



BUSHFIRE Communities

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Are you fire ready?

- Many communities are.
- Some individuals are not
- Why?
- They don't think they are in a bushfire zone – “I don't live in the bush”
- They underestimate the threat – “It won't come near me.” “My lawn is still green.”
- “Surely this can't be another worst season ever.”

The urban rural fringe

- Fast moving grass fires, close to houses, not a typical bushfire area – eg: Seaford in Victoria last week.
- New residents – many with no history of fire.
- Many from countries without bushfires.
- Volunteer fire agencies struggle to recruit and retain fire fighters.
- How do we properly warn the unprepared and the uninterested?



Research results

- Most houses burn from ember attack – not from direct flames or heat.
- A well-prepared house can be defended
- The decision to stay and defend or leave early must be made early
- People are not making decisions early – it is too late to prepare if you can see the fire.



Research results

- High Fire Danger days – put your plan into action early.
- High Fire Danger days - if you plan to leave – leave early in the day.
- Many decide to Stay and Defend AND Leave late
- The most dangerous thing to do is evacuate at the last minute.



Research – where to now?

- Prepare, Stay and Defend or Leave Early – attracting international interest.
- This policy must continue to be backed by research.
- And it must better meet people's own expectations on what they take into consideration when deciding to stay and defend or leave.
- Communities – we need better warnings, better education, better media involvement.
- And better preparation - around the home and psychologically.