

Reduce your house and property risk



Feedback Survey. Q7: What actions will you take as a result of this webinar to improve your bushfire safety?

1	To be honest I did not have great understanding of the ember risks this was useful.
2	The information will influence the information that I pass on to others in the district.
3	Review cleaning up debris sites, house sealing and window protections
4	Removing debris from around the house
5	Removal of further dry fuels as Summer develops
6	Reduce the risk of ember attack
7	Reconsider options for my most vulnerable part of the house, my timber deck
8	Make some changes to roofing on soon to start significant home extension
9	Every year for the past 30 years we have prepared for the bushfire season and each year there is a little more refinement due to changing information. This year we will remove more ground fuel.
10	Do my bushfire preparedness as I do each year
11	Clearing gutters, cutting grass, keeping the garden green, putting hazardous and easily movable objects away in case of strong winds.
12	Clearance and maintenance of vegetation in and around the house. Retrofitting shutters, replacing timber deck, talking to my neighbours and working together
13	Clear around the house
14	Yes, looking at garden beds around house / mulch requirements versus safety.
15	Won't need to take any new actions. This information consolidated that my previous/existing preparation is robust.
16	Will try and improve our current home to reduce risk, but mainly will use the information for our future build.

17	Will investigate the skylight drop over box. Will strip more highly flammable fibrous bark from eucalypts on our block. Will engage with a new neighbour regarding fire hazards that impact both properties and in particular the vegetation on his block that is close to our home. Will decide on a summer storage place for the plastic wheelie bins. Will review the amount and location of fine fuels on our block, in particular the plants that we have put in to produce a secure habitat for our small native birds.
18	We will review the landscaping around the house and outbuilding, check for ember attack entry points on/under the house/deck
19	We will look to ember proof around the edges and eaves of our colour bond roofing
20	We will aim to do work on our tin roof.
21	We live in a newly built home meeting very recent BAL ratings as a requirement, so it is the garden and landscape surrounding the home that will need some improvement.
22	We have just moved in to our new house and and in the process of tidying up the garden. This includes the planting of trees, so will consider trees that are fire appropriate. Also was looking at putting a door on the garage, but will be more conscious of the type of roller door to use, one that has less gaps
23	Was the 7.30 start EST? I'm in SA and although I tuned in at 7.30 the Q&A section had started. I was expecting a general talk first. I don't have a deck or wood mulch next to the house. I have brick paving and gravel paths and driveway around the house so I guess the Q&A confirmed that I am doing the right thing in that area.
24	Use the information to better inform our community
25	To thoroughly recheck around my home to identify gaps that need attending to
26	The main part of our house was built in the 1950, so it is really difficult to change design characteristics. We have lots of vents with 10mm holes and colorbond roof sheets that provide many hundreds/thousands of gaps into the roof cavity. I want to block these gaps but don't have a viable solution. We have metal gutter guard fixed as Justin recommended but now have grass growing up through it. I don't know what to do about it. I get a build up of pine needles on the gutter guard and in some other places. I can get to about 70% of my roof to clean them off but the other 30% is too steep for me to feel safe. I can take the pine tree down.
27	Take action to prevent ember incursion
28	Silicone around window gaps
29	Several points of structural changes that would increase bushfire resilience identified that are applicable to my situation.
30	Seek BAL rating
31	Roof maintenance to limit ember attack
32	Rockwool into the roof apex and behind roof sheet join with wall plates

33	Review the whole again using a methodical approach and evaluate what can be prioritised in a home that by it's nature is high risk- even though we survived one bushfire
34	Review protection of the house and surrounds. Provide suggestions to local community via social media.
35	Review house
36	Review and clear vegetation in our property Possible mediation on adjacent building and structure. Fill in any gaps possible for ember
37	Research replacing skylight. Sealing tin roof as best as I can.
38	Replace old windows with reinforced glass Covers for windows. Filling in numerous gaps, Consider replacing wooden structures, like verandah posts
39	Replace gutters, seal roof ends and cappings. Remove some tress. Clear vegetation and mulch from close to house. For Marysville: attend next seminar and consider a sprinkler system.
40	Removing tanbark from around my house wall garden beds.
41	Removing flammable materials near the house
42	Remove mulch and bushes next to house. Shutter windows. Remove tree which is very close to house.
43	Relocate the garden against the house to a different position. Trim back some trees which have branches that could fall onto the house. Reduce/eliminate fuel loads from around the house, particularly near windows and doors. Make a cover for the skylight. Look at glazing options to replace 3mm float glass with toughened glass.
44	Reduce trees close to the house. Consider how to better protect adjacent buildings. Consider what to specify for new build in BAL12.5 area. Use CGI roofing, Ember screens at the ridge cap (plus scribing of cap), Protect gutter line with gutter apron (clean gutters regularly rather than use gutter guard), Use class 4 fixings on roof, Consider what types of timbers to use (not much discussed in presentation), Consider materials used in windows and doors (use toughened glass; protect any timbers with steel screen doors and steel external shutters, include high-temp brushes around garage door, Consider use of polycarbonate corrugated sheets for sections of high-pitched roof, as opposed to installing skylight.
45	Reduce the fuel load around my home and looking at area's around my home that have a gap over 2mm that embers can sit smoldering.
46	Reduce mulch and create a separation between your residence and any vegetation
47	Reduce ground and fine fuels
48	Reduce fuel loads around property, look into reducing the risk of embers getting into our house and consulting with an arborist about trees.
49	Reduce amber entry points around skylight
50	Re assess some of my fire awareness measures I have taken at home, and alter future works around the house & surrounds with a better fire resistant range of build material.

51	Prune trees & bushes, investigated skylight cover - we are pretty well informed but the webinar has had us talking about some of the smaller things we can do or check out.
52	Protect skylights. Clearing brush for 50metres.
53	Our house was built 25 years ago with the recommendations coming from the 1983 fires, so the subfloor is brick, the vents are sealed the deck is clear underneath and the decking spacing is 10mm, and all the iron roof was sealed along capping, ridges and at the guttering. Birds have displaced some of this sealing near where the capping joins the guttering to build nests in the eaves. Attempts to reseal these have failed so far Sealing corners where the birds have removed the rockwool is now a priority. Changing the garden near the house to pebble mulch is also a priority
54	No immediate action. Will consider protection against build up of debris in roof cavity.
55	My property is safe, but the knowledge is extremely beneficial for when I am talking to other home owners through my membership of a volunteer fire brigade.
56	Mostly attention to immediate landscape about the house, reducing proximate fuel loads. I was comforted that most of the house fabric guidance we already have in place (2011 build). With both real-time Polls, I selected the roofing/guttering related items over the proximate fuel load items, somewhat against the tide of others opinions. My guiding philosophy is that during a fire the roofing/guttering ember incursions will be out of sight, and exterior patrolling can concentrate on ground and lower level items. Better to attend to roof/gutter pre-season and be confident in them. During the event local fuels will often be overwhelmed by blow-in materials (my plan is to not be here)
57	Most of the items I have address just yearly clean pre summer and maintain during summer
58	More work around ember ingress.
59	Many of the actions have already been completed, however we still have 5 under floor vents inside our concrete floored carport that are not screened with 2mm stainless steel mesh and when our current lock down is over will source the material to complete this.
60	Make changes to reduce ember attack and attack along pathways/surfaces. Garden planting I would like to review our garden now, especially shrubs.
61	Look into weaknesses in dwelling- especially timber decking (will consider having cement sheet cut to size to cover deck areas on catastrophic fire danger periods). Plan to develop a ring mains around the property. Includes will be a sprinkler system and fire hose reels. Would like to install a remote fire pump that can be activated by a mobile phone (Davey and Aldgate seem the only models on the market- around \$5,000).
62	Keep cleaning up. Work to prevent vegetation die off around house border, ie lawns. Review vegetation fire risk of nearby plants and trees.
63	Investigate external roller blinds Keep small debris raked away from house. Leave home (old weatherboard) the day before bad fire days
64	Install ember barrier under the roof ridge cap
65	Inspect flammable objects close to our house and consider storage. Clear areas close to building. Try to block small spaces where embers can collect. Having an old property on a house block with lots of trees presents a huge problem.

66	In active discussion
67	I'm about to renovate my house (I've just purchased it), so this information was timely and I'll incorporate the following into my house/property design: * address gaps at ridge and guttering of metal roof to prevent embers getting under roof sheeting * remove any combustible materials that might be directly up against sub-floor * purchase a mesh cover for skylight * review the CFA plant key to determine fire risk of specific plants and plan garden accordingly * use fire rated silicone to seal all gaps around the house during renovation * look at options to seal off sub-floor to prevent fire ignition in sub-floor from embers
68	I'll be sharing Justin's ideas with friends and family. I'll suggest they watch the recorded session as well.
69	I'll be doing some arboreal work uphill (removing two big eucalypts and one big pittosporum) and doing some stonework underneath a deck (removing mulch). I'll also investigate how to fireproof a north-facing gable lined on the outside with hardwood and the large window within that gable.
70	I work with CFA community Safety, so I booked in for the session to learn any information I could to pass along in my sessions. I already prepare my farm for emergencies all year round as my area has been impacted several times by fire. I can always learn new information for myself and my community.
71	I will try to organise window shutters, gutter guards and brushes for the garage door.
72	I will make sure under my house is tidy and embers can't get in.
73	I will make sure there is no fuel around my house and seal any gap bigger than 2mm around my house. I am going to ask a quote for the metal roller shutters as it can be used as safety against thieves and fire.
74	I will install quality mesh to seal under the house and the gutters, clear bushes around the house. Look into lining the deck with canvas blinds.
75	I will ensure that the lawns and garden remain lush and green throughout the fire season.
76	I will create a buffer zone around the my dwelling and shed, all ground vegetation to be mowed on a regular basis, remove all trees that can fall on to the dwelling and trim garden plants and shrubs so there is a clearance between the ground cover and the bulk of the vegetation.
77	I think our house, being recently built, would stand up well. I don't need to make any changes.
78	I live in a urban area, but still need to think of bushfire safety
79	I don't live in a bushfire prone area however I am a bushfire planning practitioner. The webinar provides a great insight into the concerns of home owners, betting my understanding when undertaking BAL Assessments.
80	I don't need to make too many changes other than continue to keep grass, leaves and debris away from the house, as I lived through Black Saturday
81	I am currently designing a house from scratch, so much of the information was good for my purpose however for my specific situation, but I am sure there would be enough for a whole series on design considerations, priorities, materials etc.

82	I always prepare our property for the summer season
83	I absolutely won't be staying at home. I learnt how much of a hazard our roof is.
84	Have my property reasonably safe will look at improving ridge cap and gutter edge of corrugated iron roof to reduce possible ember ingress. Will use information gained to encourage others in community to watch webinars to seek out information
85	Going around property to write up various vulnerability and summarize the checklist. Utilise the available ember attack screen and local suppliers for CFA approved materials. Check the skylight, A/C, garage doors, window, decking, ventilations, roof, gutters, vegetation etc. Keeping the grass low and devise a maintenance to water the grass during the summer. Look into the surrounding vegetation. Contact the CFA and council to discuss the details of preparedness of a bushfire event.
86	Go to know what I'm doing around my property is what the professionals recommend, so I'm going to continue doing it.
87	Get rid of a small bush close to the house and cover the associated ground with pavers. Examine the house structure for gaps greater than 2 mm.
88	Garden beds around house, tree and potential damaged cause and looking into the deck and retaining walls
89	Follow up the use of mulch/vegetation near house and overhanging trees
90	Ensuring property is kept clear of hazardous materials
91	Deeper assessment of outbuildings and current landscaping
92	Continue to keep fuel loads low around the property.
93	Continue to investigate our potential ember attack entries, list them/address them. Revise our Plan. Investigate shutters
94	Continue reducing fuel around the perimeter of our property. Since we are building a new house (our poorly built current house would have cost a fortune to retrofit - far too many faults and risks, even its location within the block was hazardous). Continue to monitor our build's progress to ensure all of the ember-proofing elements stipulated in our plans are adhered to.
95	Continue doing what the webinar suggested, as I have done for many years.
96	Completing under floor vent protection already started. Pruning tree limbs and shrubs which seem to be getting closer to the house. Using high temperature sealants to refresh those used to close gaps. Continue reduction of leaf litter etc
97	Closing areas vulnerable to ember attack. Revaluating trees closest to house Inviting. CFA to check access to house.
98	Clearing up debris near the house. Blocking off gaps for ember attacks etc.
99	Clear around the house

100	Clean up around property. Fill gaps where possible.
101	Clean out the areas where debris collects, check the CFA plant key, get covers from vents. I would really like an online forum where we can find manufacturers that other people have got stuff from.
102	Checking roof exposures. Exploring options for protecting windows.
103	Check more diligently for the accumulation of leaves under stairs and against the wooden side fence.
104	Check ember entry points - even the very small. Continue diligence with removing small twigs etc. Make some metal mesh boxes for some infrastructure near the house which would impede our defence capability if burned e.g. over the bore
105	Check all the likely places where embers can enter
106	Change mulch on gardens near house, remove another tree close to house, clean up under fire safe plants in garden near house, get CFA to check skylights
107	Catch up with what we started. Sealing ridge capping. Sealing colorbond along gutters.
108	Buy some bushfire-resistant gap filler and check all our shrinking timber joints
109	Better vegetation management. Shielding of north facing windows is affordable
110	As much as I can!
111	As before search out fire resistant products. Change gardens near house. Do more clean up of leaf litter more often. We belong to a firesafe group who have watched these webinars.
112	Arrange CFA inspection of our new home and surrounds. Replace wooden balcony, clean up, protection for 2 vulnerable windows and seal all gaps. Plan and build garage not carport.
113	A more thorough and better informed assessment of the house in its environment.
114	1. Look at installing a metal screen door to protect our timber front door; 2. Inspect our home for gaps and try to seal them; 3. Address the small number of areas where combustible mulch is up against timber cladding on outbuildings. (We know about these things but the webinar was a good reminder at a time of year when we actually have time to take action. This info is usually provided in Spring when we're flat out with other work around the property).
115	Consider the surface fire issue