

Leaving early is your safest option in a bushfire emergency.

## Emergency Contacts

- Police / Ambulance / Fire: **000**
- Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES): **13 33 37** or **emergency.wa.gov.au**
- State Emergency Services (SES): **132 500**
- Radio: Local ABC **720 AM**      6PR **882 AM**
- Lifeline: **13 11 14**

## Carers WA

Carer Gateway: **1800 422 737**

## Key Messages for Carers

- Know your risk
- Get prepared and have a plan
- Pack an emergency kit
- Stay informed and know the dangers
- If fire or other disaster risk, leave early and do not wait for official warnings/instructions to leave.

# Disaster Planning

Emergency information and contacts for carers and their families

## Checklist

Work through these questions with your household and display the completed list somewhere all family members can access.



### When will we leave?

Waiting to see flames before you evacuate is too late. There is only a limited number of fire trucks, so you cannot depend on one being there to defend you and your family. You have to make your own decisions and keep updated on the developing emergency.



### Where will we go? Can we take our pets?

Choose a safe place away from the emergency zone.



### Who will we call?

Let someone know when you are leaving and when you arrive at your safe location.



### Which route will we take?

Fires can come from any direction and paths can quickly become blocked. Choose more than one route to your safe place. If you don't have more than one route, pick another safe place.



### What will we take?

Consider pets, medications and other health aids.



### What is our backup plan?

Things don't always go to plan in an emergency. Most fires start in the afternoon. Think about what you'll do if:

- you're at work? • children are home alone? • you're at home alone?
- your pets run away? • you have guests? • children are at school?



### What is our plan if we can't leave?

Think about the best place to seek shelter, such as a room that has an internal and external exit (eg laundry) or an area outside that has already been burnt, such as a paddock.

## Before an Emergency

- Complete an Emergency Care Plan for the person you care for. [carergateway.gov.au/help-advice/planning](https://carergateway.gov.au/help-advice/planning)
- Complete a fire plan and discuss it with your household so all family members know what to do. Display the plan where everyone can see it. See the checklist of questions to consider. [dfes.wa.gov.au/safetyinformation](https://dfes.wa.gov.au/safetyinformation)
- The Emergency+ app uses GPS functionality in your smart phone to help a **000** caller provide critical location details in the event of an emergency. [emergencyapp.triplezero.gov.au](https://emergencyapp.triplezero.gov.au)
- Be aware of the Bushfire Ready Program delivered locally by Bushfire Ready Facilitators (volunteer or career firefighters) supported by Street Co-ordinators. Contact your Local Volunteer Fire brigade to ask if active in your area or email [communitypreparedness@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:communitypreparedness@dfes.wa.gov.au)
- Complete a fire plan and discuss it with your household so all family members know what to do. Display the plan where everyone can see it. See the checklist of questions to consider. [dfes.wa.gov.au/safetyinformation](https://dfes.wa.gov.au/safetyinformation)
- Understand the high risk areas using a dedicated map of high bushfire prone areas. [www.dfes.wa.gov.au/bushfire/bushfireproneareas](https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/bushfire/bushfireproneareas)

## During an Emergency

Leaving early is your safest option in a bushfire emergency.

- Check warnings at [emergency.wa.gov.au](https://emergency.wa.gov.au)
- Listen to your local ABC radio station or 6PR
- Follow DFESWA Facebook and Twitter emergency updates
- For recorded information, call DFES on **13 33 37**

Check in with neighbours and stay alert to changing weather conditions; you may have to change your plans.

## After an Emergency

Experiencing an emergency can be traumatic and exhausting; it is normal to feel unsettled for a while. Returning to normal life may feel far off, but there are several things you can do and people you can turn to for help.

- Contact Carers WA via Carer Gateway on **1800 422 737** if you need practical or financial assistance with respite, counselling or other critical care.
- Contact your insurance company, they may be able to help you with crisis accommodation, food and incidentals.
- If you need to chat, Lifeline provide crisis support calls on **13 11 14**. You can reach them 24/7 or visit [lifeline.org.au](https://lifeline.org.au)
- DFES co-ordinates services both before and after a range of natural disasters.
- Your local government may provide advice to residents in emergency situations.

If you have lost property due to a natural disaster you are able to get free and independent legal advice about your car, building and contents insurance from the Insurance Law Service on **1300 663 464** or visit [insurancelaw.org.au](https://insurancelaw.org.au)

The Financial Rights Legal Centre offers free financial counselling and self-help to help you understand and enforce your rights. Phone **1800 007 007** or visit [financialrights.org.au](https://financialrights.org.au)