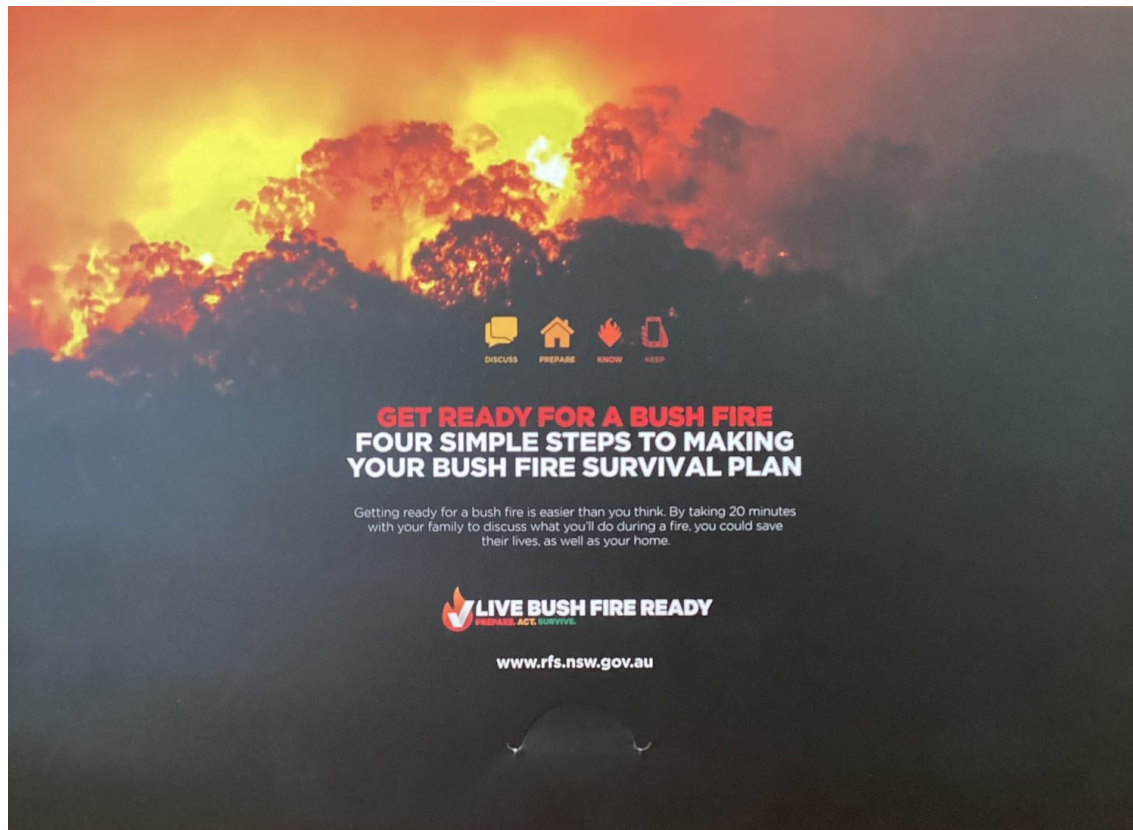


Get Ready for a Bushfire 2025/26

The bushfire season has now commenced and its time to review our bush fire readiness plans and make sure we are ready to take the right action in response to fire danger ratings and associated warnings. Kioloa Brigade Captain Trevor Hodgetts, will be giving a presentation on 'Being Bush Fire Ready' at the next meeting of the Bawley Point, Kioloa, Termeil Community Association, on Sunday 23 November.

Resident awareness and preparedness are critical, because a lack of knowledge leads to panic and an inability to cope during a crisis. This was certainly highlighted during the Currowan fire event, where many locals were not aware of how to prepare for evacuation, access up-to-date information and know where to evacuate to and what to pack. This was exacerbated by the fact that our local villages were often faced with power outages which made accessing up to date notifications impossible. Captain Trevor Hodgetts will update residents on how to access this vital information during power outages and loss of mobile reception.

The slides below are extracts from a Rural Fire Service folder that provides residents with four simple steps to get you and your family bush fire ready. The full set of slides, including flow charts to help your planning are available from the Kioloa and Bawley Point Bushfire Brigades.





4 SIMPLE STEPS

Preparing for a bush fire is easier than you think. It's your responsibility to prepare yourself, your home and your family.

There are four simple steps to get ready for a bush fire:



1. DISCUSS

what to do if a bush fire threatens your home.



2. PREPARE

your home and get it ready for bush fire season.



3. KNOW

the bush fire alert levels.



4. KEEP

all the bush fire information numbers, websites, and the smart phone app.



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE STRONGLY RECOMMENDS

that everyone in your home has a conversation about exactly what they'll do in a bush fire. It should take just 20 minutes. Use our discussion guide. Many households find that having a discussion over dinner works best as everybody is together and focused.



STEP 1: DISCUSS

WHAT WILL YOU DO IN A BUSH FIRE? PLAN NOW.

Get the whole household together and discuss your plan. This fold out takes you step-by-step through the process.



STEP 2: PREPARE YOUR HOME AND GET READY THE TOP 5 ACTIONS TO MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER

There are some simple things you can do around your home to prepare it for a bush fire. You need to prepare well beforehand as leaving it to the last minute is too late.

Here are five simple things you can do before and during the bush fire season.



1. TRIM

Trim overhanging trees and shrubs. This can stop the fire spreading to your home.



2. MOW

Mow grass and remove the cuttings. Have a cleared area around your home.



3. REMOVE

Remove material that can burn around your home (e.g. Door mats, wood piles, mulch, leaves, paint, outdoor furniture).



4. CLEAR

Clear and remove all the debris and leaves from the gutters surrounding your home. Burning embers can set your home on fire.



5. PREPARE

Prepare a sturdy hose or hoses that will reach all around your home. Make sure you've got a reliable source of water.



Join others in your neighbourhood in completing these Top 5 Actions to protect your home.

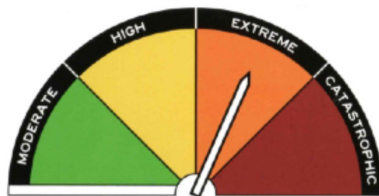


STEP 3: KNOW THE BUSH FIRE ALERT LEVELS

FIRE DANGER RATINGS

Your safety and survival may depend on the decision you make, even before there is a fire. Monitor the Fire Danger Ratings daily at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fdr.

The higher the fire danger rating, the more dangerous a fire is likely to be.



RATINGS AND WHAT TO DO

MODERATE

PLAN AND PREPARE

At **MODERATE**, most fires can be controlled. Plan and prepare and be ready to act if there is a fire.

HIGH

BE READY TO ACT

At **HIGH**, be ready to act. Fires can be dangerous, so be alert for fires in your area.

EXTREME

TAKE ACTION NOW

TO PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY

At **EXTREME**, fires will spread quickly and become extremely dangerous. If a fire starts, take immediate action. If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, go to a safer location well before the fire impacts.

CATASTROPHIC

FOR YOUR SURVIVAL

LEAVE BUSH FIRE RISK AREAS

Under **CATASTROPHIC** conditions, if a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost. For your survival, leave bush fire risk areas.

NO RATING - The white bar is used on days when there is no fire danger, and means no action is required.

STEP 4: KEEP KEY INFORMATION

In a bush fire, it's important that you stay up to date on conditions in your area. The NSW Rural Fire Service strongly advises saving these numbers, links and apps now.

In an emergency call Triple Zero (000)
For information on bush fire, call the Bush Fire Information Line 1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737)

NSW Rural Fire Service Website: rfs.nsw.gov.au
Fire Danger Ratings: rfs.nsw.gov.au/fdr

'Hazards Near Me' Free smartphone app

Local radio, local ABC/emergency broadcaster frequency, TV, newspapers

facebook.com/nswrfs
twitter.com/nswrfs

During a bush fire, you could lose power and telecommunications. Do not rely on just one source of information.

The red document zip pouches (pictured below), are a newly introduced resource, in which you can store your important documents, such as passports, birth certificates, insurance documents and medical documents. These pouches will be handed out at the next meeting of the Bawley Point, Kioloa, Termeil Community Association on Sunday 23 November, by Captain Trevor Hodgetts.

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

☐ Original Certificates	☐ Important Contact Information
☐ Legal Documents	☐ Insurance Information
☐ Identification	☐ Medical Documents
☐ Passport	☐ Prescriptions

For more Survival Kit Ideas scan here:

Careful thought needs to be given to whether you stay and protect your property, or evacuate to a location not under threat of fire or as designated by the police. You can prepare your property to reduce the risks of fire impacting it. These steps are noted in the Step 2 slide noted above. However, if the fire danger rating is Catastrophic, we **strongly** recommend you take your family, pets, valuable documents and possessions and move to a safe location advised by the Police. Remember, our villages are on tank water and are vulnerable to power outages. Even with a petrol water pump and suitable fire hoses, your water supply will be consumed very quickly leaving you without protection.

A battery radio, local radio station apps on your phone or tablet, and the hazards near me app are all important ways of getting up to date with the latest fire information.

Members of the Kioloa RFB are available to talk to you, your family or community group about bush fire readiness. You can contact us on: kioloarfb@gmail.com