

BUSHFIRE SAFER PLACES

WHERE TO RELOCATE TO ON DAYS OF SEVERE, EXTREME AND CATASTROPHIC FIRE WEATHER



If you live, work or travel in an area where bushfires can occur, and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave early, on or before a bad fire day, you need to be aware of where you can relocate to.

CFS has developed a hierarchy of places that can offer relative safety from bushfire. They are broken into three categories, and are called **Bushfire Safer Settlements**, **Bushfire Safer Precincts** and **Last Resort Refuges**. It is important that you know what each of these are, where they are, and what risk you may be exposed to if you use one of these options during a bushfire.

Hierarchy of Bushfire Safer Places in SA

SAFEST  LEAST SAFE	BUSHFIRE SAFER SETTLEMENT	Inner Adelaide Metropolitan area	Suitable for use during forecast bad fire weather or during bushfire.
	BUSHFIRE SAFER PRECINCT	Outer suburbs and rural settlements.	Suitable for use during forecast bad fire weather or during bushfire. May be subject to spark and ember attack and smoke.
	LAST RESORT REFUGE	Ovals, buildings in rural areas.	Not suitable for extended use and may provide only limited protection during bushfire.

Bushfire Safer Settlement

A Bushfire Safer Settlement is a place of first resort for people who have decided that they will leave their home early on a bad fire day.

A Safer Settlement is considered to provide the highest level of safety of the three options because;

- It is an area of low bushfire fuel levels.
- It is sufficiently distant from continuous bushland or forest to eliminate the risk of spark and ember attack in all but the most intense bushfire activity.
- Bushfires are unlikely to travel into the area due to substantial buffers of;
 - Established gardens and lawns.
 - Road networks and other zero fuel areas.
- Access to emergency, health and other community services is available.

A Safer Settlement is a place of relative safety and may be considered as a place for people to stay in, or relocate to if their plan is to leave their home on a bad fire day. The SA CFS recommends that if you intend to relocate to a Bushfire Safer Settlement you should do so early in the day. Last minute decisions to relocate in the face of fire are highly dangerous.

If you plan to relocate to a Bushfire Safer Settlement you should be aware of the following when including a Bushfire Safer Settlement in your Bushfire Survival Plan:



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- Identify where your nearest Bushfire Safer Settlement is and if there are any suitable alternatives.
- You will need to write your choice of Bushfire Safer Settlement into your Bushfire Survival Plan.
- Work out how you will get there and if there are any alternative routes to take
- Work out how long it will take you to get there.
- Decide under what circumstances you will relocate and what your trigger points for action will be.
- Plan for your relocation; when, where and what you will take etc.

Bushfire Safer Settlements are considered to be located in the inner suburbs of the Adelaide metropolitan area. The list of Bushfire Safer Settlements can be found at www.cfs.sa.gov.au

Will you be safe in a Bushfire Safer Settlement?

There are no guarantees regarding your safety if you choose to stay in a Bushfire Safer Settlement or if you relocate to one. However;

- It is unlikely you will be exposed to direct flame, severe radiant heat or spark and ember attack.
- General fire safety measures need to be undertaken by all landholders.
- Access to emergency, health and other community services is available but may be delayed.

Bushfire Safer Precinct

A Bushfire Safer Precinct is also considered to be a place of first resort for people who have decided that they will leave early on a bad fire day.

Larger rural townships, provided they meet established criteria, have been classified as having Bushfire Safer Precincts. However, properties on the outskirts of such townships may face a higher level of risk when compared with those nearer the centre of town. Bushfire Safer Precincts are shown on a map which clearly delineates where they are.

A Bushfire Safer Precinct is relatively safe from bushfire because;

- It is located in an area of generally low levels of bushfire fuel.
- It is sufficiently distant from continuous bushland or forest to reduce the risk of spark and ember attack.
- Bushfire travel will be interrupted by;
 - Established gardens and lawns.
 - Road networks and other zero fuel areas.
- There is likely to be access emergency, health and other community services.

Properties on the outskirts of such townships may face a higher level of risk when compared with those nearer the centre of town. The relative safety of rural interface properties is dependent on property owners undertaking appropriate bushfire safety works to ensure they don't place themselves or the greater community at risk.

A Bushfire Safer Precinct is a place of relative safety and may be considered as a place for people to stay in, or relocate to if their plan is to leave their home on a bad fire day. The SA CFS recommends that if you intend to relocate to a Bushfire Safer Precinct you should do so early in the day. Last minute decisions to relocate in the face of fire are highly dangerous.



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If you plan to relocate to a Bushfire Safer precinct you should be aware of the following when including a Bushfire Safer Precinct in your Bushfire Survival Plan:

- Identify where your nearest Bushfire Safer Precinct is and if there are any suitable alternatives.
- Work out how you will get there and if there are any alternative routes to take.
- Work out how long it will take you to get there.
- Decide under what circumstances you will relocate and what your trigger points for action will be.
- Plan for your relocation; when, where and what you will take etc.

Will you be safe in a Bushfire Safer Precinct?

There are no guarantees regarding your safety if you choose to stay in a Bushfire Safer Precinct or if you relocate to one. However;

- It is unlikely you will be exposed to direct flame or severe radiant heat.
- You may be exposed to spark and ember attack and secondary fires may start in vegetation, gardens and structures from spark and ember attack.
- General bushfire safety measures need to be undertaken by all landholders.
- Services may not be available.

It is important to remember that you must take responsibility for your own safety during bushfire. Regardless of whether you live in a Bushfire Safer Precinct or not, this listing of places should not be taken as a substitute for preparation of your home or the undertaking of appropriate bushfire hazard management on your property.

You can find maps of Bushfire Safer Precincts at www.cfs.sa.gov.au

Last Resort Refuge

A Last Resort Refuge is a space or building which could be used as a place of last resort for people to access and remain in during the passage of fire through their neighbourhood.

A Last Resort Refuge is an area that provides a level of protection by providing an appropriate separation distance from the immediate life threatening effects of radiant heat and direct flame contact in a bushfire. It is intended to provide a place of relative safety during a bushfire, but does not guarantee the survival of those who assemble there, and should only be accessed when personal Bushfire Survival Plans cannot be implemented or have failed.

It is important to remember that Last Resort Refuges are not to be confused with Bushfire Safer Settlements or Bushfire Safer Precincts. A Last Resort Refuge should not be taken as a substitute for adequate preparation of a home and the undertaking of appropriate bushfire hazard management on your property.

It is important to remember that you must take responsibility for your own safety during bushfire regardless of whether you have access to a Last Resort Refuge. A Last Resort Refuge is not designed to replace a personal bushfire survival plan. You should remember to complete your Bushfire Survival Plan to ensure that you and your family are prepared and you know what to do in the event of a bushfire.



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Will you be safe in a Last Resort Refuge?

There are no guarantees regarding your safety if you choose to relocate to a Last Resort Refuge during bushfire.

Please be aware of the following risks associated with Last Resort Refuges

- Going to a Last Resort Refuge is an option when other plans have failed.
- Last Resort Refuges are not an alternative to planning to either leave early or staying and actively defending your property.
- Travelling to a Last Resort Refuge may be dangerous. Traffic congestion, fire activity, heavy smoke, accidents or fallen trees may block the route.
- There is no guarantee that you will not be injured or killed by fire or radiant heat when travelling to or sheltering at a Last Resort Refuge.
- Persons using a Last Resort Refuge should not expect emergency services to be present.
- They may have limited capacity
- They do not cater for animals
- They do not provide meals, amenity or special needs (e.g. for infants, the elderly, the ill or disabled)
- They may not provide shelter from the elements, particularly flying embers.

It is important to remember that all members of the community must take responsibility for their own safety during bushfire.

You can find the list of Last Resort Refuges at www.sa.gov.au

Identification of Bushfire Safer Places

The listing of Bushfire Safer Places in South Australia is expected to grow as more places which meet the defined criteria are identified and assessed.

The highest priority is the identification of Bushfire Safer Settlements and Bushfire Safer Precincts as these are the safest places in the established hierarchy.

The identification of Last Resort Refuges has started with the highest priority being given where there is no ready access to Bushfire Safer Settlements or Bushfire Safer Precincts. Not all townships / locations will have designated Last Resort Refuges identified as assessment criteria may not be met.

The current list available for the 2010-2011 fire danger season will continue to be updated as new sites are identified and assessed.

Please visit the CFS website regularly to ensure that you have the latest information on Bushfire Safer Places.

