

Shelter in Place

(Too late to leave)



This is a backup plan only. Whether you plan to stay or leave, you need to identify somewhere you can shelter on your property in case you can no longer leave.

Sheltering in your home during a bushfire can be dangerous and should only be considered as a last resort if you are unable to leave safely, such as when roads are blocked by fire or embers, visibility is too low, or exits are cut off.

Shelter In Place Plan

Shelter Location

Everyone meets here, including pets. Ideally, it's a room with two exits, one of which leads outside and is furthest from the fire front.

Our safest shelter area is:

Immediate Actions

- ☐ Get everyone inside (including pets)
- ☐ Drink water and stay low to limit exposure to smoke / heat
- ☐ Stay away from windows and external doors
- ☐ Phones + torch + radio + first aid kit with you
- ☐ Monitor for embers/smoke inside (only if safe)
- ☐ Call 000 if life/property threatened

If Safe To Do So Quickly

- ☐ Remove flammable items from outside (like door mats, toys and furniture)
- ☐ Fill containers / basins / bath with water
- ☐ Have wet towels ready for spot use (do not block exits)
- ☐ Take down curtains / push furniture away from windows
- ☐ Ladder + torch ready for ember checks (roof space/manhole)

Cooling and Heating Systems

Tick your system type and understand the action/s you need to take:

- ☐ Evaporative: wet pads early if smoke is nearby. When smoke/ash is over the house, turn the unit OFF. If possible keep water running over pads with fan OFF (before the season fit an ember screen on the roof mounted unit).
- ☐ Split/reverse-cycle: close doors and windows, use recirculate if available, if it can't recirculate or is pulling in smoke, turn it off.
- ☐ Fireplace/wood heater: close the damper / flue (before the season fit a non-flammable ember screen / spark arrester on chimney / flue outlets)

When It Passes

- ☐ Stay alert for spot fires/embers
- ☐ Only go outside when safe to do so
- ☐ Call 000 if life/property is threatened



Scan to access the DFES
Emergency Plan and read
the Bushfire Preparation
Toolkit or visit www.dfes.wa.gov.au