

Be bushfire prepared



Living with Nature on your Doorstep

A bushfire can affect your home, even if it is a long way from the actual fire. Falling embers and leaves can be carried by wind many kilometres from where the actual fire is. In a life-threatening emergency, at any time, day or night, please call emergency triple zero (000) for police, fire or ambulance.

Bushfire awareness

Many naturally occurring bushfires are started by lightning, but occasionally human error or deliberately lit fires cause devastating fires too. Canberra has a long bushfire history so it is highly recommended that all residents be aware of bushfire safety so they can act quickly if needed.

ACT bushfire plan

One of the key aims of the ACT's Strategic Bushfire Management Plan is to increase bushfire knowledge among residents and educate people about how their personal actions will minimise risks and consequences for themselves and others. Mt Majura Nature Reserve has an established series of fire trails to enable easy access for fire fighters and their vehicles.

Emergency services

The ACT has a State Emergency Service, the ACT Rural Fire Service, and the ACT Fire and Rescue.

Each service provides a wide variety of functions that include bush and grass fire response and operational planning and preparedness as legislated in the ACT's *Emergencies Act 2004*.

Please report any bushfires or suspicious activity you see to the ACT Fire and Rescue emergency call service (**phone triple zero - 000**). Early detection significantly increases fire prevention and control.

ACT Rural Fire Service

The ACT Rural Fire Service has about 400 trained volunteer bushfire fighters and is responsible for protecting life, property and the environment from all bush and grass fires that occur within rural and non-suburban areas of the ACT, such as the Mt Majura Nature Reserve.

The service has both volunteer brigades and a brigade of ACT Government employees, who work together. Members are engaged in supporting other services of the Emergency Service Australia and interstate departments. You can become a volunteer by phoning 02 6297 8609 or by going to www.esa.gov.au

State Emergency Service

Hundreds of trained volunteers work with the ACT State Emergency Service (SES). The primary role of the SES is to respond to flood and storm incidents and provide support when needed to other emergency agencies, such as the fire services.

These are the people you see in orange overalls who turn up at homes to erect tarpaulins on damaged roofs or to evacuate people from danger areas.

Your nearest SES unit is based in Hackett and provides storm response, support for land searches, logistics and flood boat rescue for operations and community events. To become a volunteer, email ses@act.gov.au to register your interest, or phone (02) 6207 8462.

ACT Fire and Rescue

ACT Fire and Rescue is staffed by full-time professional fire fighters. Its responses include house and property fires, chemical spills, building collapse and rescue, and it provides invaluable support to other emergency agencies if needed. Contact 13 25 00 for general inquiries.

Prepare your home

Did you know that 50% of house losses in Canberra's 2003 fires were caused by suburban fuels?

You can help reduce the risk to you and your neighbours by carrying out the following fuel reduction measures around your home:

- sweep leaves away from the corners of your home and deck
- make sure your grass is well-kept
- remove dead plants and debris from your garden
- clear away loose or hanging bark from trees
- keep shrubs trimmed and well-watered
- ensure irrigation pipes are buried below ground level.