

# Pet Fire Safety

Pets mean a lot to families. In high fire risk days decide whether you will keep your pets with you or move them elsewhere. Pet owners rarely leave without their pets.

Pet evacuation kit

1. food and water
2. Treats and collars
3. Leash or cat container
4. Litter towels animal clean up - plastic bag
5. Medications and microchip
6. Spare collar, lead and other special items

**Charlie's Lucky Escape** In 2013 the fires ripped through the Peninsula burning everything in its path including a little dog called Charlie. With his body 50% burnt he escaped from the fire. A police man found him on the side of the road. He became a media celebrity. He was treated by a vet and with the help of a microchip he was re-united with his grateful owners. five weeks later his he was a fully recovered little happy chappie. My lucky dog! By Tobias

## What would you do if...

### Scenario 1

You're at home watching the news. You hear that there's a bush fire at Dunalley Primary and your kids are there. When you get there what would you do? Would you grab your kids and go? Or would you let the teachers and fire-fighters deal with it?

### Scenario 2

You're riding your bike and you see lots of smoke from a bushfire and you are far away from home. What would you do? Would you go to the nearest telephone box and ring your parents or would you ring the fire brigade?

### Scenario 3

If there was a bush fires at Dunalley near the school what would you do? Would you stay home or would you help the kids evacuate from the school?

### Summary

**If you decide on defending your house it needs to have been well-prepared with defensible space. If you decide to leave your home, leave early, not at the last minute. If you can see the bushfire, it is too late to change your mind.**

**Sit down with your family and work out a fire plan for different scenarios.**

Get a **Bushfire Survival Plan** from the Tasmanian Fire Service [www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au)



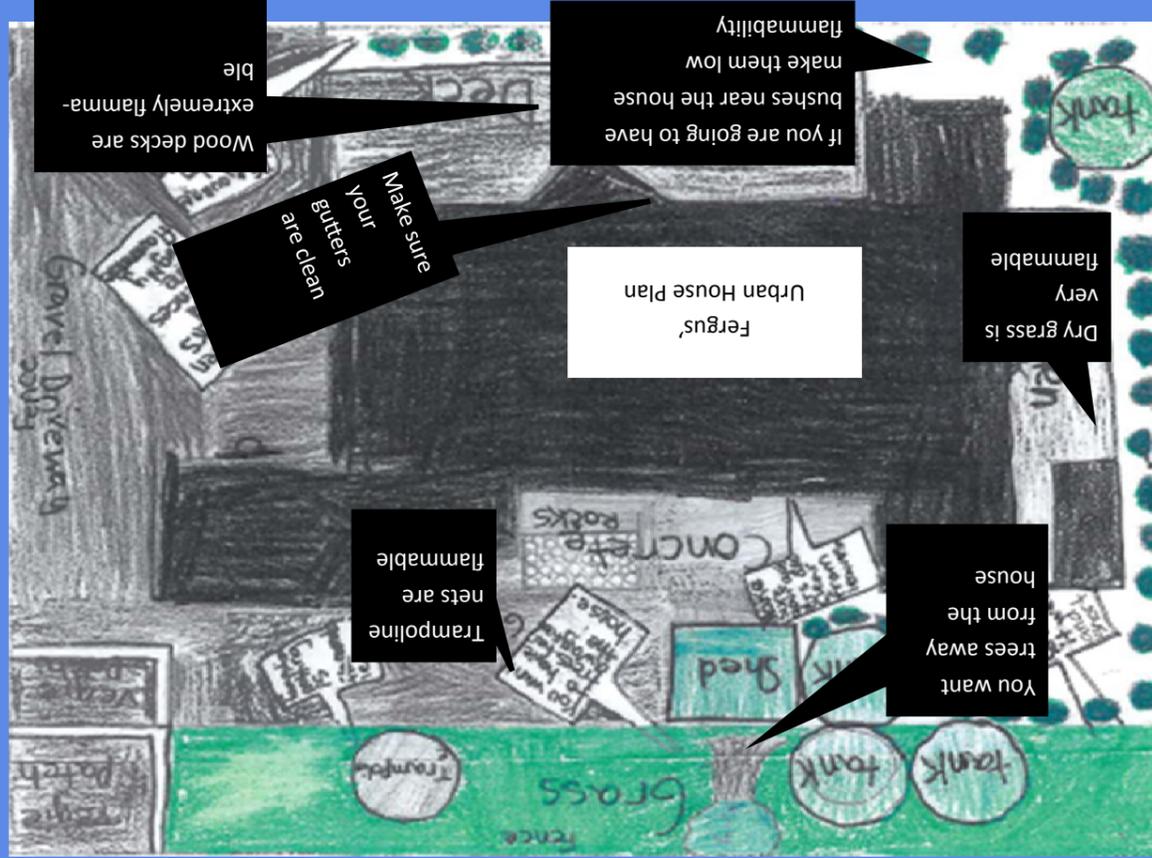
## STAY/defend or LEAVE early?

Fire Danger Rating	IT DEPENDS ON THE FIRE RATING
<b>Catastrophic FDR &gt; 100</b>	Most fires will spread rapidly and be uncontrollable. Leaving early is the safest option for your survival - regardless of any plans to stay and defend your home.
<b>Extreme (75-99)</b>	Some fires will spread rapidly and be uncontrollable. Leaving early is the safest option for your survival. Only well-constructed, well-prepared and actively defended homes (that have been assessed by fire fighters as defensible under such conditions) are likely to offer safety during a fire.
<b>Severe (50-74)</b>	
<b>Very High (25-49)</b>	Some fires will spread rapidly and be uncontrollable. Unless you have created a defensible space around your home, you should not plan to defend it.
<b>High (12-24)</b>	Fires breaking out can be controlled. Well-prepared and actively defended homes can offer safety during a fire.
<b>Low-Moderate (0-11)</b>	Fires can be controlled easily. There is little risk to people or property. Make sure you, your family and your property are well-prepared for the risk of bushfire.



1 oxygen 2 fuel 3 heat

The way the fire triangle works is to show that fire needs three things: Understanding fires. The fire triangle is an important tool for



## Get your house fire ready

High flammability plants  
High oil content  
Lots of dead material  
Thick, stringy bark  
Tall open leaves  
Leaf litter underneath

Low flammability plants  
High moisture content  
Broad fleshy leaves  
Low and dense  
No dead material  
Smooth trunks



Some plants are more flammable than others, but all plants in the garden - living or dead - can provide fuel for a bushfire. The moisture content in a plant is the most important factor that determines how

**What Plants Are Best For Our Gardens?**  
\*Green ground-cover plants can reduce the speed of a fire.  
\*Plants that produce a lot of leaf litter should be avoided.  
\*Choose plants with open and loose branches as well as leaves that are thinly spread.  
\*Wide, flat and thick leaves and those that are soft and fleshy have more plant tissue. This means larger moisture content is in that plant.

## A Low Flammability Garden

# Be Bushfire Safe!

## WHAT THE JUNIOR FIRE BRIGADE HAVE LEARNT

All the sizes of the hoses-

16 32, 64 mm

All the fire equipment – here are some safety things:

Breathing apparatus, extinguisher, overalls, boots, helmet, gloves, goggles

The fire triangle (the 3 elements for fire)

Heat, oxygen, fuel

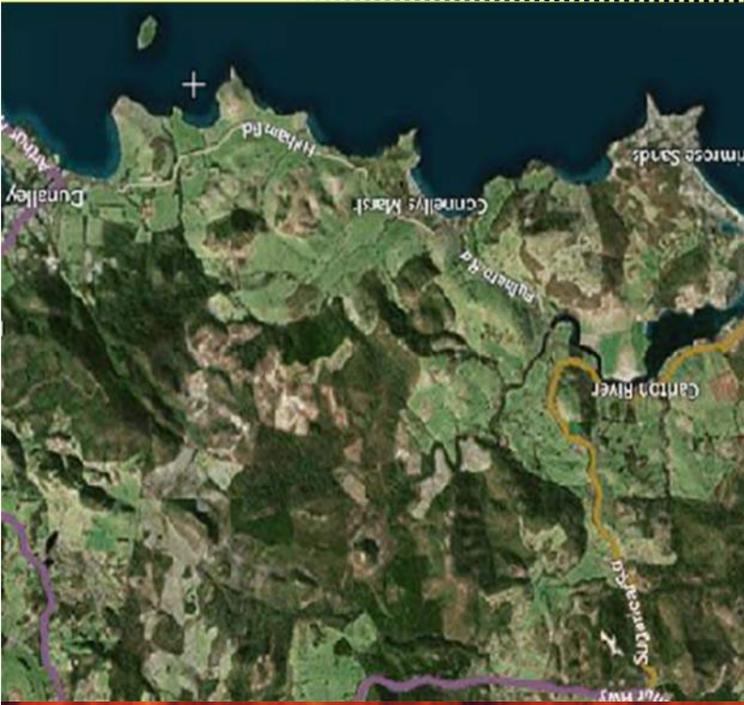
Things you need to have a fire or there is no fire! –

You cannot have a fire without: heat, oxygen and fuel

The fire trucks we have at Dunalley fire brigade -

We have a 5.1 which is a smaller, off-road truck

The 5.3 is a bigger truck that we use in the urban area.



### Interview with Dunalley Fire Chief Aaron Millar

#### What are the most important things for getting fire ready.

The most important thing is to make a plan and then practice that plan so all the family know what they are going to do in the event that a bushfire does come. If the plan is to leave everyone should know where it is that the family is going to go. If the plan is to stay, then as part of the plan the house should be prepared to be defended during a bushfire. Move plants, wood piles and other things that like to burn away from the house. Ensure the lawns and other vegetation is trimmed around the house, and make sure you have a reliable water supply and some method of pumping it, but do not rely on the power off the street. These are just a few of many preparation tips which can be found on the Tasmanian Fire Service website.

#### How common are extreme bushfires?

Extreme bush fires like the one in Dunalley in 2013 have not been that common over the last 50 years. In fact the last one in Tasmania was in 1967.

There are less and less people burning off, and current weather patterns seem to bring hotter and dryer summers. Under these conditions, experts predict that extreme bushfires will become more common.

#### Dunalley fire history

The Dunalley Fire Brigade covers from Guns Hill in the north., Lizard hill on the south. Out to the water on the east and to Connelly's Marsh on the west. Within this area the Dunalley Fire Brigade attends to an average of 10 bushfires every year. Some of these are very small and some are very large.

To my knowledge, there have been three extreme bushfires on record through Dunalley.

#### How many members in the Dunalley Fire Brigade?

The Dunalley Fire Brigade has 22 fire fighter members (5 Female, 17 Male), 2 Cadet Members and 9 Junior Members. The juniors train from 6:00 - 7:30 and the seniors from 7:30 - 9:00 every Wednesday.

#### Something else from the Fire Chief

The fire that came through Dunalley in 2013 burnt a lot of vegetation that had gathered on the ground over many years. In regards to bushfire, Dunalley is now the safest it has been for a long time in regards to bushfires, as there is very little trees or bush left to burn. Extreme bushfires are highly possible in some other parts of Tasmania, but this is very unlikely in Dunalley for a few years to come. Especially if people get prepared.



Produced by the Grade  
5/6 students Dunalley  
Primary School 2014



For more information  
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dunalley.primary@  
education.tas.gov.au

## The Leave Early Checklist!

### When to go:

Leaving early is safest. Go when there is a very high fire danger or a fire nearby. Leave plenty of time.

### Remember to:

Provide access and water for the fire fighters

Check if there is any blocked drain-pipes and fill gutters with water

Remove flammable items such as deck chairs and mats from outside

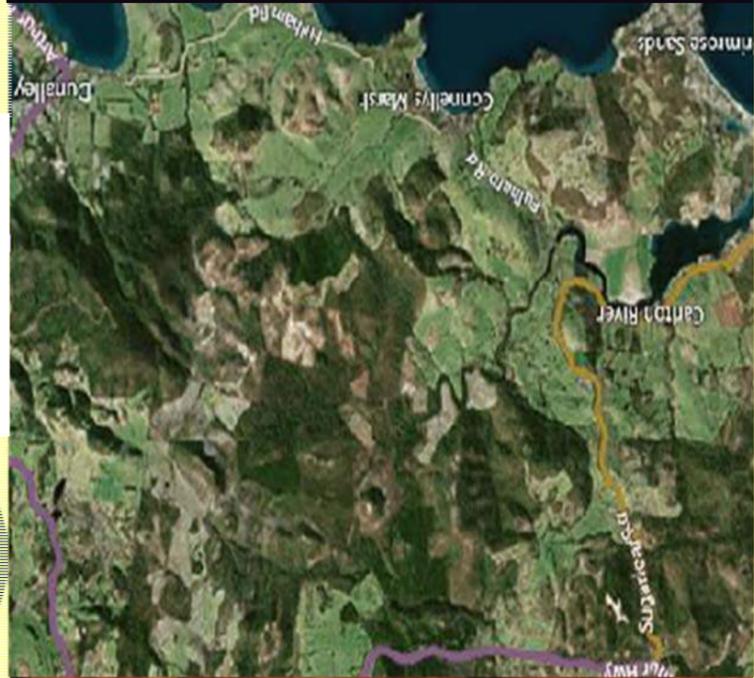
### Make a relocation kit: take

- important, valuable things, anything small and not replaceable
- food and water
- clothes
- glasses
- mobile phone and charger
- wallet/purse
- money and credit cards
- favourite toys

Pets will need food, water, shade and somewhere safe to stay. Relocate large animals to open paddocks with some shade.

### Where to go:

- go somewhere nearby that is safe
- plan your route
- make sure your car has enough fuel
- tell your neighbours where you are going



# Get into ACTION!