



Bushfire safety: Whose responsibility?

Extract from *Victorian Bushfire Safety Policy Framework*, Fire Services Commissioner – Victoria, 2010

Victoria is one of the most fire prone areas in the world.

It is vital that all Victorians understand their personal bushfire risk and that leaving early before a bushfire starts is the only guarantee of survival.

Bushfire safety is a shared responsibility between the community and the State.

The State is responsible for assisting people to assess their bushfire risks, better prepare and plan their response and act upon their plans when and where required. The State will provide advice on such things as preparation and planning, warnings, protective actions, evacuation, fighting fire at home and shelter outside the home.

However, the ultimate responsibility for safety during a bushfire lies with an individual making informed decisions for themselves and their families and taking appropriate action when required. Even with improved awareness and decision making, not everyone will be adequately prepared for bushfires and even those people who are well prepared will require other contingency options to cover a range of circumstances that the threat of bushfire or actual bushfire presents.