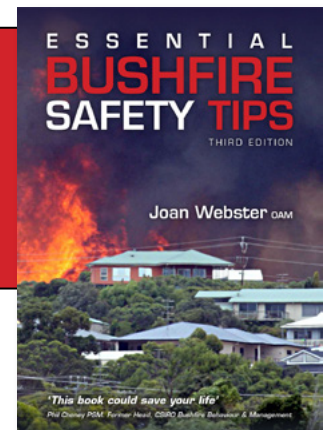


Joan Webster OAM's

3 CORE BUSHFIRE SAFETY PRIMER

Prepare your household for bushfire! This preface to Joan Webster's *Essential Bushfire Safety Tips* distils key issues into three core points to help you and your community survive.



BE PREPARED • BE PLANNED • BE PRACTISED

Bushfire Danger Aspects

- Intensity of fire
- Flame height, distance, exposure time
- Amount of skin exposed, flimsy clothes

Bushfire Threat Distinctions

- Bush/grass, mild/intense, sudden/forecast
- Topography, vegetation, housing density
- House style, garden type, preparation

Bushfire Threat Modifiers

- Weather on the day
- Vulnerability/safety of houses
- Preparation, personal reactions

Life Threats

- Heat: radiant, superheated air, steam
- Smoke and toxic gases
- Dehydration

Life Savers

- Protective clothes, pure wool blanket
- Nose cover
- Drinking enough water

Survival Blanket

- Must be pure wool; must be dry
- Radiant heat can't penetrate
- Embers can't ignite or melt

Smoke/Toxic Gas Protection

- Masks that filter 0.01µm
- Wet towel
- In-house fittings of natural fibres

Home Vulnerable Areas

- Roof/ceiling space
- Windows
- Subfloor

Home Destroyers

- Embers: most usual
- Flames: not usual
- Radiant heat: rarely

Home Savers

- Ember proofing
- Garden preparation
- Enough equipment, reserve water

Home Defence

- Limit water use until embers fall
- Limit activity to dousing embers
- Never attack approaching flames

Sheltering Safely

- Close windows, doors, seal gaps
- Wear protective clothing
- Shelter by door that opens to outside

Sheltering Dangerously

- Leaving doors, windows open
- Sheltering in an inner room
- Exiting while flames are close

Evacuating Safely

- Pre-test your destination route
- Leave before embers start to fall
- Leave only for somewhere safer

Car Safety

- Cars protect well from grassfire
- Cars may protect from mild fire
- Cars won't protect from forest fire

Township Danger Awareness

- Increased by poorly prepared perimeter
- House-to-house embers increase losses
- Vacated houses more easily destroyed

Township Safety Preparations

- Ex-town: reduce flammable undergrowth
- In-town: increase fire resistant plants
- Monitor public and private planting

Pet Safety Preparations

- Take to safety before risk days
- Update identity tags; photograph pets
- Make pure wool coats and covers

Pet Safety During Threat

- Keep in the house with you
- Leashes and cages kept handy
- Water, food in sturdy bowls

Stock Safety Preparations

- Stock refuges; sprinklers for stables
- Windbreaks and firebreaks
- Photograph valued stock, label photos

ESSENTIAL BUSHFIRE SAFETY TIPS

A science-based ready reference to empower everyone who reads it to feel safely prepared for bushfires.



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BE CLEARED • BE CLOTHED • BE CONTAINED