

Bushfire Area Access Strategy

Talking points for residents



Could you become trapped during a bushfire? Having more than one way to leave your property during an emergency can improve your safety. A single access route may become blocked by fire, fallen trees or a vehicle accident.

Use the list below to identify whether your property may have limited emergency egress.

Do you have more than one way out?

Your property should have access to more than one public road or established access route leading to the wider road network.

If you live on a no-through road, are you within 200 metres of a two-way intersection?

Planning guidelines recommend properties on no-through roads are located within 200 metres of an intersection that provides two-way access.

Can emergency vehicles access the property while residents leave?

Driveways and access roads should be wide enough for vehicles to pass safely in both directions.

Are these routes independent of each other?

The routes should not merge into a single road, as both could be affected by the same hazard.

If you answered “No” to any of these questions, your property may have limited egress.

The Bushfire Area Access Strategy helps identify areas where residents may have limited evacuation options during an emergency. The information gathered helps inform future planning and bushfire risk reduction projects.



Scan to learn more about the Bushfire Area Access Strategy and bushfire access improvements in your area.

Know Your Way Out

If your property has limited access, planning ahead is especially important. Fewer ways out means less time to make decisions during an emergency. If there is only one way in and out, leaving early may be the safest option during a bushfire.

Know your exit route/s

- ☐ Consider alternate routes, for example, with permission, you may be able to go through a neighbour's property.
- ☐ Remain familiar with your exit routes, be comfortable they are suitable for your vehicle, know how long they take to drive along and whether anything could block them.

Over-plan for limited egress

- ☐ Understand your property's egress limitations and understand that you may not be able to leave safely at short notice.
- ☐ Decide what triggers you will have to leave early, keeping in mind your extra limitations.
- ☐ Make a Bushfire Plan (<https://mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au/>) and share it with household members.

Extra preparedness for limited egress

Create and consistently maintain a gold-standard Asset Protection Zone (APZ) around your home. This low-fuel buffer is one of your best defences against direct flame, radiant heat and ember attack during a bushfire.

Identify the best 'shelter in place' room in your house

- ☐ Choose a room with minimal windows but ensure there's another exit option.
- ☐ Avoid rooms opening directly to gardens or bushland.
- ☐ Opt for rooms made from fire-resistant materials like brick or concrete.
- ☐ Keep the room clutter-free and remove flammable items.
- ☐ Prepare with water (maybe a garden hose or buckets).

- ☐ Store a battery-powered radio, torch, phone, and emergency supplies such as water, blankets, first aid kit.
- ☐ Seal vents and gaps to prevent ember entry.
- ☐ Keep a fire extinguisher or fire blanket nearby if safe to use.
- ☐ Inform family, friends, or neighbours if you plan to stay.

If you do need to 'shelter in place'

- ☐ Seal doors and windows, remove curtains and move furniture away from windows.
- ☐ Place wet towels or rugs inside external doorways.
- ☐ Keep soaked woollen blankets handy for heat protection.
- ☐ Stay low to avoid heat and smoke, drink plenty of water.
- ☐ Wear long sleeves, long pants, and sturdy boots.

After the fire passes

- ☐ Extinguish small spot fires if safe.
- ☐ Check roof space and cavities for embers.

Plan ahead for a safe *exit*

Consider where you live when you make and/or update your bushfire plan, Identify at least two ways out and discuss your plan with everyone in the household.