

On the road

Driving through smoke, ash and burning embers is stressful and dangerous. What is normally a 5-minute drive may take hours, be prepared and stay safe.

PREPARE for emergencies

- Prepare your protective clothing, emergency kit, and have a plan if bushwalking.
- Ensure your vehicle is accessible and has sufficient fuel.
- Monitor, listen and stay connected.
- Alert family and friends when you go bushwalking.

ACT when there is a bushfire

- Turn around and go back if you come across smoke while travelling, listen to the radio and ask locally for help to find a safer route.
- Be alert and follow any advice or directions provided by emergency services or ABC local radio.

SURVIVE a fire emergency

- Protect yourself from radiant heat. If you can't leave the area before a fire starts, cover exposed skin with natural fibre (e.g., wool, cotton) clothing and blankets to protect yourself from radiant heat.
- If a fire front passes, be prepared to encounter heat, flames, embers, smoke, loud noise, darkness, and power failure.
- If the situation allows, your best (but not guaranteed) protection is to take shelter in a well-prepared house or structure.

Stay informed and alert

- Check the Fire Danger Rating at fire.tas.gov.au
- Bookmark TasALERT.com and monitor the emergency warnings, alerts and Total Fire Bans issued in the state.
- Listen to ABC radio for bushfire warnings.
- Check the Tasmania Police website: police.tas.gov.au for road closures.
- Check bom.gov.au/tas for local weather forecast.
- Follow TFS Facebook page and TasALERT social media channels.
- Check with a visitor information centre about any risks of fire.
- Use your own senses: What's the weather look like?
Can you smell smoke? (It is possible that you may not get an official warning when bushfire happens.)
- Keep a hard copy of the local map. Do not rely on GPS or mobile phones as they may lose reception.

For warnings and alerts, tune into ABC radio as the emergency broadcaster.

Southern	East Coast
Hobart 936 AM DAB ABC Radio Hobart	Bicheno 89.7 FM
Maydena 936 AM / 89.7 FM	Fingal 1161 AM
North/North East	Orford 90.5 FM
Flinders Island 91.7 FM	St Helens 1584 AM
Launceston 91.7 FM	Swansea 106.1 FM
NE Tasmania 91.7 FM	St Marys 102.7 FM
Weldborough 97.3 FM	West Coast
North West	Queenstown / Zeehan 90.5 FM
Burnie 102.5 FM	Rosebery 106.3 FM
Devonport 100.5 FM	Savage River / Waratah 104.1 FM
King Island 88.5 FM	Strahan 107.5 FM
Lileah 91.3 FM	Waratah 103.3 FM



Tune in to your local radio station from anywhere using the free **ABC listen** app.



Tasmania
Fire Service

fire.tas.gov.au
1800 000 699



Bushfire safety for travellers



In an emergency
dial triple zero (000)

**CHECK TasALERT
REGULARLY FOR THE LATEST
WARNINGS AND ALERTS.**



TasALERT.com





Bushfire safety for travellers

Bushfires can occur without warning and may suddenly affect your travel route. Being out on the road during a bushfire is extremely dangerous – evacuating at the last minute can be deadly.

This leaflet is designed to help you prepare to travel during the bushfire season in Tasmania.

Tasmanian Fire Season

The bushfire season runs anytime from September to April, depending on the climate conditions of the year. During the season, fire restrictions and strict controls apply to lighting fires and using various tools and machinery.

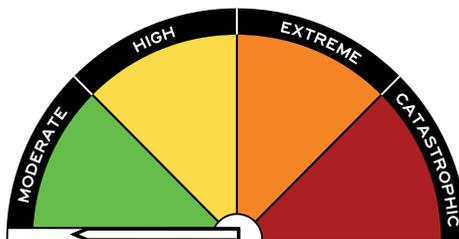
Know your risk

- A **Total Fire Ban** indicates it's a high-risk day, as it is usually issued on days where there are high temperatures, low humidity and strong winds.

Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) may declare Total Fire Bans in regions or across the whole state when weather conditions may cause fires to become uncontrollable. Activities that might start a fire are prohibited, such as charcoal barbecues and campfires. You can check if there is a Total Fire Ban in place at TasALERT.com, in a visitor centre, or by listening to ABC radio.



- **Fire Danger Rating** is another indicator of bushfire risk. It tells us how bad a bushfire could get if it does start on that day.



CATASTROPHIC FBI* 100+	<p>For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas.</p> <p>If a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are the most dangerous conditions for a fire. • Your life may depend on the decisions you make, even before there is a fire. • Stay safe by going to a safer location early in the morning or the night before. • Homes cannot withstand fires in these conditions. You may not be able to leave, and help may not be available.
EXTREME FBI 50-99	<p>Take action now to protect your life and property.</p> <p>Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check your bushfire plan and ensure that your property is fire ready. • 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. • Reconsider travel through bushfire risk areas. • Homes may not withstand fires in these conditions.
HIGH FBI 24-49	<p>Be ready to act.</p> <p>Fires can be dangerous.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There's a heightened risk. Be alert for fires in your area. • Decide what you will do if a fire starts. • If a fire starts, your life and property may be at risk. The safest option is to avoid bushfire risk areas.
MODERATE FBI 12-23	<p>Plan and prepare.</p> <p>Most fires can be controlled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay up to date and be ready to act if there is a fire.
<p>*The Fire Behaviour Index (FBI) is a simple numerical scale that can be used consistently across Australia. It runs from 0 to 100 and beyond, with increasingly high values indicating increasingly dangerous fire behaviour and therefore fire danger risk.</p>	

When there is a Total Fire Ban, or a HIGH or above Fire Danger Rating

- As fire may start and move rapidly on these days, consider changing your travel route or activities to avoid any bush areas.
- Avoid lighting a fire.
- If you are already in a bushland area, leave immediately and find out where is safe to go.
- Stay informed.

It would be useful to prepare a bushwalking plan and find out about the Nearby Safer Places across Tasmania in advance.

For more information about Nearby Safer Places, visit: fire.tas.gov.au/Show?pageld=colNearBySaferPlaces

- Tasmania uses the three-level **Australian Warning System for bushfire warnings**, which will provide information on the location of a bushfire and what you need to do to stay safer during a bushfire. While traveling in Tasmania, you should regularly monitor bushfire warnings issued on TasALERT.com.

For more information about the Australian Warning System in Tasmania, visit fire.tas.gov.au/warning-system-explained

 ADVICE	<p>You need to be aware.</p> <p>A fire is burning. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.</p> <p>(May also be used to advise that a threat has reduced.)</p>
 WATCH & ACT	<p>You need to get ready to act.</p> <p>A fire is burning and conditions are changing. Start taking action now to protect yourself and others.</p>
 EMERGENCY WARNING	<p>You need to act now.</p> <p>An Emergency Warning is the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay may put your life at risk.</p>