

TAROONA TOGETHER – BUSHFIRE-READY

Dear Tarooona resident

The Tasmania Fire Service is predicting a normal fire season this year, which means you need to be fully prepared, as usual, to respond in an emergency. Hobart is the most at-risk capital city, per head of population, in an infamously fire-prone country, on account of its large bushland-urban interface. Our bushland vegetation is highly flammable.

This summary information on bushfire safety has been prepared to inform you of specific things about living in Tarooona. For more comprehensive information on bushfire safety, preparing yourself and your home, and making a plan, we strongly encourage you to read the booklet prepared by the Tasmania Fire Service – BUSHFIRE SAFETY GUIDE. This is available on line.

If you prefer a printed copy, please contact one of us.

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Co-Presidents, Tarooona Community Association



WHY TAROONA IS FIRE VULNERABLE

- Surrounded by bushland to the north, south and west
- One access road. One fallen tree, or one car crash, will block the road.
- Most houses are of timber construction, surrounded by leafy gardens and not constructed to withstand bushfire.
- Embers from a northerly-driven fire on kunanyi/Mt Wellington (only 10km away) can land in Tarooona within seconds on an EXTREME or CATASTROPHIC fire day.

Connected communities are protected communities

Talk to your neighbours about your bushfire survival plan and discuss various scenarios.

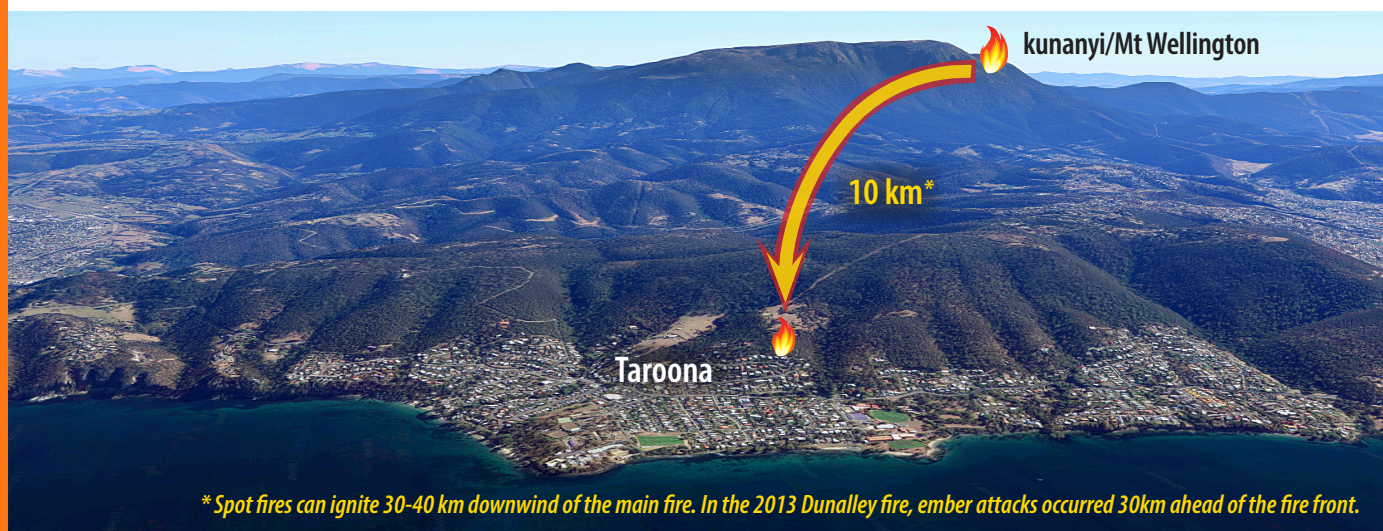
STAY INFORMED

Pay attention to the weather for the entire bushfire season (late September to late March).

Don't rely on anyone sending you a warning. It is up to you to check weather and warnings.

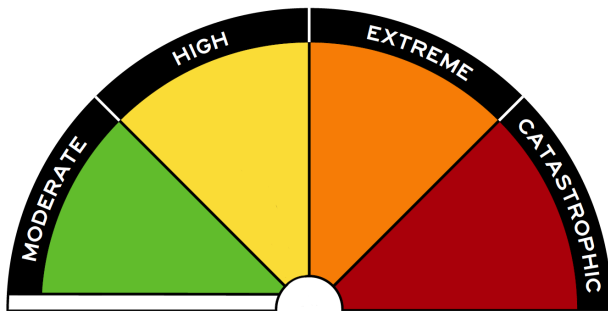
- Find out Tarooona's Fire Danger Rating for up to 4 days ahead on the Fire Danger Rating table at fire.tas.gov.au
Tarooona is in "south-east" district
- Read updates on incidents and warnings at tasalert.com
-  Download the **Tas Alert app**
- Watch the weather at bom.gov.au
- Listen to ABC radio **936 AM / ABC Listen app**
-  Download the **Get Prepared App** from the Australian Red Cross – a comprehensive guide to emergency preparation

In case of power failure, or loss of phone or internet connection, keep a battery-powered radio and spare batteries in your emergency kit.



* Spot fires can ignite 30-40 km downwind of the main fire. In the 2013 Dunalley fire, ember attacks occurred 30km ahead of the fire front.

FIRE DANGER RATING – AND WHAT THIS MEANS FOR TAROONA



This is a new fire danger rating (4 levels instead of 6). Update your last bushfire plan accordingly.

MODERATE

PLAN AND PREPARE

- Stay up to date. Be ready to act if there is a fire, or if conditions worsen.
- Most fires can be controlled under a MODERATE rating.

HIGH

BE READY TO ACT

- Prepare yourself for a fire.
- If a fire starts anywhere within 10km radius (e.g. on kunanyi/Mt Wellington), enact your plan immediately.
- For most Taroona residents, a HIGH rating will mean leaving if a fire ignites.

EXTREME

TAKE ACTION NOW

- Very few Taroona houses are defensible in an EXTREME fire rating.
- If you are not completely prepared to the highest level, leave Taroona early in the morning, BEFORE a potential fire impacts.
- If a fire starts anywhere within 10km (e.g. on kunanyi/Mt Wellington) it will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous and will arrive in Taroona within minutes. You may have left it too late to leave.

CATASTROPHIC

YOU SHOULD NOT BE IN TAROONA

- No Taroona houses are defensible in a CATASTROPHIC rating situation.
- You should have left very early in the morning or the night before.

LEAVING EARLY

Leaving early is always the best option. A leave early destination may be the home of family or friend who live outside the risk area – e.g. Sandy Bay (lower levels), Battery Point, West Hobart (lower levels), etc.

For the entire summer, your car should contain your emergency kit (e.g. woollen blankets, protective clothing, food and water).

LEFT IT TOO LATE?

If fire is engulfing Taroona and it is unsafe to leave, this is a terrible situation. In this event, the TFS has nominated three places in and near Taroona as Nearby Safer Places, but they are NOT safe. They are your last resort.

It is important that, if possible, you drive to these places as your car will offer you some protection from the radiant heat. The fire storm will be terrifyingly loud, nearby flames may be taller than houses, breathing through thick smoke will be very difficult, embers may be raining down on you, and you may be there for hours. You need to be wearing protective clothing, have woollen blankets, and water.

PLEASE READ the TFS booklet (page 10) about how to survive if you are caught in a bushfire in a car, in a house/building, or in the open.

TFS appointed Nearby Safer Places (last resort) are:

- Kelvedon Soccer Field, 34 Nubeena Crescent (it's not an oval)
- Taroona High School Soccer Field (water side of school)
- Alexandra Battery Park, 629 Sandy Bay Road

PLEASE NOTE: Some of Taroona's beaches are currently not supported by the TFS due to the presence of tall trees, which may ignite.

PREPARE YOURSELF

- Write your plan – and share it with neighbours, friends, family
- Pack your grab'n'go bag
- Set aside protective clothing for all family members (Long-sleeved shirts, full-length trousers (cotton /wool); wide-brimmed hat; sturdy boots/shoes; gloves; N95 mask; goggles)
- Write down important phone numbers (in case your phone goes flat)



PREPARE YOUR CAR

Packed with an emergency bag all fire season:

- Woollen blankets (1 per passenger)
- Water
- N95 masks
- Full body protective clothing

PREPARE YOUR HOME

- Review your house and contents insurance
- Ember proof your home
- Clear flammable material away from your house (dry grass, leaves, branches, piles of timber, wood piles, timber furniture)
- Cut back trees and shrubs overhanging buildings
- Clean your gutters (or install gutter guard)
- Have buckets of water, long hoses ready (ONLY in the event that your home is defensible on days of MODERATE or HIGH fire rating).

NOTE: you may have low water pressure or no supply)

PACK YOUR GRAB'N'GO BAG NOW

Keep your Grab'n'Go emergency kit in an easy to reach location that all household members know about



PETS: basket, cage, leash, medications, food, water, bowls, bed, toy, treats

MY BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLAN

Complete this plan, or use the 6-page plan in the TFS *Bushfire Safety Guide*

IF FORECAST IS **MODERATE OR HIGH**, WE PLAN TO:

e.g. Prepare, watch and act (list your actions)

IF FORECAST IS **EXTREME OR CATASTROPHIC**, WE PLAN TO:

e.g. Leave Tarooma

WHEN WE WILL GO *e.g. night before or very early in the morning*

WHERE WE WILL GO *e.g. inner city workplace/friend/family/park*

HOW WE WILL GET THERE

WHAT/WHO WE WILL TAKE

e.g. grab'n'go bag, sleeping gear, phone numbers of family and friends, pets, elderly neighbour

WHAT WE WILL DO BEFORE WE LEAVE

e.g. Last minute preparations: remove dry leaves/twigs/any other flammable items from around house (e.g. external blinds, outdoor furniture, door mats, hanging baskets); push indoor furniture away from windows; shut all windows and close blinds; tell neighbours/friends/other family members you are leaving; block drainpipes and fill gutters with water

IF IT IS **TOO LATE TO LEAVE TAROOMA SAFELY**, WE WILL GO TO A NEARBY SAFER PLACE

- Change into protective clothing
- Take Grab'n'go bag
- Tell neighbours/friends/family we are leaving
- Drive (if possible) to our NSP (our car will protect us from radiant heat)
- Our chosen nearby safer places (places of last resort) are (tick best options):
 - Tarooma High School soccer field (waterside of school)
 - Kelvedon Oval soccer field
 - Other (e.g. a beach with no trees which may ignite/fall, inground pool, etc.)

OUR IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS (family, friends, neighbours, etc.)