



Talking Points

Key Messages

- Fire Danger Ratings tell us how dangerous a bushfire could be if one started, based on factors like the weather and the types of vegetation in the area.
- From 1 September 2022, Western Australia will have a new Fire Danger Rating system as part of a national project to ensure Fire Danger Ratings are communicated the same way, no matter where you are in Australia.
- The Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) provides people with simple, action-oriented information to help them protect themselves and others from bushfire.
- The AFDRS levels are:
 1. **Moderate: Plan and prepare.**
 - Most fires can be controlled.
 - Check your bushfire plan. If you do not have a plan, make one by visiting My Bushfire Plan (mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au).
 2. **High: Be ready to act.**
 - Fires can be dangerous.
 - Decide what you will do if a fire starts. Review your bushfire plan. If you do not have a plan, make one by visiting My Bushfire Plan
 3. **Extreme: Take action now to protect your life and property.**
 - Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous.
 - Put your bushfire plan into action. If you do not have a plan, visit My Bushfire Plan to decide when you will leave and where you will go.
 - If a fire starts, take immediate action. If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, plan to leave early.
 4. **Catastrophic: For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas.**
 - If a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost.
 - It may be too late to make a bushfire plan. Prepare your emergency kit and choose where you will go and different ways to get there.
 - Stay safe by going to a safer location early in the morning or the night before.
- The AFDRS will also introduce 'no rating' for days where bushfires are unlikely to spread in a dangerous or life-threatening way. On these days you still need to remain alert and abide by local seasonal laws and regulations.
- You can find your daily Fire Danger Rating at:
 - emergency.wa.gov.au
 - bom.gov.au
 - 13 DFES (13 3337)

What to do

- Check the Fire Danger Rating each day and monitor emergency.wa.gov.au for bushfire warnings.
- Ensure your bushfire plan is adaptable for the different levels of fire danger.
 - Your plan might include triggers at a High Fire Danger Rating.
 - Even if your property is very well prepared, homes cannot withstand fires in Catastrophic conditions and it is too dangerous to stay.
 - For further information about preparing for bushfire go to dfes.wa.gov.au/bushfire.
 - To create or review your bushfire plan go to mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au or download the app.

Supporting Messages

- Some activities may be restricted or prohibited based on the Fire Danger Rating.
- During the restricted burning period you cannot burn under a burn permit on days where the Fire Danger Rating is High, Extreme or Catastrophic. Always check the Fire Danger Rating for your area before commencing any burning on your property. (For information and resources to help you with planned burning, visit the DFES Planned Burning page at dfes.wa.gov.au/plannedburning).
- During the restricted burning period you cannot light a fire outdoors for camping or cooking on days where the Fire Danger Rating is High, Extreme or Catastrophic. Always check the Fire Danger Rating in your area before lighting up.
- During the restricted burning period restrictions may apply to agricultural or industrial activities. This varies across local governments - refer to your local government for more information.
- An Extreme or Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating will trigger a Total Fire Ban. Other restrictions may apply to agricultural and industrial activities. (You can find more information about Total Fire Bans at dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans).

When engaging with your community

- Include information about the AFDRS when educating your community about bushfire.
- Use the key messages to increase your community's understanding of the AFDRS.
- Provide information on how to access AFDRS resources:
 - Visit the DFES website.
 - Provide physical copies of the AFDRS resources including fact sheets, flyer and magnets.

About the project

The following messages are not vital for community to understand, however are provided in case you receive questions when engaging with your community.

- The AFDRS replaces the existing Fire Danger Rating system which has six ratings and is largely based on 60-year-old science.
- The change was informed by one of Australia's largest social research projects which found that most Australians do not understand the current system and would prefer a simpler, action-oriented set of Fire Danger Ratings.
- The Fire Weather Districts have been updated and many reduced in size to ensure the daily rating is applicable to the whole district.
- The science has been expanded to ensure we are better considering the various types of vegetation across our landscapes.
 - It uses the latest understanding about weather, fuel and how fire behaves in different types of vegetation to improve the reliability/accuracy of fire danger forecasts.
 - This enables emergency services to be better prepared, make improved decisions and provide better advice to the community.
- Across Australia the AFDRS will implement a consistent public-facing design to improve community awareness of fire danger:
 - The design retains similar colours and the iconic 'watermelon shape' of the existing Fire Danger Rating system.
 - The white bar across the bottom left (under Moderate) indicates 'no rating'.
 - Information for areas under a 'no rating' will be available on Emergency WA.