

What I Need to Know

- The QFRS, having responsibility for the protection of life, property and the environment, will make decisions in respect to dangers posed by bushfires. QFRS and Queensland Police Service (QPS) personnel will work together in the best interests of the community.
- Worldwide trends indicate that a pre-incident, planned cooperative approach to community protection is the key to communities surviving bushfire. Partnerships that include fire services, the community, land management agencies, local shire councils and other emergency service agencies are essential for the planning to occur and be documented in Operational and Fire Management Plans.
- Where it has been identified that a bushfire is encroaching upon and potentially threatening a community, QFRS Officers will collaborate with QPS Officers in relation to ordering the evacuation of the impacted homes or allowing those residents to remain with their property to defend it against fire in accordance with agreed protocols.

How I do it

Persons should only be allowed to stay in their home if:

- They are physically and mentally prepared,
- Their property is adequately prepared
- They are capable of defending their property
- They have a plan of action.

When implementing evacuation and community protection strategies, Officers should consider the following:

- Implement formal evacuation procedures for the risk areas identified;
- Provide fire protection to community evacuations;
- Provide support during post-impact or recovery stage;
- Communicate information of the fire threat to the community;
- Implement the necessary communication process to enable the community to be informed and the information flow to be maintained;
- Allow the community time to prepare for the threat, for example, schools may need evacuation, cancellation of community events, etc;
- Enable community members to instigate voluntary evacuations well before the danger period;
- Informing those of the community who are prepared to stay and defend to put into action defensive activities identified in QFRS bushfire education and awareness programmes;
- Informing communities of the traffic plan-safe egress routes and nominated safe refuge areas; and
- Informing the community when it is safe for normal activities to reoccur.

Reference Materials

Prepare, Stay and Defend or Go Early DVD