

BUSHFIRES NT

Rural block

Fire safety



*Protect Life, Property & Environment
from the threat of Wildfire*



Bushfires are a part of the Northern Territory landscape.

Fire may threaten people and property with little notice.

You must be prepared to manage fire on your property.



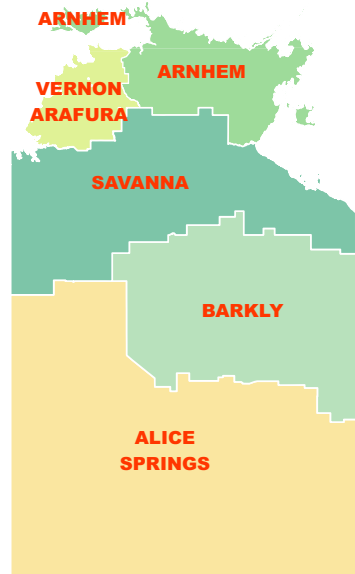
Bushfires NT is the lead government agency for rural bushfire management in the Northern Territory. Under its jurisdiction, there are 5 Fire Management Zones.

Bushfires NT works with landowners and the wider community to manage bushfire in the Northern Territory by providing support for mitigation, management and suppression activities, and by coordinating landowner and volunteer participation in response to significant bushfires.

Certain areas in the NT have been declared Fire Protection Zones (FPZ). FPZs are boundaries that typically exist around the population centres of the Territory. Within an FPZ, there are additional responsibilities for landholders. These include the requirement to prepare firebreaks, manage fuel loads, and obtain a permit to burn.

All landholders within FPZs must obtain a permit from Bushfires NT or a volunteer bushfire brigade to light a fire. Landholders outside FPZs are not required to obtain a permit to use fire, providing it is not during a Fire Danger Period and there is the capacity to control it.

The Fire Management Zones of the Territory



Access Fire Weather and Warnings on the Bureau of Meteorology website: bom.gov.au/nt

Fire Danger Periods

Fire Danger Periods are declared during the dry season in the north and during summer in central Australia. All landowners and occupiers must obtain a permit to burn during this time.

Fire Bans

A Fire Ban can be declared when fire conditions are dangerous. Fire Bans are announced on local radio and the SecureNT website. All permits to burn are void during a Fire Ban.

To find out more about your responsibilities visit: nt.gov.au/bushfires
securent.nt.gov.au

 facebook.com/BushfiresNT

Tips to prepare your block

Follow these tips to prepare your block for bushfire season

Firebreaks

- It is your responsibility to establish and maintain clear firebreaks on your property.
- Firebreaks must be installed around the perimeter of your property, as well as around your house or any other permanent structure, stationary engine or flammable materials. Make sure they are a minimum of 4m wide.
- Firebreaks should not have any vegetation more than 50mm high, and must be free from slashed or dead material.

General maintenance

- Clean out your gutters regularly and consider installing leafless guttering systems.
- Store fuel and anything flammable away from your house.
- Ensure animals are in well-cleared paddocks.
- Ensure your block number and property name are clearly visible at the front entrance to your block.

Bushfire plan

- It is the responsibility of landholders to manage fire on their land. Therefore, developing a bushfire plan will allow you to prepare for the possibility of bushfire affecting you and your neighbours' property.
- Prepare a bushfire plan with your family and ensure everyone knows their role.
- Your plan should include more than a list of things to do if a bushfire threatens your property. A good bushfire plan will also contain ways to manage your property to reduce the impact of a bushfire on your land. For example, make note of the best time of year to prepare firebreaks and reduce fuel loads.
- In the event of a bushfire, it is important to have a plan in place to safely manage fire on your property. This should also include a plan to leave if the fire is unmanageable.

For more information visit securent.nt.gov.au/prepare-for-an-emergency/bushfires/survival-plans

Hay

- Ensure that hay is fully cured before bailing and stored with adequate air flow.
- Look out for fire warning signs such as steam, unusual smells or slumping in the stacks.
- Take care when operating vehicles, machinery and equipment in areas where hay is stored.

Water supply

- Make sure you have enough water to fight a bushfire if you choose to stay. All pumps, hoses and fittings should be tested regularly. It's also a good idea to make sure your hoses are long enough to reach around your house.
- Portable diesel or petrol water pumps can be useful as bushfires can cause 'blackouts'.
- Setting up sprinklers to keep the ground, roof and walls damp in the event of a bushfire can be useful. However, exposed water lines can melt in the event of a bushfire, so consider burying them underground.

Fuel reduction

- Fires are fuelled by flammable material on the ground.
- Keep fuel loads to a minimum around your property by clearing away dried grass, dead leaves and branches.
- Trim back trees that overhang structures and control or eradicate grassy weed species.
- Maintain a well-cut, green lawn around your home.

Machinery and equipment

- Think twice before welding, grinding, slashing, mowing, using chainsaws or grading on hot, dry windy days, and only use in areas free from flammable material.
- Clean machinery thoroughly to minimise the build-up of grass on the undercarriage.
- Ensure spark arrestors are fitted where required.
- Avoid driving or stopping machinery in long dry grass.
- Ensure you have appropriate fire extinguishers or firefighting equipment when using machinery or equipment.

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY DIAL 000

WEATHER WARNINGS

1300 659 214

Local Volunteer Bushfire Brigade

Phone Number:

Doctor

Phone Number:

Vet

Phone Number:

Schools

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

Other

Phone Number:

Phone Number:

Bushfires NT – Darwin HQ

cnr Townend Road and Stuart Highway

Tel: 08 8922 0844

Bushfires NT – Katherine

32 Giles Street, Katherine
PO Box 532, Katherine NT 0851

Tel: 08 8973 8871

Bushfires NT – Alice Springs and Tennant Creek

3 Elder Street, Alice Springs
PO Box 2533, Alice Springs NT 0871

Tel: 08 8952 3066