

Topic 10 Mobile Fuel Vehicle, boat

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Chair

Is it best to keep the car in an enclosed garage adjoined to the house, or park it away from the house when preparing for a bushfire?

Justin Leonard

If the garage is essentially ember-proof, then it's fine to keep it in that location. And, in fact, that gives you some particularly useful options for leaving a house that may become compromised during the throes of a fire event. So, you can imagine that the contingencies that you may have to leave the house, if the house happened to start to burn, you'd rather leave the house in a vehicle than on foot. So, having an ember tight garage with a car in it gives you that opportunity.

If your garage simply isn't ember-proof at all, well, having it completely devoid of any fuels stored materials and vehicles is by far the best approach.

Justin Leonard

Even the place where we place our boats and caravans and cars, is a very important consideration in a bushfire event. These in themselves can present such a high heat load and direct ready flame attack that can take out even a well designed, robust, specifically bushfire resistant BAL house.

They're simply not designed to handle those types of adjacent fuel loads. And that might also be stored building materials. In this case it was some tyres and some timber burning out against the brick. And you can see just how much heat is involved here, where the bricks are actually starting to crumble and break because of the long bakeout timeframe of these high fuel loads.