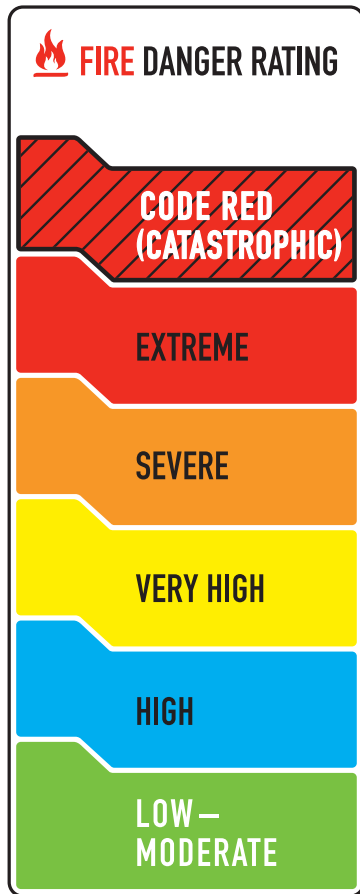


Understanding Fire Danger Ratings



Fire Danger Rating (FDR)

A Fire Danger Rating is a prediction of fire behaviour, including how hard it would be to put out a fire once it starts.

It provides information on:

- the type of threat bushfires may pose to life and property on any day given the forecast weather conditions.
- the sort of bushfire behaviour that could be experienced on that day

The new Fire Danger Rating Barometer will alert you to danger so you can take action.

Fire Danger Ratings will be a feature of weather forecasts and alert you to the actions you should take in preparation for and on the day. It will be in newspapers, broadcast on radio, TV and on websites.

For more information contact the Victorian Bushfire Information line 1800 240 667 or go to www.cfa.vic.gov.au.

Victoria has adopted the new nationally agreed Fire Danger Rating scale to help communities understand information about fire danger. This new scale recognises the significant increase in severe bushfire conditions over the past decade and the subsequent greater level of danger to the community, and potential loss of life, as experienced by Victorians on Saturday 7 February 2009.

Fire Danger

Every day during the fire season the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) forecasts an outlook of the fire danger index (FDI) by considering the predicted weather including: temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and dryness of vegetation.

The Fire Danger Rating for each weather district is determined by the BoM in consultation with the fire agencies. Each of the Fire Danger Ratings has recommended actions you should follow. These actions are shown in the table below.

FIRE DANGER	RECOMMENDED ACTION
CODE RED (CATASTROPHIC)	If you live in a bushfire prone area the safest option is to leave the night before, or early in the morning.
EXTREME	The safest option is to leave early in the day if you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave. Only stay if your home is well prepared, well constructed and you can actively defend it.
SEVERE	The safest option is to leave early in the day if you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave. Only stay if your home is well prepared and you can actively defend it.
VERY HIGH	If you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave, the safest option is to leave at the beginning of the day.
HIGH	Check your Bushfire Survival Plan.
LOW-MODERATE	Check your Bushfire Survival Plan.

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

FireReady 



FIRE DANGER RATING

**CODE RED
(CATASTROPHIC)**

EXTREME

SEVERE

VERY HIGH

HIGH

**LOW –
MODERATE**

Fire Behaviour	Impact Potential	What Should I Do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fires may be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving – flames will be higher than roof tops. Thousands of embers will be blown around. Spot fires will start, move quickly and come from many directions, 20 km or more ahead of the fire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People may die or be injured. Thousands of homes and businesses may be destroyed. Well prepared, well constructed and well defended homes may not be safe during the fire. <p>DO NOT EXPECT A FIRE TRUCK</p>	<p>If you live in a bushfire prone area the safest option is to leave the night before, or early in the morning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaving is the safest option for your survival if you live in a bushfire prone area – finalise your options for relocation. Activate your Bushfire Survival Plan – Now. Prepare to leave – check your <i>Fire Ready Kit</i>. Monitor the weather and fire situation in any way you can: through CFA website, ABC or local radio, TV and newspapers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fires may be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving – flames will be higher than roof tops. Thousands of embers will be blown around. Spot fires will start, will move quickly and come from many directions, up to 6 km ahead of the fire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People may die and be injured. Hundreds of homes and businesses may be destroyed. Only well prepared, well constructed and actively defended houses are likely to offer safety during a fire. <p>DO NOT EXPECT A FIRE TRUCK</p>	<p>The safest option is to leave early in the day if you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave. Only stay if your home is well prepared, well constructed and you can actively defend it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activate your Bushfire Survival Plan – Now. Prepare for the emotional, mental and physical impact of defending your property – if in doubt, leave. Monitor the weather and fire situation in any way you can: through CFA website, ABC or local radio, TV and newspapers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fires may be uncontrollable and move quickly – flames may be higher than roof tops. Expect embers to be blown around. Spot fires may occur up to 4 km ahead of the fire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a chance people may die and be injured. Some homes and businesses may be destroyed. Well prepared and actively defended houses can offer safety during a fire. <p>DO NOT EXPECT A FIRE TRUCK</p>	<p>The safest option is to leave early in the day if you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave. Only stay if your home is well prepared and you can actively defend it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare for the emotional, mental and physical impact of defending your property – if in doubt, leave. Only stay if your home is well prepared and you can actively defend it. Check your Bushfire Survival Plan – Now. Monitor the weather and fire situation in any way you can: through CFA website, ABC or local radio, TV and newspapers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fires can be difficult to control – flames may burn into the tree tops. Embers may be blown ahead of the fire. Spot fires may occur up to 2 km ahead of the fire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a low chance people may die or be injured. Some homes and businesses may be damaged or destroyed. Well prepared and actively defended houses can offer safety during a fire. 	<p>If you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave, the safest option is to leave at the beginning of the day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you live in a bushfire prone area and you plan to leave; finalise your options and leave early on the day. Only stay if your home is well prepared and you can actively defend it. Check your Bushfire Survival Plan – Now. Monitor the weather and fire situation in any way you can: through CFA website, ABC or local radio, TV and newspapers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fires can be controlled. Embers may be blown ahead of the fire. Spot fires can occur close to the main fire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of life is highly unlikely and damage to property will be limited. Well prepared and actively defended houses can offer safety during a fire. 	<p>Check your Bushfire Survival Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure your family and property are well prepared for the risk of bushfire. Review and practise your bushfire plan for different scenarios (e.g. kids at school/home, visitors). Know where to get more information – CFA website.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fires can be easily controlled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is little to no risk to life and property. 	<p>Check your Bushfire Survival Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure your family and property are well prepared for the risk of bushfire. Review and practise your bushfire plan for different scenarios (e.g. kids at school/home, visitors). Know where to get more information – CFA website.