



Bushfire Safety



Campfire Safety Tips

An open campfire can be useful and fun, but if it is not built correctly, used wisely and put out properly it can be dangerous and cause a bushfire.

Here are some safety tips for campfires.

Before you light the fire:

- Make sure you are allowed to light one. In some places, and at some times of the year, campfires are not allowed.
- Check the weather. If it is dry and windy don't light a fire.
- Check fire warnings. If it is a Total Fire Ban or the Fire Danger Rating is very high, severe, extreme or catastrophic (Code Red) do not light a fire.

Building the fire:

- Make sure the area around the fire is clear. Check that there is no dry vegetation or overhanging branches.
- Create a border around the fire using rocks, but make sure you don't use river or creek rocks as they can shatter.
- Make sure that items such as tents, gas bottles, fuel cans and any other camping equipment are at least four metres away from the fire.

Looking after the fire:

- Keep the fire just big enough for cooking or keeping warm.
- Make sure an adult is always watching the fire.
- Keep children and pets away from the fire.
- Only use fallen dead wood for your fire. Taking leaves and branches from living trees damages the environment and they can make a lot of smoke.

Putting out the fire:

- Make sure you completely extinguish your fire before you go to sleep or leave the area.
- Only use water (or a fire extinguisher) to extinguish the fire. If you use soil the fire can still smoulder and stay hot for a long time.

