



Bare earth, low vegetation and clean gutters are a great way to reduce bushfire risk on your property.

BUSHFIRES NT

# RURAL PROPERTY BUSHFIRE PLANNING GUIDE

## Are you prepared?

*Protect life, property & environment  
from the threat of wildfire*



## Having a bushfire plan helps:

- landowners understand and manage risk
- compliance with the Bushfire Management Act
- increase the level of community preparedness
- start a conversation between families and neighbours



Having your own fire truck and clear access trails is highly recommended

## Your legal responsibility

- You need a permit to burn all year around including for green waste piles. Contact your local bushfires brigade or Bushfires NT for a permit.
- Even with a permit you cannot burn on a fire ban day.
- You need a 4m minimum firebreak around the boundary of your property, structures and stationary engines. Firebreaks can be slashed, graded or sprayed with herbicide. Check if you can drive around these in a truck.
- Gamba grass must be managed within 15m of boundary, internal roads and structures.

## Making your place less flammable

- clean gutters and cut back overhanging trees
- sprinkler systems, green spaces and bare ground are effective in slowing fire down
- store flammable material in a safe place
- slash, burn, spray or graze grasses down with stock
- manage grassy weeds

## Things needed to fight the fire

- protective clothing
- portable water tank and pump
- water filling point such as a bore, dam, tanks or swimming pool
- long hoses

**remember  
radiant heat  
can kill**



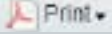
Firebreaks aren't there to stop fire, they provide safe access for firefighters



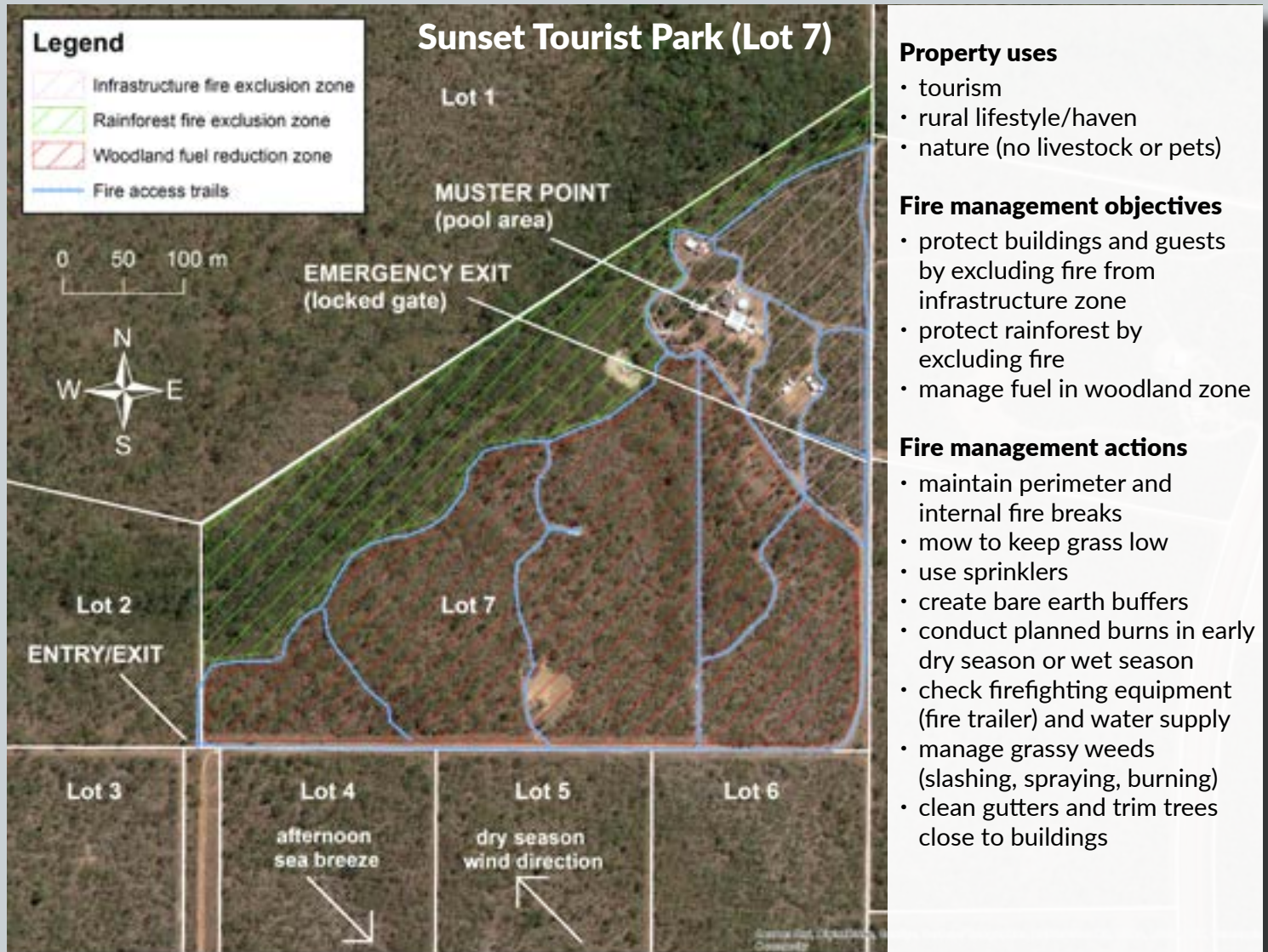
Keep flammable material away from structures



# Create your own bushfire plan

- find your property on NR Maps [nrmaps.nt.gov.au/nrmaps.html](http://nrmaps.nt.gov.au/nrmaps.html)
- from the left hand layers panel, **click the plus** next to basemaps and select **background** (e.g. Google satellite)
- go to the top line menu and select  **Print** — name your property, click **generate**
- on your map, list your **property uses** (e.g. horticulture - mangoes)
- list your **fire management objectives** (e.g. exclude fire from mangoes)
- mark zones, firebreaks and other features (e.g. water, irrigation, gates) and determine your **fire management actions** for each zone
- talk** to your neighbours about your plans and **record** their contact details

## Example: Small property bushfire plan for blocks less than 100ha



### Property uses

- tourism
- rural lifestyle/haven
- nature (no livestock or pets)

### Fire management objectives

- protect buildings and guests by excluding fire from infrastructure zone
- protect rainforest by excluding fire
- manage fuel in woodland zone

### Fire management actions

- maintain perimeter and internal fire breaks
- mow to keep grass low
- use sprinklers
- create bare earth buffers
- conduct planned burns in early dry season or wet season
- check firefighting equipment (fire trailer) and water supply
- manage grassy weeds (slashing, spraying, burning)
- clean gutters and trim trees close to buildings

LOT NUMBER	NAME	PHONE	NOTES
	Emergency	000	
	Bushfires NT Batchelor	8976 0098	
	My Volunteer Brigade	0300 000 001	
1	Jon Citizen	0300 000 002	Not home Tuesdays
2	Mary Smith	0300 000 003	Weekender
3	Tuan Ngyuen	0300 000 004	Market gardener
4	Thor Strongman	0300 000 005	Retired
5	Minh Yeow	0300 000 006	Vacant block
6	Wanda Pluto	0300 000 007	Earthmoving company
7	Manolis Sikarkis	0300 000 008	Sunset Tourist Park

# Stay or go? You decide

When a wildfire comes you must decide whether to leave early or stay and defend. Either way, being prepared will reduce the risk to your family and property.

Think about the following:

- Can you see smoke?  
If so, what direction is it?  
Where is the wind coming from?
- **Call 000**, they will contact Bushfires NT who will respond appropriately.
- Is your property clearly identified with a street number or lot number?
- Where will you go if you leave?
- Are gates locked? Leave unlocked during wildfires.
- Plan for pets/livestock (e.g. have horse in float and prearrange friend where you can take it).
- Move stock into grazed paddocks.
- Activate your Bushfire Action Plan (example below).



Sprinklers can be used to wet down vegetation in the event of wildfire

## Wildfire information

- Check the Fire Incident Map for updates [www.pfes.nt.gov.au/incidentmap](http://www.pfes.nt.gov.au/incidentmap)
- Bushfires NT Facebook page [www.facebook.com/BushfiresNT](http://www.facebook.com/BushfiresNT)
- Bushfires NT Twitter [twitter.com/bushfiresnt](https://twitter.com/bushfiresnt)
- Check bushfire alerts on SecureNT [securent.nt.gov.au](http://securent.nt.gov.au)

### Example Bushfire Action Plan: Sunset Tourist Park

Alert level	What it means	Your plan
Emergency Warning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• highest level of bushfire alert</li> <li>• you may be in danger and need to take action immediately</li> <li>• any delay now puts your life at risk</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> leave or retreat to safe zone <input type="checkbox"/> ensure all visitors are leaving/have left
Watch and Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is a heightened level of threat</li> <li>• conditions are changing</li> <li>• take action now to protect your family and your property</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> call local bushfire brigade or neighbours <input type="checkbox"/> unlock all gates to allow easy access for fire brigade <input type="checkbox"/> prepare firefighting equipment <input type="checkbox"/> ask visitors to prepare to leave (e.g. move caravans off site)
Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a fire has started in the area</li> <li>• monitor the situation for changes</li> <li>• decide what to do if situation changes</li> <li>• check social media/websites to stay informed</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> turn sprinklers on <input type="checkbox"/> inform visitors of the situation <input type="checkbox"/> advise guests of muster point location <input type="checkbox"/> contact friends/neighbours for assistance <input type="checkbox"/> monitor situation

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from the threat of wildfire*



Darwin 8922 0844 | Batchelor 8976 0098 | Katherine 8973 8871 | Tennant Creek 8962 4577 | Alice Springs 8952 3066

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**IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY DIAL 000**