

What I Need to Know

- Bushfire is a natural occurrence and can be one of nature's most devastating forces. Its impact can, however, be reduced.
- More and more people are choosing a lifestyle of living in or near bushland on the outskirts of cities and towns. Local authorities are retaining significant undeveloped bushland within urban residential estates.
- People living in or near bushland may not appreciate the fire risks associated with their lifestyle choice and are often not aware of the preparation and precautions that can be taken to minimise bushfire risk and potential loss.
- Preparing and responding to bushfire is a responsibility shared between Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, local government, communities, and individual property or home occupiers.
- Part of the role of the Rural Fire Service is raising community awareness by alerting members of the public to the need for them to protect themselves and their properties from bushfire.
- Queensland Fire and Rescue Service has developed the *Bushfire Prepared Communities Education Package* to assist brigades in providing advice to the community. This program is intended to increase the level of awareness and preparedness in those communities that face a significant threat from bushfires.
- The Bushfire Prepared Communities Education Package operates at two levels.
 - The first sessions cover face-to-face community education in either small or large groups, street corner meetings and formal meetings in local halls or homes.
 - The second information exchange includes letterbox drops/door knocks/inserts in the local paper/distribution through community channels and mass media campaigns that may include television, radio or press advertising.
- These sessions can be conducted jointly by rural and urban officers. This is particularly applicable in iZone areas.

How I do it

- Inspect your area well in advance of the fire season to identify properties within communities at risk from bushfire. Get to know and appreciate the various types of properties and their layout. Consider:
 - geographical location (slope, aspect);
 - access to the properties and homes and proximity from a fire station;
 - proximity of structures to flammable vegetation;
 - housing construction types (timber exterior, open underneath, overhanging patios, crevices to catch embers, and those you consider safe such as brick and tile on slab);
 - the preparations if any made by occupants.
- Determine which community groups operate in your area and what their functions are.
- Access the Bushfire Prepared Communities Education Package from your Area Office.
- If any area adjoins an urban district, liaise with nearest QFRS (urban) station and determine whether a cooperative promotion is appropriate.

Reference Materials

- Area Reference Manual - Business Rule: A5.2.1 Monitor Education Programs for Bushfire Prepared Communities
- Bushfire Prepared Communities Education Package
- Brochures from QFRS Rural Operations