

# FACT SHEET

## Bushfires



### FIVE STEPS TO GET READY FOR A BUSHFIRE

#### STEP ONE - UNDERSTAND YOUR RISK

##### What is a bushfire?

**BUSHFIRES** occur when areas of vegetation ignite and burn through reserves, national parks, private property and urban corridors.

The Rockhampton Region has experienced many significant bushfire events over the last two decades. Areas near the Mount Archer National Park in Rockhampton, the township of Mount Morgan, residents in Gracemere and surrounding areas have all been impacted by bushfire during this time.

Bushfires are most likely to occur when the weather is very hot and dry. The higher the temperature and the lower the humidity, the more likely it is that a fire may start or continue to burn. They can start from human activity or natural causes such as lightning strikes.

To reduce the risk of bushfires in our community, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) will introduce bans on certain activities during high risk periods. It's your responsibility to ensure you're following any active fire bans.

For more information on bushfires, head over to the Bureau of Meteorology's [Fire Weather Knowledge Centre](#).

##### Fire weather warnings

The Bureau of Meteorology issues fire weather warnings when forecast weather conditions are likely to be dangerous. Warnings are normally issued in the afternoon for the following day so as to be available for evening television and radio news broadcasts. Warnings are renewed at regular intervals and may be issued or amended and reissued at any time if a need is identified.

##### Bushfire warning

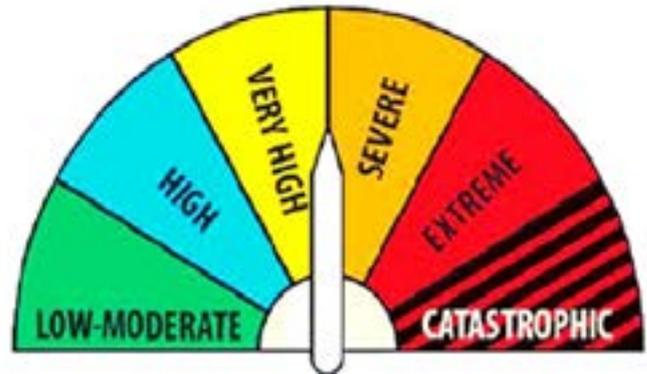
All residents in the Rockhampton Region should be familiar with the official QFES Bushfire Warnings system. When there's a bushfire in your area, it's up to you to take notice, seek information, make decisions and act.

-  Emergency Warning: You are in danger and need to take immediate action recommended by the fire service.
-  Watch and Act: There is a heightened level of threat, you need to be aware of your situation and take action to be prepared and protect yourself and your family.
-  Advice: There is no immediate threat but you need to stay informed in case the situation changes.
-  Information: A fire or other emergency has started in the area however it has not reached the level required for an official warning.

## Fire danger ratings

The Bureau of Meteorology and QFES use six Fire Danger Ratings to communicate the level of bushfire risk. The higher the rating the more dangerous the conditions are likely to be. At higher ratings, any fire that starts will likely to be fast moving and difficult to control.

Keep up to date with fire weather warnings, bushfire warnings and fire danger ratings by logging on to [Council's Emergency Dashboard](#).



## Am I in a bushfire hazard area?

Log on to Council's Emergency Dashboard at [emergency.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au](http://emergency.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au) to access bushfire hazard mapping for the Rockhampton Region. Alternatively contact Council's Customer Service Centre on 1300 22 55 77 or 07 4932 9000 to ask about the bushfire risk for your property.

## STEP TWO - MAKE A PLAN

Prepare your household emergency and evacuation plan to keep you and your family or household members connected and safe in the event you become separated during a bushfire. For more information and to complete your plan online access *Your Emergency Guide* on [Council's Emergency Dashboard](#).

## STEP THREE - PACK SUPPLIES

Pack your Emergency Kit with essential supplies in the case that you're unable to leave your home for an extended period of time, and your Evacuation Kit if it becomes unsafe to remain and you need to leave your home. For more information and a checklist of supplies to pack in your kits access *Your Emergency Guide* on [Council's Emergency Dashboard](#).

## STEP FOUR - PREPARE YOUR HOME

There is no better time than now to get your home prepared so you are ready for the next time a bushfire occurs. For more information on home maintenance and home preparations for when a bushfire is imminent access *Your Emergency Guide* on [Council's Emergency Dashboard](#).

## STEP FIVE - PROTECT YOUR PET

In emergency situations, pets are often the most vulnerable member of the family. It's important to consider what will happen to our pets in the event of a natural disaster. For more information on protecting your pet during a bushfire, including supplies needed for your Pet Emergency Kit, access *Your Emergency Guide* on [Council's Emergency Dashboard](#).