

LEAVE or STAY?

If Leaving

- Turn off power and gas
- Close all windows and doors of house
- Turn off air conditioners, but leave water on
- Turn on irrigation systems

If Staying

Try to remain calm and alert, think clearly and act decisively.

- Notify family and friends or your intentions to stay and fight
- Get your Survival Kit and check your plan
- Monitor the fire progress via battery operated radio ABS
- Fill troughs, baths, sinks and metal buckets with reserve water
- Move horses to the “Safe Areas” remove all equipment i.e. halters, rugs etc. Remember give them plenty of room to move
- Turn off power and gas and electrified fences

When fire Strikes, your personal safety and that of people working with you must be your first concern.

Stay inside your home until the main fire has passed; immediately after check for spot fires and put out.

CONTACT NUMBERS

Emergency Calls

(Fire, Ambulance, Police)

Dial 000

Local Fire Brigade (Country) or FESA:

Local Government (Bush Fire Control Officer)

Local Police Station:

Local VET:

Neighbour (1)

Neighbour (2)

Further Sources of Information on Fire Preparedness

www.wahc.com.au

www.fesa.wa.gov.au

www.dip.vic.gov.au

WA Horse Council
(08) 9291 0202
bennit@optusnet.com.au

WA Horse Council



HORSES & BUSH FIRES

The key to survival is forward planning and self reliance

BE PREPARED

YOUR HORSES & PROPERTY

As you are probably already aware, most rural horse properties located around Perth Metropolitan and many regional areas are at a high risk during the bush fire season, therefore all horse property owners should have plans in place to handle a fire threatening your property.

The aim of this pamphlet is to help you prepare and let you know the options you have and decisions that only you can make!

- Minimise the Risk
- Have an Action Plan
- Decide - Leave or Stay?
- What to do if Fire Threatens

You should plan on the basis you will receive no official warning that a fire is coming.



MINIMISE THE RISK

Your property, including house, sheds, stables and outbuildings, should have a 20-30 metre zone around which is free from fuel, such as long grass, hay, rubbish, piles of wood or any other material that will burn easily.

Store hay, straw, shaving, scrap wood, fuel supplies and chemicals safety away from important buildings.

Use fire-resistant plants on your property

Invest in a rainwater storage tank, a sprinkler system and a firefighting pump and consider fireproof fencing i.e. steel or concrete posts, particularly if you own a stallion!

If your fences are electrified, make sure the remainder of fences are horse proof, as often power is cut during a bushfire.

HAVE A BUSH FIRE ACTION PLAN

If you plan to evacuate horses, make arrangements ahead of time to temporarily relocate them. Options could include show grounds, sale yards, racetracks, pony club grounds or with family and friends. Make sure your horses are trained to go onto horse transport (float or truck)

If planning to stay, have a safe area where horses can be located in as large an area as possible, (open all internal gates to

make a large paddock if necessary) and closely grazed or alternatively irrigated paddocks or a sand arena, providing there are no trees or buildings near by. Ideally it would have a dam, or drinking water in a container that will not melt.

Ensure all synthetic halters, lead ropes, rugs & Flyveils are removed as they melt and can cause serious burns to your horses.

- Protective clothing
- Drinking water
- Fire extinguishers
- Torch & batteries
- Metal buckets
- Goggles & gloves
- First Aid kits (Human & Horse)
- Towels
- Woollen blankets
- 30m preconnected hoses (Fire resistant)
- Shovels, rakes, & hoes
- Battery operated radio
- Mobile phone

Maintain a Survival Kit, which is easily accessible and only used in emergencies, which would contain:

WHAT TO DO IF FIRE THREATENS DECIDE QUICKLY - Stay or Leave?

As soon as you are aware of a bush fire threat in your area, you need to decide whether you are going to leave or stay and defend.

If you decide to leave, do it early, with or without your horses. You must leave well before the fire approaches your property.
DO NOT LEAVE IT TOO LATE!