

CHECKLIST - PREPARE TO ACTIVELY DEFEND

You should have equipment to actively defend your home, protective clothing for all your family and a well prepared property.

WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

Everyone must wear protective clothing to avoid injury from sparks, embers and extreme heat. Cover as much of your skin as you can with two layers of loose fitting clothing. It will be very hot so avoid tight fitting, heavy clothes and synthetic clothing.

Wear:

- Loose fitting clothes made from natural fibres like pure wool, heavy cotton drill or denim.
- Long sleeved shirts
- Trousers, jeans or overalls
- Sturdy leather shoes or boots without elastic sides
- Wool or cotton socks
- A wide brimmed or hard hat
- Gloves
- Goggles or glasses to protect your eyes from ash and embers
- A moistened face mask to protect your face from ash and other particles.

Do not wear:

- Synthetic clothing
- Singlets
- T-shirts
- Short sleeved shirts
- Shorts
- Dresses or skirts
- Sandals or thongs
- Stockings or synthetic socks

CHECKLIST - PREPARE TO ACTIVELY DEFEND

HAVE FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT READY

Consider what equipment you will need to actively defend your home.

- Hoses must be long enough to reach all parts of your house. Use metal hose fittings for taps as they are less likely to melt.
- Ladders for inside and outside the house. These need to be long enough so you can check your roof cavity and eaves.
- Knapsack or garden backpack spray to help you put out spot fires. If you decide to use a garden backpack make sure it has been cleaned out before using it in a bushfire.
- Metal rakes and shovels can be used to break up piles of burning material and for covering embers with sand.
- Cotton mops can hold a lot of water and can be used to put out embers.
- Buckets allow you to move water quickly and easily.
- Wet towels and blankets can be used under doors and windows to seal gaps. This will stop embers and smoke from coming inside your house.

MAKE SURE THERE IS WATER

It is likely that you will lose water and power supplies during a bushfire. It is important you have an alternative water supply.

- Identify storage options that you could fill with water.

You could use:

- Rubbish bins (wheelie bins) and storage bins
- Bath, laundry tub, sinks, basins and buckets
- Troughs or garden ponds
- Swimming pool, water tanks and dams if available

- A petrol, diesel or generator pump to draw water from dams, pools or a water tank.