



Bushfire Ready Training Information and Requirements

What is *Bushfire Ready*?

Bushfire Ready is a program managed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and led by the community, which encourages and supports local residents to work together in preparing their properties and protecting their families from bushfires.

The program aims to build the resilience of communities by providing the opportunity for neighbours to network, share ideas and information and develop and implement strategies to reduce their bushfire risk.

What does a *Bushfire Ready* Facilitator do?

The Facilitator plays a key role in **implementing the *Bushfire Ready* Program within their local area** by working in partnership with local bushfire stakeholders in undertaking regular community engagement and bushfire preparedness activities that help to reduce bushfire risk in the local area. This involves **engaging with their communities to recruit Street Coordinators** to help with implementing the program and to **identify local risks and apply strategies to encourage the community to take action** in preparing themselves, their families and their properties for bushfire.

They also provide **a source of key information for bushfire stakeholders on local community issues and concerns around bushfire risk.**

What are the requirements of the role?

Facilitators are required to fulfil their role through:

- **Developing and maintaining partnerships** with key bushfire stakeholders and local communities
- **Undertaking effective community engagement** and bushfire preparedness activities with established community groups regularly
- **Educating the community** through key messages, information and practical activities/strategies
- **Developing and maintaining communication** channels and support mechanisms for stakeholders, community members and local networks
- **Keeping records and providing feedback** and regular updates to DFES Community Engagement Officers

What knowledge and skills are required?

It is recommended that those who are nominated for the training have the following necessary knowledge and skills:

- Experience gained as a volunteer to **understand bushfire behaviour principles** at a basic level

- **Knowledge of property preparation, Fire Danger Ratings, Bushfire Warnings, Bushfire Plans and Emergency Kits**
- **Knowledge of and the ability to apply Community Engagement principles and techniques** following the completion of the Community Engagement Online Module
- **Ability to manage conflict through resolution and effectively communicate** with the ability to tailor communication styles for various individuals and groups
- **Ability to facilitate and coordinate group discussions and activities** to implement the Bushfire Ready program within the community
- **Ability to work effectively as part of a team and autonomously with individuals to motivate, lead and influence others**
- **Ability to plan, coordinate and manage various groups, activities and resources** including the **ability to keep detailed records and provide regular updates** to DFES within specified timeframes

What are the Pre-requisites?

Facilitators must be nominated and endorsed through their DFES/Local Government (LG) chain of command and are required to have at least **6 months experience as a member of a LG Bushfire Brigade, DFES Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service, Volunteer Emergency Service or Volunteer Fire Service** to be eligible to attend a *Bushfire Ready* Facilitator Training. The Training may also be relevant to career firefighters interested in supporting or implementing the program in gazetted fire districts.

Facilitators are also **required to complete the following online training module before attending** the *Bushfire Ready* Facilitator Training:

- **Community Engagement Online Module**

To receive the maximum benefit of this training it is recommended that Facilitators have completed the following training prior to commencing the *Bushfire Ready* Facilitator Training.

- **Introduction to Firefighting**
- **Introduction to Bushfire Firefighting**

Need Further Information?

If you would like to speak to someone to find out more information please contact the DFES All Hazards Coordinator on 08 9395 9895 or email communitypreparedness@dfes.wa.gov.au; alternatively (if available) please contact your local Community Engagement Officer.