

Reducing risks for people and houses



Feedback Survey

Q9 - Please provide details of the most informative parts of the webinar

Summary

The webinar covered a wide range of topics related to bushfire preparation and survival. Some key points include the inadequacy of current building standards in addressing structural damage from high winds and ember entry during fires, the importance of having a comprehensive fire plan, and practical advice on sheltering in place or using a car as a last resort. Justin Leonard's expertise and calm demeanor were appreciated, and attendees found the Q&A sessions particularly helpful. Topics ranged from house preparation and survival techniques to understanding fire behavior and the impact of climate change. Overall, the webinar provided valuable information and actionable strategies for staying safe during bushfires.

Detailed audience responses

- 1 All of it! Madly scribbling away to take it in by hearing and by writing. Such interesting information tips ideas etc really comprehensive. Best I've seen anywhere.
- 2 Building standards do not address structural damage due to high winds possibly causing ember entry points during a fire. Regulations do not protect houses to the level people expect, with current regulations only 80% of houses are expected to survive a bushfire and only up to and including a Fire Danger Rating of Extreme. The Q & A sessions were excellent and most informative.
- 3 Justin setting the scene where you are at home when your house is impacted, it starts burning, to live you have to get out. Having determined and planned for a safer route avoiding burning deck, stairs and vegetation in the dark to get to a place to shelter. The step by step process for using a car as a last resort option.
- 4 Justin's handling of all questions was spot-on. He's knowledgeable, speaks slowly and precisely with non-dramatic tones even when supplying what could be worrying information. So, you really hear him. His two presentations regarding preparation of our houses and then of us as people were so easy to understand and write notes about implementation. I've also heard him speak live, but we are so privileged to have him in our homes via BRI webinars each year.
- 5 We live in a vulnerable semi bush location and have an extensive fire plan which we update often, but we learned again last night that there is always something new to consider. It is presentations like last night which provide new and alternative ideas and actions.
- 6 What to expect if having to leave a burning house. Reminder about practise, practise. Keep on top of reducing fuel load. Consideration for using a car as refuge as I had always believed that would not shield from radiant heat. Best way to store gas bottles.
- 7 Having been fire aware for 40+ years including Ash Wednesday 1983 and viewed most of the webinars I was happy to see many of my efforts reflected in the issues identified as being desirable preparation.
- 8 I found all aspects of the Webinar useful and informative, especially the practical and informative answers Justin was able to provide to each of the questions asked. Being able to answer such a breadth of questions from viewers not only confirmed my confidence and trust in the webinar (these guys know what they are talking about!) but also ensured many viewers learnt more than they would have expected.

- 9 I learnt and was reminded of preparation when a fire is nearby e.g. park cars so they can be driven forward and not reversed to get out. We have tank water which we would switch over to mains water if a fire was nearby to try to maintain a water supply as long as possible. We would lose our ability to use tank water if the power is cut off.
- 10 Plan of action if house is impacted. Fire- survival techniques inside house and car. Safest places if sheltering in car. Storage of gas bottles. Protecting house from ember attack- use of sprinkler system inside or in roof cavity, assessing water pressure.
- 11 Justin's description of why a car is a safer escape bet than some other options dispelled my assumptions that a car would just explode instantly on fire engagement. As I'm unable to walk properly (since the last bushfire in 2019, when I suffered a knee injury that hasn't been fixed due to elective surgery wait lists) my car is very much part of my survival plan.
- 12 Expect the unexpected, prepare, prepare, prepare, plan, plan, plan, act, act, act.
- 13 Sealing off of vents with 2mm stainless steel mesh. Storage of gas bottles. Treatment options for delivering water effectively to spouting.
- 14 Protecting persons from radiant heat, toxic smoke, superheated air. Monitoring your home, vehicle etc while fire front passes!
- 15 I can't identify a single item as most informative as the entire presentation was informative and offered 'practical' suggestions. The information about how to use a motor vehicle as emergency shelter was particularly relevant to my situation.
- 16 Planning and preparing to take the journey from a burning house to the place you have previously identified as your place of shelter.
- 17 I found the questions to be very telling - it was most interesting to see what people are thinking / unsure about.
- 18 Actively sheltering.
- 19 Sheltering in place information about how dark it is and the need for torches and practise escape route with eyes shut.
- 20 There are many small ways we can prepare our properties for the threat of bushfire.
- 21 It was all great. Justin Leonard is so knowledgeable, I always appreciate his depth of knowledge
- 22 Options if too late to leave, Q&A, sprinklers, use of cars, too much to specify, all really interesting and relevant.
- 23 The facts that will be present in the event of a fire were very thought provoking.
- 24 Explanation of El Nina and Indian Ocean Dipole and its potential on fire behaviour. I was surprised that some fires continue to burn for the whole season and thus can cause other fires in severe weather events.
- 25 Personal protection. Household materials. What to do. All aspects.
- 26 It seems that down south there is a lot more information and knowledge about fire prevention. I was interested in information about fire shelters/bunkers and sprinkler systems.
- 27 Discussion of the impact of climate change on fire danger. House ignitability.
- 28 Having the Q & A questions responded to in a timely fashion.
- 29 Impact sprinklers instead of misters info. What to consider when looking at fire retardant treatments for timber. Car information was great.
- 30 Good general information.
- 31 All information provided was very informative.

- 32 Very informative, I enjoyed the conversations and not showing any graphs.
- 33 Personal protection in the home.
- 34 The expected differences between the up-coming fire season & the last one. It was useful to be reminded that previous year's webinars are available on-line.
- 35 Taking active shelter in the house.
- 36 I thought the whole night, including the Q & A was very good.
- 37 Justin using his knowledge to answer questions in his area of expertise.
- 38 Discussion of weather in fires, and exit strategies.
- 39 Feedback/answers from questions excellent. I now need to view previous years webinars.
- 40 Many aspects of house and people protection. Great description of an intense fire.
- 41 Very knowledgeable presenter.
- 42 The parts to do with protection of life.
- 43 Discussion about practical actions to take to minimise risks and helpful guidance dependent on individual needs and potential dangers.
- 44 What to do inside the house if there's a fire and how to make use of your car.
- 45 Advice regarding under floor space ember protection and issues with wooden decking and timber near the house. Also sprinkler design.
- 46 How to keep safe in the event you haven't left home and are caught in a fire.
- 47 Risks for people when fire enters home, steps for making the home bushfire resilient.
- 48 The presenter had a detailed knowledge of the topics covered tonight and communicated well.
- 49 Survival preparation and skills needed.
- 50 How to protect yourself in the eventuality that your house catches fire. The effectiveness of a car as a safe refuge.
- 51 Smoke buildup in a room fire. Noise and lack of visibility in a fire.
- 52 It was very good but there were a couple of answers that were risky. One on using cars as a local place of last resort or a means to get to a private place of last resort. For a person living with MS considering herself to have a disability it would be advisable not to be in a bushfire area during high risk times. MS is exacerbated by stress. Rather than advising to have a car ready to move to if the house is no longer safe to be in because of fire impact.
- 53 Probably information about surviving a fire in your house if you find it is too late to leave. We are planning to leave early but could be taken by surprise so this was very helpful.
- 54 Reflecting on being in the house and what the visibility and toxicity from the smoke would be like, and walking around the house to see what is happening - not just hiding in the bathroom and hoping for the best. I would actually go before the smoke got too bad due to health condition. How outside could be dark because of the smoke. Glad I've cleaned up under my house. Info about sprinkler systems, both inside and outside the house.
- 55 All of it.

- 56 A good refresh of things learnt previously and reinforcement of practising escape routes and procedures.
- 57 Found it very informative. Thank you.
- 58 Response to specific questions provided accurate and useful strategies.