

Your last resort options



Feedback Survey. Q11: What actions will you take as a result of this webinar to improve your bushfire safety?

- 1 More care to ensure below ground bunker is dry. Take care to avoid PPE getting wet if you then propose to move into a below ground bunker. Keep wire / bolt cutters in car to aid access to 'uncertified' NSP Neighbourhood safer place).
- 2 We will depart early and the decision will be made based on weather conditions. If it is too late or dangerous to leave, we will protect ourselves in the best situation available to us. In the house where we have clear space adjacent to the house but, as in most residential situations, the space is not very large. Early departure is the best approach.
- 3 Use cars as a place of last resort. Reduce risk of burning vegetation affecting my safe transition from house to car if my house starts to burn.
- 4 I will definitely think more about my plans for dealing with or reacting to a bushfire, and be more aware of what to do in an emergency.
- 5 Work out the closest open space that will be unaffected by fuel loads for a fire.
- 6 More preparation, even though this year is shaping up to not be a big fire year.
- 7 Look into installing a bunker, or leaving as if our house catches on fire we don't currently have many other options apart from the car but there are still trees close by.
- 8 Further investigation of safe areas to move to in case of need.
- 9 Alter location of where I park my car in summer. Investigate where I could park my car if I need to use it as a safe place BUT my preference has always been to evacuate the day before.
- 10 Need to perhaps rethink our plans on a catastrophic bushfire day.
- 11 Practise with my children.
- 12 A plan to put in place when confronted with the next 'Watch and Act' alert. The last times I had to evacuate I was young and lived in Hurstbridge. I still remember the noise and chaos. We had to walk a very long way to the Hurstbridge Hall for shelter. It was overflowing so we walked back home. It happened twice, in the 1950's and 1960's. There was a ring of fire all around as far as the eye could see. Not sure how I would react now but do not have anywhere to evacuate to.

- 13 Further clearing of vegetation close to house; try and find a place that may be suitable as a last resort shelter at home; use of some sort of guide mechanism on my block in case there is darkness leading to disorientation The unfavorable location of my home and the further education about fire risk and lack of last minute safe sheltering options means that leaving early is even more important. I may investigate heat mitigation options such as fire shutters, especially on north facing windows that currently go down to the ground. Also need to revise bushfire plans and rehearse them.
- 14 With adequate warning, which wasn't the case when my property and my life were threatened in December 2019, I would evacuate well ahead of time. Realistically my knee which I injured during that December fire, will let me down whatever I do.
- 15 Reconsider sheltering options. Reconsider our capabilities to stay.
- 16 Envisage as many scenarios as possible. Consider my response action. Actually practise my response action.
- 17 I would like to concentrate on the vegetation that surrounds the perimeter of my house.
- 18 Further work on hardening the property and a several last resort options.
- 19 Safe area to park car close by if have to evacuate house. Greater awareness of what kills people in fires, and the realization that I was lucky to avoid injury and even death during the Cudlee Creek fire.
- 20 Leave early.
- 21 Practise/act out our fire plan to help us remember it in the event of a bushfire.
- 22 Actions to keep in mind will include being prepared for all situations, not only fire but being mindful of flood.
- 23 We have updated our plan and intend to rehearse it more often. We will trial finding our bunker under different conditions. We plan to sit in our bunker for an hour to get a feel for what it may be like.
- 24 We intend to stay and defend as our house has been constructed to withstand bushfire (still to be tested). After last night, I would be coming inside to shelter earlier than I would have prior to listening to the webinar.
- 25 Practise survival in the bunker.
- 26 Practise our bushfire plan with different scenarios.
- 27 Identified safe options if caught at home.
- 28 Make and practise a fire plan.
- 29 Practise our evacuation plan. Investigate best cleared sites on property that we could park our vehicle if we were trapped at home.

- 30 Will consider more "what if" scenarios and possibly modify plans to include more options.
- 31 Leave even earlier than before.
- 32 More practise and review actions on what if situations.
- 33 Use a bunker.
- 34 Ensure we practise our bushfire plan and now know that being in a car in at least 40 m away from fuel is a safer place.
- 35 Reassess escape routes & identify possible safety points/locations. Reassess vegetation on property!
- 36 Maintain a cleared path to drive into the middle of a nearby large paddock.
- 37 Getting a bunker.
- 38 Put a more comprehensive safety and evacuation plan in place and practise it.
- 39 Leave early.
- 40 Practise.
- 41 I'm more inclined to leave rather than stay and defend.
- 42 I would love a bunker but that's a bit cost prohibitive, but we will defiantly be practising our plan, appointing tasks to people so everyone has a job and knows their job and then we need to do run throughs.
- 43 House reinforcement and neighbour's considerations.
- 44 Review my road egress options.
- 45 I now realize I have no defensible structures to hide behind as they would be too hot with radiant heat. The paddock may provide some shelter. Creek would only be an option outside summer; ditto dam. Won't be deep enough. The neighbour's very large concrete water tank is within 20m and could be a back up (though we plan to leave early) especially as it backs onto a significant ditch/channel that runs under road and into the creek for water runoff. The neighbourhood safe area at the new community hub is still the best option and is a straight road from the house so has lowest risk in fire of getting lost - and is also only 2mins by car. The house is at the cross roads so the highway, road to Talbot, road to Beaufort, Avoca or Ararat are all options for early evacuation depending on the fire path.
- 46 Leave earlier than previously expected!
- 47 Enact our bushfire plan more often under different conditions and scenarios.
- 48 Practise plans in more situations, check our place of last resort near the house. Excellent information for community fireguard sessions.

- 49 Scope out 'last resort' options on our property and the neighbour's property a bit more carefully. We have an open area over the road but it probably doesn't have 40-50m clearance from trees and very dry grass in hot conditions. And Rob's discussion was a great reminder to practise different scenarios to embed the learning.
- 50 Will not consider a bunker and reconsider our fire plan for mental and physical preparedness.
- 51 Plan.
- 52 Practise my plan in daylight and in darkness, talk myself through it update my plan reaffirm my position to leave early i.e. at least 24 hrs from when a severe warning is forecast.
- 53 Get a bunker.
- 54 Confirms that I need to daily check weather & fire danger levels, and leave early e.g. night before or first thing in the morning.
- 55 Practise our bushfire plans.
- 56 Have an evacuation plan. Be prepared and go over the plan so it's committed to memory.
- 57 Will talk to the family and make plans, Thank you all for a very informative talk.
- 58 Mentally & physically practise getting into my car and taking it to my place of last resort.