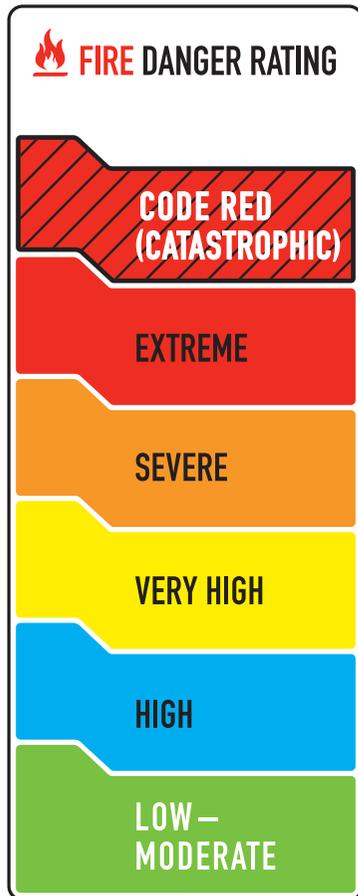


# Understanding Fire Danger Ratings



## Fire Danger Rating (FDR)

A Fire Danger Rating is a prediction of fire behaviour, including how hard it would be to put out a fire once it starts.

It provides information on:

- the sort of bushfire behaviour that could be experienced on that day
- the type of threat bushfires may pose to life and property on any day given the forecast weather conditions.

A new Fire Danger Rating Barometer will alert you to danger so you can take action.

Fire Danger Ratings will be a feature of weather forecasts and alert you to the actions you should take in preparation for and on the day. It will be in newspapers, broadcast on radio, TV and on websites. A Fire Danger Rating is a prediction of fire behaviour, including how hard it would be to put out a fire once it starts.

For more information contact the Victoria Bushfire Information line 1800 240 667 or go to [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au).

**PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.**  
**FireReady** 

Victoria has adopted the new nationally agreed Fire Danger Rating scale to help communities understand information about fire danger. This new scale recognises the significant increase in severe bushfire conditions over the past decade and the subsequent greater level of danger to the community, as experienced by Victorians on Saturday 7 February 2009.

## Fire Danger

Every day during the fire season the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) forecasts an outlook of the fire danger index (FDI) by considering elements of the predicted weather including temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and dryness of vegetation.

When determining the Fire Danger Rating, fire agencies, in consultation with the BoM, consider a range of other factors relating to that area and day.

These factors include:

- the length of time the fire danger index has been elevated
- extent of fire already in the landscape
- fuel and dryness
- likelihood of weather events such as lightning and grass fuel conditions.

FIRE DANGER	RECOMMENDED ACTION
CODE RED (CATASTROPHIC)	The safest option is to leave early in the morning or the night before.
EXTREME	The safest option is to leave early in the day if you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival plan is to leave. Only stay if your home is well prepared, well constructed and you can actively defend it.
SEVERE	The safest option is to leave early in the day if you live in a bushfire prone area. Only stay if your home is well prepared and you can actively defend it.
VERY HIGH	If you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave, the safest option is to leave at the beginning of a day.
HIGH	Check your Bushfire Survival Plan.
LOW-MODERATE	Check your Bushfire Survival Plan.



# FIRE DANGER RATING

**CODE RED  
(CATASTROPHIC)**

**EXTREME**

**SEVERE**

**VERY HIGH**

**HIGH**

**LOW –  
MODERATE**

Fire Behaviour	Impact Potential	What Should I Do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fires may be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving – flames will be higher than roof tops.</li> <li>Thousands of embers will be blown around.</li> <li>Spot fires will start, move quickly and come from many directions, 20 km or more ahead of the fire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People may die or be injured. Thousands of homes and businesses may be destroyed.</li> <li>Well prepared, well constructed and well defended homes may not be safe during the fire.</li> </ul> <p><b>DO NOT EXPECT A FIRE TRUCK</b></p>	<p><b>The safest option is to leave early in the morning or the night before.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaving is the safest option for your survival if you live in a bushfire prone area – finalise your options for relocation.</li> <li>Activate your Bushfire Survival Plan – Now.</li> <li>Prepare to leave – check your <i>Fire Ready Kit</i>.</li> <li>Monitor the weather and fire situation in any way you can: through CFA website, ABC or local radio, TV and newspapers.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fires may be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving – flames will be higher than roof tops.</li> <li>Thousands of embers will be blown around.</li> <li>Spot fires will start, will move quickly and come from many directions, up to 6 km ahead of the fire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People may die and be injured. Hundreds of homes and businesses may be destroyed.</li> <li>Only well prepared, well constructed and actively defended houses are likely to offer safety during a fire.</li> </ul> <p><b>DO NOT EXPECT A FIRE TRUCK</b></p>	<p><b>The safest option is to leave early in the day if you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave. Only stay if your home is well prepared, well constructed and you can actively defend it.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activate your Bushfire Survival Plan – Now.</li> <li>Prepare for the emotional, mental and physical impact of defending your property – if in doubt, leave.</li> <li>Monitor the weather and fire situation in any way you can: through CFA website, ABC or local radio, TV and newspapers.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fires may be uncontrollable and move quickly – flames may be higher than roof tops.</li> <li>Expect embers to be blown around.</li> <li>Spot fires may occur up to 4 km ahead of the fire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a chance people may die and be injured. Some homes and businesses will be destroyed.</li> <li>Well prepared and actively defended houses can offer safety during a fire.</li> </ul> <p><b>DO NOT EXPECT A FIRE TRUCK</b></p>	<p><b>The safest option is to leave early in the day if you live in a bushfire prone area. Only stay if your home is well prepared and you can actively defend it.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare for the emotional, mental and physical impact of defending your property – if in doubt, leave.</li> <li>Only stay if your home is well prepared and you can actively defend it.</li> <li>Check your Bushfire Survival Plan – Now.</li> <li>Monitor the weather and fire situation in any way you can: through CFA website, ABC or local radio, TV and newspapers.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fires can be difficult to control – flames may burn into the tree tops.</li> <li>Embers may be blown ahead of the fire.</li> <li>Spot fires may occur up to 2 km ahead of the fire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a low chance people may die or be injured. Some homes and businesses may be damaged or destroyed.</li> <li>Well prepared and actively defended houses can offer safety during a fire.</li> </ul>	<p><b>If you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave, the safest option is to leave at the beginning of a day.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you live in a bushfire prone area and you plan to leave; finalise your options and leave early on the day.</li> <li>Only stay if your home is well prepared and you can actively defend it.</li> <li>Check your Bushfire Survival Plan – Now.</li> <li>Monitor the weather and fire situation in any way you can: through CFA website, ABC or local radio, TV and newspapers.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fires can be controlled.</li> <li>Embers may be blown ahead of the fire.</li> <li>Spot fires can occur close to the main fire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of life is highly unlikely and damage to property will be limited.</li> <li>Well prepared and actively defended houses can offer safety during a fire.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Check your Bushfire Survival Plan.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make sure your family and property are well prepared for the risk of bushfire.</li> <li>Review and practise your bushfire plan for different scenarios (e.g. kids at school/home, visitors).</li> <li>Know where to get more information – CFA website.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fires can be easily controlled.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is little to no risk to life and property.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Check your Bushfire Survival Plan.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make sure your family and property are well prepared for the risk of bushfire.</li> <li>Review and practise your bushfire plan for different scenarios (e.g. kids at school/home, visitors).</li> <li>Know where to get more information – CFA website.</li> </ul>