

SHELTERING IN YOUR OWN HOME



SHELTERING IN YOUR HOME DURING A BUSHFIRE SHOULD BE YOUR LAST OPTION, WHEN ALL OTHER PLANS FAIL AND YOU ARE UNABLE TO LEAVE. You need to be well prepared if you can no longer leave your property. Have an emergency kit prepared and ensure there is protective clothing and masks for everyone who may need to shelter.



IF IT IS TOO LATE TO LEAVE THE PROPERTY:

- ☐ Stay in the house when the fire front is passing.
- ☐ If people are expecting you to leave, let them know you are now staying.
- ☐ **People have died sheltering in bathrooms and other rooms without an exit door.** Take shelter inside in a room with two exits, furthest from the fire front. At least one exit must lead outside (do not shelter in your bathroom).
- ☐ Make sure all doors and windows are sealed as best as possible.
- ☐ Soak towels and rugs in water, and lay them along the inside of external doorways.
- ☐ Keep woolen blankets handy for protection against radiant heat.
- ☐ Take down curtains and push furniture away from windows.
- ☐ Remove flammable items from outside the house - like door mats.
- ☐ Get down low to limit your exposure to smoke.
- ☐ Actively defend your property by putting out spot fires.
- ☐ Remember to check the roof cavity through the manhole for any spot fires.
- ☐ Drink plenty of water to avoid becoming dehydrated.
- ☐ Shelter in the house for as long as possible.
- ☐ If your house catches fire and the conditions inside become unbearable, leave through the door furthest from the approaching fire and go to an area that has already been burnt.
- ☐ People die in a bushfire from radiant heat. Protect yourself with thick long sleeves and long trousers, strong leather boots, gloves and head protection.



For more information visit
dfes.wa.gov.au/bushfire

or contact DFES Community Preparedness:
Community.Preparedness@dfes.wa.gov.au
or **9395 9816**