

## STRATHBOGIE TABLELANDS BUSHFIRE INFORMATION

This document is produced by the Strathbogrie Tableland Action Group (STAG) with the intent of providing information for local residents and property owners about bushfire preparation and responses specific to the particular features and hazards on the Tablelands. Please note this is information, not advice, and it is important to reflect on your own personal circumstances in any decision making.

“Your Guide to Survival” is the CFA’s main bushfire season publication and contains critical information and checklists to help you prepare your property and make a plan ahead of the fire season. It also contains information on understanding the fire danger ratings, where to access information and warnings, what to expect during a fire and last resort options. We recommend this as a starting point for your planning ahead of the fire season:

[https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/335/CFA%20Your%20Guide%20to%20Survival%20\(Versions%206\).pdf.aspx?Embed=Y](https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/335/CFA%20Your%20Guide%20to%20Survival%20(Versions%206).pdf.aspx?Embed=Y)

Properties on the Tablelands range from substantial farms to lifestyle bush blocks to semi-urban properties in and around the township. Each will have different levels of risk due to their location and land management. Work out the individual hazards associated with your own property to make a rational assessment of how well it can be defended, if at all, in a fire event. Remember to consider your current physical and mental health in your planning. Many Tablelanders plan to leave early if conditions are predicted to be extreme or catastrophic.

### Local Radio Frequencies that provide emergency broadcasts:

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| * ABC local radio Shepparton/Goulburn Murray 97.7 FM; | * ABC Melbourne 774 AM |
| * Albury 106.5 FM;                                    | * Mansfield 103.7 FM;  |

Listening in to UHF Channel 13 on the Tablelands: It's OK to listen in to Channel 13 but you should **NEVER** use it to talk on – it is an extremely important communication resource for the CFA.

### Risks of travelling on and off the Tableland in emergencies:

We are dependent on private vehicles to move around the Tableland and travel to nearby areas. While our roads are fit for general purpose they can be heavily impacted by fire and storms. Hazards may include:

- fallen trees, which can block a road both in front of and behind you
- dense smoke, which reduces visibility to a few metres and can cause disorientation
- exposure to fire in roadside vegetation
- driving into another area of fire when attempting to escape
- collision with other vehicles, including fire-fighting units.
- collision with panicked stock or wildlife

When a major fire is threatening the Tablelands, NO road here can be considered safe for travel, and all roads on and off the Tablelands may be closed quite early during a fire.

**When a major fire strikes the Tablelands don't expect a fire truck!** There are only four CFA firefighting tanker units based on the Tableland. There is no guarantee that any of them will be able to come to your aid. They may be deployed elsewhere or unable to reach your property.

**Where is our *Bushfire Place of Last Resort (BPLR)* (previously known as *Bushfire Neighbourhood Safer Place*)**

Our BPLR is only guaranteed to be opened for a day that is officially rated as *Catastrophic*. It may not be staffed (or have CFA presence). Smoke, fallen trees, fire fighting vehicles and burning roadside vegetation may make it very difficult and dangerous to get to the BPLR. Remember, these are only a place of last resort if all your fire plans have failed, they are not for people who wish to leave early. The Strathbogie Golf Clubhouse, in Armstrong Ave, Strathbogie is our designated BPLR. Locations such as the Strathbogie Memorial Hall, the Recreation Ground or Polly McQuinns, are not official BPLR.

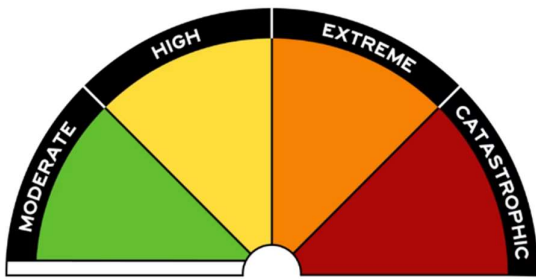
**After the fire:**

After a major fire it may be some time until you are able to return to your home, roads may be closed and authorities may deem the area unsafe. Supplies of essential services may also be damaged or destroyed.

**Looking after each other:**

Because we are such a scattered community, we necessarily rely on each other, especially during emergencies. Stay in touch with neighbours, alert them when you've got information (such as a warning you've heard) or ask them if they've heard any news. Check on elderly or unwell neighbours and make sure that they have plans for leaving early. Tell each other if you are leaving and indicate how you can be contacted. This is important when trying to account for everyone after an emergency.

One excellent way of organising neighbourly support is to form a Community Fireguard Group. Community Fireguard is a CFA-facilitated program that helps neighbourhood groups work together to plan for fire and manage their own fire risk. Contact the Strathbogie Tablelands Emergency Subcommittee or Emily Guthrie (CFA) [Emily.Guthrie@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:Emily.Guthrie@cfa.vic.gov.au) if you wish to learn more.



There are four ratings, and their recommendations are:

- **Moderate: Plan and prepare.** You should stay up to date and be ready to act if there is a fire.
- **High: Prepare to act.** There is a heightened risk of fires in your area. Enact your bushfire fire plan and decide what you will do if one starts.
- **Extreme: Take action now to protect your life and property.** Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous. Enact your bushfire plan and make sure you and your property are ready. Consider leaving early to a safer location.
- **Catastrophic: For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas.** If a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost. Stay safe by going to a safer location early in the morning, or even better, the night before.

#### Links to further information:

Check our local community website: <https://strathbogie.org/> The Emergency Tab contains more very local information and resources including the Strathbogie Township Protection Plan.

Strathbogie Shire Municipal Emergency Management Plan:  
[20230504-Strathbogie-Shire-Council-MEMP-2023-2026.pdf](#)

Strathbogie Shire Municipal Fire Management Plan:  
[20200624-SSC-Endorsed-Fire-Plan-MFMP-V8 min.pdf \(strathbogie.vic.gov.au\)](#)

CFA website “Plan and Prepare” section:  
<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare>

Strathbogie Shire Council Emergency Preparedness Page:  
[www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/services/emergency-preparedness/prepare-and-plan/](http://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/services/emergency-preparedness/prepare-and-plan/)

State Government Agency Websites:

[www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au)  
[www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au)

[www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)  
[www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

**Please fill in this form and put it somewhere accessible, e.g. on the fridge.**

## **FIRE EMERGENCY: RING TRIPLE ZERO (000)**

- Listen to ABC 774 AM radio
- Our Fire Weather District: Northern Country/North East
- State CFA Region 22

### **Our address:**

Rural road address, including #:

Nearest road intersection:

GPS Location:

### **Emergency numbers:**

### **Other contacts:**

### **Our COMMUNITY FIREGUARD GUARD GROUP members:**

### **Our UHF Channel:**