a bushfire. See [Relocation advice for SEVERE, EXTREME and CATASTROPHIC days](#)  
[Schedule of SAFER SETTLEMENTS for SA](#)  
[Schedule of BUSHFIRE SAFER PRECINCTS for SA](#)

The lists of *Safer Places* are subject to ongoing investigation and the information about locations and boundaries will develop over time.

### **In the event of a bushfire, how are decisions made about road closures and evacuations?**

Powers to close roads and direct evacuations in South Australia are held by the Country Fire Service and the Metropolitan Fire Service under the *South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*, and the South Australia Police and other emergency services under the *Emergency Management Act 2004*. In the event of bushfire, the agency responsible may provide explicit advice regarding the closure of roads and access to or egress from an area. Where adequate resources are available to control and manage an evacuation safely, the agency may direct an evacuation.

### **Where can I find more information about getting my business bushfire ready?**

To start preparing your tourist operation for the bushfire season, visit the [CFS website](#) or email [community.ed@cfs.sa.gov.au](mailto:community.ed@cfs.sa.gov.au).