CFS FACT SHEET -  
BUSHFIRE WARNING  
MESSAGES

Fire can threaten suddenly and without warning so you should always be ready to act.

The CFS will provide as much information as possible to help you make an informed decision however you may not always receive an official warning directly.

Stay Informed

Look and listen for information on television, radio, internet, mobile phones and by speaking with neighbours.

Do not rely on a single source for emergency information.

Do not wait for a warning message before you act.

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Bushfire ‘Watch and Act’ & ‘Emergency Warning’ Messages

There are three levels of messages that can be issued during a bushfire on radio and the CFS website. These messages will alert you to danger so that you can take action.

However, if you are in a bushfire prone area it is important that you remain vigilant during the summer and do not rely solely on these messages as there is no guarantee you will receive one in time. A bushfire may impact upon you more quickly than CFS is able to respond.

The three levels of messages are:

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<th>Advice Message</th>
<th>Watch and Act message</th>
<th>Emergency Warning message</th>
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| A fire has started. There is no immediate danger. This is general information to keep you up to date with developments. A fire may pose no threat to life or property because:  
  • It is a small, controllable fire  
  • It is a fuel reduction burn being conducted by fire agencies  
  • It is a fire burning in a remote area away from people, homes or structures. | A fire is approaching, and conditions are changing. Your life may come under threat. You need to start taking action now to prepare for the approaching fire front and protect yourself and your family. | You will be impacted by fire and you need to take action immediately.  
This message will be preceded by an emergency warning signal (a siren sound) to get your attention. The message will also contain information about the severity of the fire, time to impact and what you should do. |

You should take all of these messages seriously and consider the information carefully.

Emergency Alert telephone warning system

In an emergency in your area, you may receive a message via your landline (to service location) or mobile (based on your service address) advising you of the nature of the emergency and where you can go for more information.

Remember that power failures will prevent cordless phones from working, fires may damage telephone infrastructure in your area, or the fire may be travelling too fast to get a warning out.

For more information on Emergency Alert please visit www.emergencyalert.gov.au