

Grass fire and bushfire behaviour



Feedback Survey

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

- 1 Check the house for all possible ember attack points. Continue the control of ember attack material and keeping grassy areas mown.
- 2 Not only do you need plan A, which in our case is leave early, but we need a back-up plan B. Ensure the Go Bag is always ready, and don't forget taking water in the car. Go early is the key. Ensure the property is properly prepared much earlier than October, that is obvious from yesterday's fires in East Gippsland (October 2023).
- 3 Review our plan, test our fire pumps before the season starts, check the storage of gutter plugs, make the first flush additions to our rainwater tanks that I have previously planned. check that batteries are charged or brand new for headlights and torches.
- 4 I keep the grass short. Now I will attempt to keep lawn alive and healthy during the hot months.
- 5 Ember proof house, not worry so much about trees on driveway apart from cleaning up all loose bark & dry matter on drive. Eliminate vegetative sources around house.
- 6 We are updating our fire plan based on what we are learning from these webinars. We are also reviewing the bushfire protection strategy we have around our home.
- 7 Its ongoing, not just once a year, but constantly being aware of the weather conditions, along with the terrain.
- 8 Ensure we have plans for approaches from all sides and ask the neighbours to keep the paddock grass down over summer.
- 9 Reviewing and changing layout of some parts of yard and garden. Revisiting ALL parts of the house to assess for likely ember attack.
- 10 Mindful of fuel near the house and the slashing of grasses. Try and grow summer growing native grasses. Keep water up to the areas near the house all the time, not just before a fire is approaching.
- 11 Continue on the path I know I have to take, but with more energy.
- 12 Look seriously at lee side of house and property, make sure ember sealing is up to scratch and ensure grass is well watered near the house. Think more about a fire plan that tries to protect during the peak of the bushfire but try to be available immediately after the front has passed or on a wind change as this seems to be when a lot of assets are lost. Review the possible effects of thatch. Don't rely on the two streets back Fire Rescue Victoria promoted strategy if in a dense urban environment.
- 13 Keep clearing the understory especially fallen bark. Remove items like wheelbarrows etc away from the house and check for mulch and debris building up in nooks and crannies. Talk to family about my learnings. Ask council if we can remove a stand of blue gums that are about 70 m from the house because of their fire hazard.
- 14 Don't apply wood chip mulch to garden close to the house. Practise our fire plan more.

- 15 I will be modifying the fuel load as best I can on a small sized block but with neighbours who are not attuned to the risks we face in bushfire season on the Surf Coast. Keeping fuel loads 100m from our house is not possible.
I will ensure that the possible ember and debris traps are minimised, not use tanbark or other flammable forms of mulch. I will strip the loose bark from the lower reaches of nearby eucalypts. I do this every two years. Nooks and crannies of the house will be minimised and if possible protected.
- 16 I have already started removing unnecessary flammable debris from my property. When I was fighting fires with the RFS in 2000 many woodpiles that were very near residences caused an extra hazard as they were well alight, and threatening the home itself.
- 17 I intend to upgrade my under house ventilation protection.
- 18 Have already changed windows to double glazed aluminium frame BAL 40, reclad old logs with colourbond, inspired to add sprinklers to roof and for grass surrounding house. Do research to plant fire break next Autumn.
- 19 Consider grass fire risk more seriously.
- 20 I now have an action to get some fire rated gap filling foam for all those spaces between of timber house structure and the sandstone foundations. And I really need to get help to clear the one gap under overlapping roof sections where starlings are getting in and filling with flammable stuff.
- 21 Assess and remove fine fuels from grassed areas, driveway and pathways around house. Reassess fuel load on south and east of house as well as down slope of block. Reassess house for ember entry points, particularly on the east and south sides.
- 22 Revisit our fire plan and thoroughly consider the stay/leave option. For myself, practise starting the pump and using fire hose. Try to visualise a fire scenario as described in the webinar on emotions.
- 23 Consider how I will add to my sprinkler system to protect the southeast corner (likely lee side) of the house against embers. Review my prioritized list for mitigation actions deferred to future years.
- 24 Do some controlled hazard reductions to reduce fuel loads, including slashing, burning, clearing vegetation from the proximity of my house.
- 25 Focus more on ember proofing all sides of the house, work on removing thatch in ungrazed paddock nearest the house.
- 26 Continue with vegetation clearance around our home. Arborists coming this week to attend to some trees which have dropped branches or are leaning on others etc.
- 27 Begin fire preparations nearest the house and work outwards.
- 28 Keep my lawn well maintained while providing low threat shade/wind breaks. Also aim to keep the grass health while reducing the dense layer of dead fuel below the green surface.
- 29 Trim trees around the house, not use mulch along the exit route, install 2mm steel mesh in eave vents.
- 30 I've already started cleaning up next to my house.
- 31 Clear all sides around residence, not just the northern side.
- 32 Greater attention to fire load sources. Clearing of vegetation further from the house structure.
- 33 Enact our safety plan, provide spark mesh over sub floor ventilators.
- 34 Clean up around the house.

- 35 Review action plan.
- 36 Clean around property more and look at our garden design.
- 37 Keep the grass down around the house.
- 38 Shorter grass this summer.
- 39 I have my horses eating the paddocks and mow and whipper snip regularly.
- 40 As I have been involved with Community Fireguard for 30 years, the webinars remind me of what is required/ needs to be done, rather than suggesting something new to me e.g. the importance of 'breaks' in grassed areas as well as the more bushy areas. The difference in impacts and speed of grass & forest fires was interesting.
- 41 Continue with my preparations, both before and during the Fire Danger Period.
- 42 Clear more of our home yard, ensure that we've got a better pump for our hose and speak to the Rural Fire Service.
- 43 Purchase fire resistant garden hose. Strategically plant some deciduous trees. Reduce grass height and tree litter.
- 44 The information helps me personally but also gives me more detail and understanding for my role as community liaison bushfire engagement facilitator.
- 45 Look for the weaknesses & plan their protection. Where's the water.
- 46 Property preparation & leave early.
- 47 I'll keep cleaning up the vegetation.
- 48 Refer these to the consultants designing the house. Then landscaping will be where I personally can make a difference.
- 49 Spread the word.
- 50 Improved and more prioritized work around my property and house. Earlier review of fire plan. Keep a careful watch on drying.
- 51 Grass thatch removal.
- 52 Slash more around the house, aim for 50-100m and not the 20m or so I have. Prepare the leeward side of the house better as it can ignite from that side and not just the windward/ fire front.
- 53 Closer inspection of area around home for fuel reduction.
- 54 Reduce fuel on leeward side of the house. Move pot plants away from house. Prune heavily and change plant type to less flammable.
- 55 Prepare property now and practise plan.
- 56 Harden up my preparation for the area south of my house.
- 57 And most importantly I keep aware of the fire danger rating and will depart for Melbourne before the hazard in our area and the roads we will us to evacuate become too hazardous.
- 58 Ensure that my clients don't underestimate the potential impacts of grassfires.
- 59 More attention to the east side of house.

- 60 More clearing of ground fuel.
- 61 Refine my bushfire plan to include focus on leeward facing aspects.
- 62 Clearing vegetation immediately around the house.
- 63 Just keep up with the raking and mowing.
- 64 We will purchase the sarking and wool batts that we need to use to increase our houses resilience to ember attack.
- 65 I'm going to have another look at what is on the NW side of my property, especially fine fuels. My focus recently has been on the likely fire-approach. I also have a pile of tree mulch at the bottom of the driveway that I need to deal with.
- 66 Further pre-season preparation of clearing is needed.
- 67 More of what I am already doing - good to know I am on the right track. Such as sussing out all ember nooks, cleaning up forest litter.
- 68 Look at the growth of grasses and vegetation surrounding my home - trim the trees.
- 69 Review fire plan.
- 70 Increase pumps and hoses and stick rake paddocks.
- 71 Review ember resistance on house.
- 72 Continue cleaning up the outside area.
- 73 Will look to slash and remove dead vegetation from grassy plants (Carex, Lomandra etc).
- 74 Look again at our house and garden to see what we can do to make it safer from embers.
- 75 Need to reconsider how the fire might behave around our property.
- 76 Ideal plants to plant that a fire retardant, how far vegetation should be from the house, understanding more about fire winds etc.
- 77 Clear more on ALL sides of my house and be ready to leave early as the direction of the fires can change.
- 78 Reduce fine fuels update fire plan.
- 79 Check for any combustible items around my house.
- 80 Share some details with others.
- 81 Move to the suburbs.