



Carson family Bushfire Survival Plan

Preparing the property for bushfire season	<p>The whole family will have several working weekends in October for clearing leaf litter, trimming shrubs and cutting grass.</p> <p>Chris and Lana have invested in a roof sprinkler system.</p> <p>Chris cleaned all the roof gutters and replaced plastic gutter guard with metal mesh.</p> <p>The wood pile used for the open fire was relocated 30 metres away from the house, near the bush on the open north side of the house.</p>
Trigger to leave	<p>Lana, the children and Aroha will leave as soon as a Severe fire day is declared. They will take the family car and travel north to the local township ten kilometres away and stay with close friends in town until the danger rating returns to lower levels.</p> <p>Chris will stay to defend with help from two neighbours, unless the rating shifts to Extreme or Code Red. In that instance, he will do all the house 'close-down' jobs, activate the roof sprinkler and head to the town in the ute, leaving the gate open.</p>
Relocation kit	<p>The whole family would assemble the main relocation kit before they went on holidays. The more immediate items would be added when they had the trigger to leave.</p>
Final preparations leading up to High and Very High fire-risk days	<p>The family will defend the home in all times up to and including Very High bushfire danger days. With help from the neighbours, Chris will defend on Severe days, but will leave early on Extreme and Code Red days.</p> <p>The house will be wetted down by the roof sprinkler.</p> <p>Chris and Lana will block downpipes so that the gutters fill with water.</p> <p>A petrol water pump will be connected to dam water pipes and be used to wet house surrounds and put out spot fires.</p> <p>Three knapsacks will be kept filled and ready in the garage along with mops and water-filled buckets.</p> <p>Lana and Aroha will prepare a list of contact names and phone numbers and enter all numbers in the three mobile phones.</p>

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	<p>Lana will keep the children and small pets inside the house and seal the doors and windows.</p> <p>Vehicles will be checked for fuel, food and water</p> <p>Jeni and Graeme will complete relocation kits in case the fire conditions worsen and the rating goes to Severe.</p>
<p>Final preparations leading up to Extreme fire-risk days</p>	<p>The family will not try to actively defend the property in days of Extreme or Code Red fire ratings. They will leave early.</p> <p>Before leaving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris and Lana will fill gutters with water and turn off mains electricity and gas. • Chris and Lana will select and pack important family documents and records. • Aroha and Jeni will keep contact with local Community Fireguard Group via telephone. • Graeme will secure the dog and the cats in carry-cages in the back of the ute. • Lana will pack car boot with pre-packed individual bags, and lay out protective clothing for all family. • Jeni will blanket the horse and release her into the dam paddock. • Jeni and Aroha will regularly check Fire Danger Ratings, weather warnings and fire incidents online, and ensure everyone is kept up to date. • Chris will check all the firefighting gear, pump and sprinkler. <p>All the family will leave in the car and ute, and travel as a convoy.</p>
<p>Relocation and backup plan</p>	<p>Plan A: Drive ten kilometres down the main road to the local town with the Neighbourhood Safer Places, and stay with their friends until the danger has passed.</p> <p>Plan B: If fire actually threatens the town, travel south down the main road, away from the town, to the highway and on to Melbourne to stay with Uncle Bruce until the fires have passed.</p>
<p>Letting others know</p>	<p>Jeni will call immediate family, close friends, the immediate</p>

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of our whereabouts	neighbours via mobile to tell them where they are, how they are travelling, the location they are heading for and what route they are taking.
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Contents of the Carson family's relocation kit:

- All medications needed for family members
- Woollen and fire-resistant blankets (5)
- Papers: list of important contact numbers, copies of insurance documents, passports, birth certificates and other important papers
- Basic toiletries for all the family
- Spare keys to the house and cars
- Torches and batteries
- Car charger for mobile phone

Note: Each family member has one small bag packed with personal valuables.

