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Fire Safety Messages – Summer 2022 - 2023

Primary Key Messages

- On hot, dry, windy days, fires can start and spread quickly.
- If the Fire Danger Rating is Extreme or Catastrophic, leaving early before a fire has started is the safest option.
- If you wait and decide to leave after a fire has started, you risk driving your family through thick smoke, fallen trees and power lines, and face the danger of collisions, being trapped by fire, serious injury or death.
- Talk to your family and friends about how you'll know when to leave, where you'll go and how you will get there.
- An Extreme fire danger rating or higher should be your trigger to leave. To find out more about fire danger ratings visit cfa.vic.gov.au/firebans
- If you can see smoke or fire, driving is extremely dangerous. Thick smoke makes it hard to see, making traffic jams and collisions more likely. Lack of visibility will make it hard to know where the fire is. Travel will be dangerous.
- If you're caught in a grassfire on a farm, move to somewhere with minimal vegetation, such as a ploughed or well-grazed paddock and monitor conditions and information sources.
- If you live or work close to grassland, parks or paddocks (on the outskirts of Melbourne or regional towns), you could be at risk of fire this summer.
- If you live in a suburb and are right next to grassland and a grassfire starts, walk at least two streets back from the fire to stay safe and monitor conditions. Do not drive. Keep roads clear for emergency services.
- More info can be found here: emergency.vic.gov.au and cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/about-warnings
- Know how to stay informed and know which information channels work for you
- Always use more than one source of information for warnings. Tune in to ABC local radio, commercial and designated community radio stations or Sky News TV, phone the VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226), visit emergency.vic.gov.au, and download the VicEmergency App.
- Make sure you understand the different levels of warnings and what they mean:
 - ADVICE – A fire is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions
 - WATCH AND ACT (Warning) - An emergency is developing nearby. You need to take action now to protect yourself and others
 - EMERGENCY WARNING - You are in imminent danger and need to take action now. You will be impacted
 - EVACUATION (Prepare to Evacuate or Evacuate Now) – An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.

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