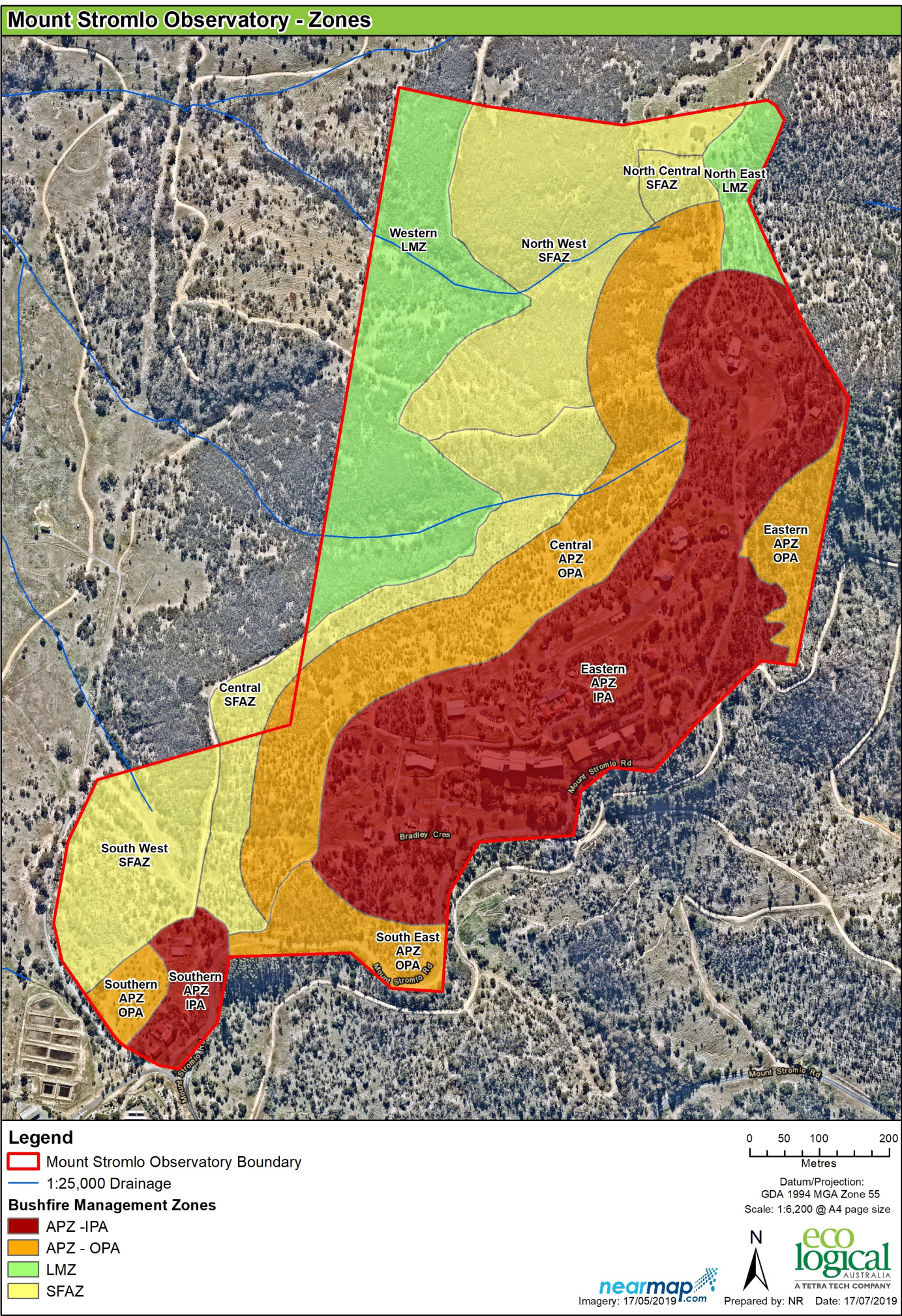
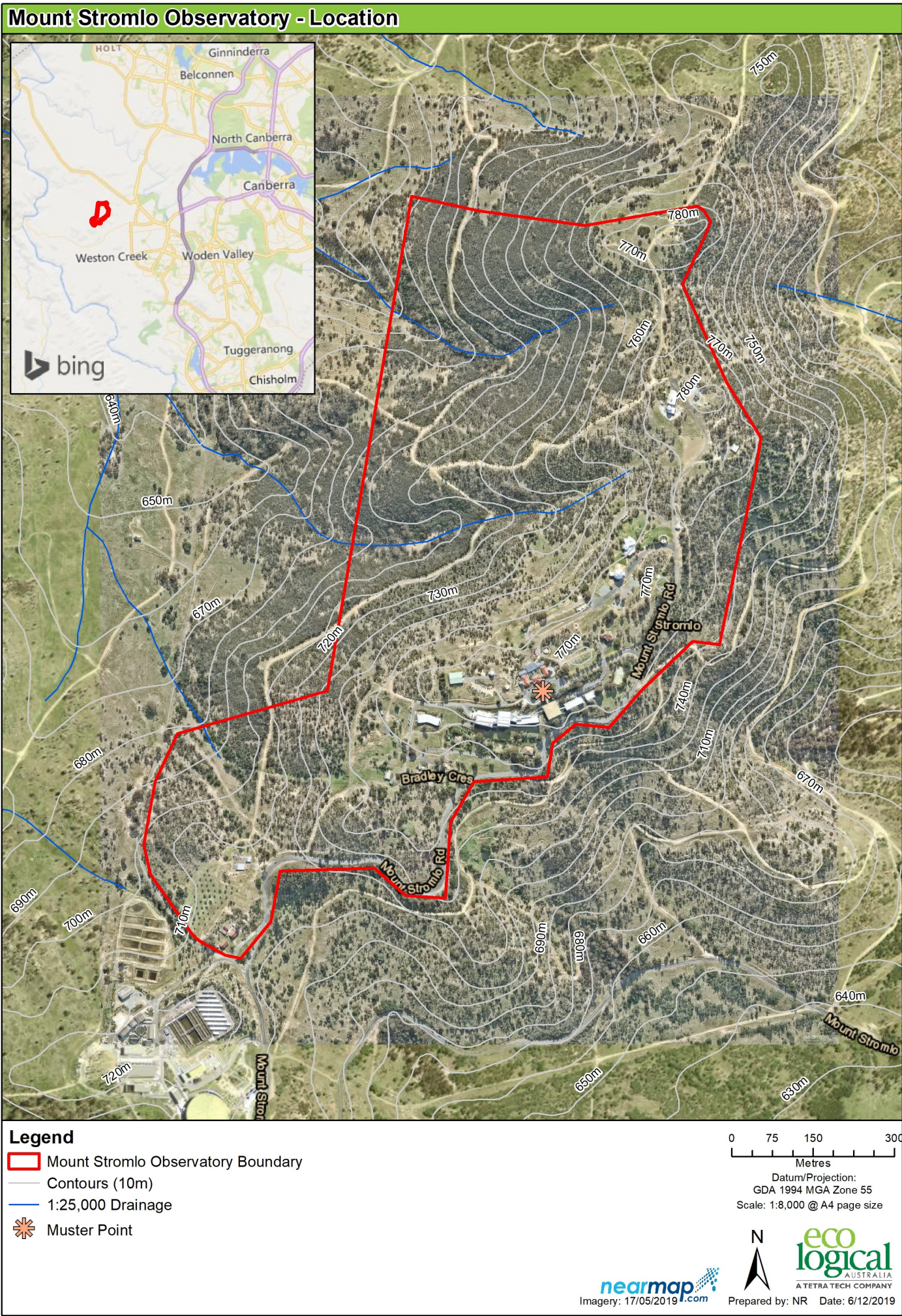


Bushfire Management Plan Mount Stromlo Observatory 2019—2024



LOCATION DETAILS

Facility type:
Home to RSAA, Offices, mechanical, electronic and optical workshops, computer laboratories (no working research telescopes).

Location:
18 km west of Canberra City Centre

Buildings and Infrastructure:
Residences, research, workshops, and offices.

Property use:
Research and education

Access:
There is a single access road (Mount Stromlo Road) to the site that is prone to being cut off in a bushfire event, impacting on the ability to evacuate the site and for emergency services to access the site in a bushfire event. This could also result people being trapped in the vehicles in a bushfire event.

Fire Weather District:
ACT

COMMUNICATIONS

Mobile:
Mobile reception is poor, and mobile communications may be unreliable during bushfire emergencies due to the volume of usage.

Radio:
ABC Canberra (666 AM) 2CC Canberra (1206 AM)
2CA Canberra (1053 AM) MIX 106.3 Canberra (106.3 FM)
FM 104.7 Canberra (104.7 FM)

Internet Sites:
Preparing your Property - <http://esa.act.gov.au/community-information/bushfires/>
ACT ESA on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/actemergencyreservicesagency/>
ACT ESA on Twitter - https://twitter.com/act_esa/
Fires near me app - <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me>

CONTACTS

Fire and Emergency Reporting	000
ACT Rural Fire Service (General Information)	6207 8609
ACT Fire and Rescue (General Information)	6205 2927
ACT Ambulance (General Information)	6207 9980
ACT Police (General Information)	131 444
ANU Security	02 6125 2249

SUMMARY OF BUSHFIRE RISK FACTORS

Risk: Analysis of ignition frequency, wildfire history, weather and climate, climate change, terrain, and fuels indicates that large high intensity bushfires occurring on and nearby the area has an increased likelihood. The consequence of these predicted fires is considered high. The following justifies these risk rankings:

- The area has 'Important Assets' which if impacted by fire could severely effect the operation of Mount Stromlo and damage to heritage buildings
- Single access road is prone to being cut off in a bushfire event.

Objective: The objectives of bushfire management and mitigation are:

- protect human life;
- protect assets; and
- minimise the physical and environmental impact of bushfires.

Strategies: Asset Protection Zones about built assets, intensively fuel reduced areas reduces the risk from potential ignition points. Raising knowledge and understanding of bushfire risks and management within personnel, contractors and stakeholders. Good relations with local fire agencies.

Risk Control Measures: Fuel management and building maintenance in APZ. Site users aware of bushfire risk, preparedness, response and evacuation requirements.

VALID UNTIL JUNE 2024

BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS MATRIX						
ACTION	LOW/ MOD	HIGH	VERY HIGH	SEVERE	EX-TREME	CATA-STROPHIC
Chief and Deputy Warden to perform daily check (after 4 pm) on the ACT ESA and BoM websites to determine the Fire Danger Rating (FDR) for the following day and weekly prediction. Bushfire Danger Rating Sign to be adjusted daily during Bushfire Danger period. Update users and visitors if there is a likelihood of the site being closed to visitors due to FDR.						
All on site to monitor ESA Website, Fires Near Me App or ABC Radio for fire incidents		Min. 1 pm	Min. 1pm, 3pm	Min. 11am, 1pm, 3pm	Hourly from 9am— 7pm	Site Closed until FDR reduced to SEVERE or less
Fire suppression unit prepared and checked, crew available			By 10 am	By 8 am	By 8 am	
Maintain register of all persons present on site, including daily movement plans and point of contact				Yes	Yes	
Additional actions			No open fires (BBQ); no outdoor works with potential ignition sources (hot works, sparks, slashing)	No open fires (BBQ); no outdoor works with potential ignition sources (hot works, sparks, slashing)	No open fires (BBQ); no outdoor works with potential ignition sources (hot works, sparks, slashing)	
Visitor restrictions				Closed to visitors	Closed to visitors	
BUSHFIRE EVACUATION MATRIX						
RISK STATUS	LOW/ MOD	HIGH	VERY HIGH	SEVERE	EXTREME	CATASTROPHIC
Fire predicted to impact site or egress	Evacuate to Evacuation/Assistance center if instructed to do so. These centers will be advised by the Police or Emergency Services. Pre-evacuation briefing to be conducted at muster point.					Site closed to all occupants and visitors
Time to fire impact (ROS) is <time available to evacuate	If safe to do so; move directly to On-site Refuge Building (AITC)					
Fires exist in region but no risk to site	Brief visitors / users of Emergency Service advice and maintain regular communications with them					
No fires	Maintain appropriate monitoring as per Bushfire Preparedness Matrix					
Bushfire Warning Issued	Information Type		Action required			
Advice	Provides information on where the fire is plus related general information. No immediate danger.		Site manager assess whether staff, visitors and contractors should evacuate the site or remain on site and communicate accordingly.			
Watch and Act	A fire is approaching. There is a threat to life and property. Take action to protect yourself and others.		Site manager should contact all site users (staff, visitors and contractors) and advise them to evacuate the site (according to evacuation procedures for Mount Stromlo Observatory). Pre-evacuation briefing to occur at Muster Point.			
Emergency Warning	The highest level of alert. You are in immediate danger and need to take immediate action.		If it has not yet occurred, Site manager should contact all site users (staff, visitors and contractors) and advise them to evacuate the site (according to evacuation procedures for Mount Stromlo Observatory) or seek refuge. Any directions of the Emergency Services Authority should be followed.			

WHAT TO DO IF CAUGHT IN A BUSHFIRE

The following provide current guidelines* on what to do if caught in a bushfire in a building or on foot. Each requires a different response involving critical decisions for your survival.

What to do if caught in a bushfire IN A BUILDING

Outside your building

- Ensure you drink plenty of water so you do not dehydrate.
- Block your downpipes, (a sock full of sand/soil will help) and fill your gutters with water.
- Move flammable items such as outdoor furniture.
- Gas cylinders should have the valve facing away from the building.
- Do not stand on the roof with a hose.
- Patrol the outside of the building, putting out any embers and spot fires that may start.
- Just before the fire arrives, wet down timber decks and gardens close to the building.
- Move any firefighting equipment to a place where it will not get burnt.

Inside your building

- Continue to drink water so you do not dehydrate.
- Close doors, windows, vents, blinds and curtains to prevent flames, smoke and embers from entering.
- Put tape across the inside of the windows so they stay in place if they break.
- Shut off gas at the meter or bottle.
- Move furniture away from the windows to prevent any embers that enter the building from igniting.
- Fill sinks, bath and buckets with water for putting out any fires that may start inside.
- Place wet towels around window and door edges to stop smoke and embers from entering.
- Put a ladder next to the access hole to the roof space so you can check for spot fires.

During the fire

- When the fire arrives, go inside to protect yourself (and others) from the radiant heat.
- Ensure you have torches ready as it is likely to become completely dark and you will not be able to see.
- Patrol the inside of the building, including the roof space for sparks and embers.
- Remember – if your life is at risk, call Triple Zero (000) immediately.

After the fire

- Once the fire has passed, you may need to patrol the property for hours. Go outside and put out any part of the building which is alight.
- An ember or spark from a fire can impact a house many hours after the main fire front has passed and small spot fires can quickly get out of control.

What to do if caught in a bushfire ON FOOT

- Try to move on to bare or burnt ground at least 100 m from where fire is likely to burn, if this is not feasible find the largest bare or burnt ground possible.
- Do not run uphill or away from the fire unless you know a safe refuge can be reached before the fire arrives. Try and position yourself downhill of the on-coming fire.
- Move across the slope out of the path of the fire front and work your way downslope towards the back of the fire or onto burnt ground.
- Do not attempt to run through flames unless you can see clearly behind them. This generally means that the flames are less than 1 metre high and less than 1 to 2 metres deep at the back or on the flanks of the fire.
- Lulls in the fire often result in the flames in these parts being low enough to step or run through to the burnt ground beyond.
- When conditions become severe use every possible means to protect yourself from radiation. On bare ground cover yourself, use wheel ruts, depressions, large rocks or logs to give protection.
- Take refuge in ponds, running streams or culverts, behind solid objects such a rock.
- Remain calm and do not run blindly from the fire. If you become exhausted you are much more prone to heat stroke and you may easily overlook a safe refuge.