



Explain to Occupant the purpose of the visit by members of the local Bushfire Brigade is to raise awareness at homes to be bushfire ready and to collect information that will assist the local Bushfire Brigade provide services if a bushfire threatens the area. The information will be treated confidentially and held in confidence by the Fire Control Officer and Captain of the local Bushfire Brigade, and Chief Bushfire Control Officer for the Shire or other Local Government.

## HOME

### GPS Location

Records Latitude and Longitude in decimal degrees for Google Earth and Google Maps. Tap point to start GPS recording; the GPS point will close on fix.

### Occupant

An adult occupant of the home. If practical, the occupant should be a person identified in Rate Notice for Local Government.

### Home Street Address

Home street address is preferable to location or lot number. If no street address, then record location or lot number.

### Location

What the area is generally referred to as.

### Shire

The Local Government entity.

### Phone Landline

Landline phone number for the Home. Leave blank if there is none.

### Phone Mobile

Mobile phone number for the Occupant. Leave blank if there is none.

### Email Address

Email address of Occupant to provide relevant information to be bushfire ready. Leave blank if there is none.

### Number of Occupants

Number of persons normally residing in the home.

## HAZARD EXPOSURE (VEGETATION)

### Fire Hazard Exposures

Based on 'Planning for 'Bushfire Protection Guidelines' (2010), published by Western Australian Planning Commission and Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia

Assess predominant vegetation within 100 metres of the home and classify vegetation Fire Hazard Exposure as one or more (recognising diversity within 100 metre zone) of:

#### LOW

- area devoid of standing native vegetation (less than 0.25 ha cumulative area)
- pasture or cropping area with very limited native standing vegetation that is a shrubland, woodland or forest

#### MODERATE

- areas containing pasture or cropping areas with slopes in excess of 10°
- open woodlands
- open shrublands
- low shrubs with slopes of less than 10° or flat land

#### EXTREME

- forests, native and/or tree plantations
- woodlands
- tall shrubs

#### **Extreme Fire Hazard Exposure Aspects**

If there is Extreme fire hazard exposure, assess from which direction or directions the Extreme hazard is located in relation to the home.

Record one or more of North, North East, East, South East, South, South West, West, North West

#### RISK MANAGEMENT

#### **Building Protection Zone**

Based on '*Planning for Bushfire Protection guidelines edition 2 Element 4*' published by Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia (quoted below); also referred to as 'Defendable Space'.

Is there a Building Protection Zone (BPZ) that meets the following requirements (Tick 'Yes', Cross/X for 'No')?

- The minimum width of the BPZ is to be 20 metres measured from any external wall of the building or asset.
- The location of the BPZ is to be within the boundaries of the lot on which the building or asset is situated.
- Loose flammable material within the BPZ should be removed to reduce the fuel load to less than 2 tonnes per hectare and this is to be maintained to this level.
- All grasses within the BPZ are to be maintained to a height of a maximum 50mm.
- The crowns of trees within the BPZ should be separated where practical such that there is a clear separation distance between adjoining tree crowns.
- Prune lower branches of trees within the BPZ (up to 2 metres off the ground) to stop a surface fire spreading to the canopy of the trees.
- There are to be no tree crowns or branches overhanging the building or asset and a minimum horizontal clearance of 2 metres is required between tree branches and buildings or assets.
- Do not clump shrubs close to building. Ensure that there is a gap of at least 3 times the height (at maturity) of the shrub away from the building.
- Trees or shrubs in the BPZ are to be cleared of any dead material.
- Fences, sheds and structures within the BPZ should be constructed of non-flammable material and be clear of trees and shrubs as per building requirements.
- Gas Cylinders should be isolated from the Flame Zone and should be stored in an area that is clear of all flammable material. Gas vent valves should face away from the building and anything

flammable. Gas cylinders should be securely tethered with non-flammable fastenings to prevent toppling over.

- Fire wood storage should be at least 20 metres from the building unless contained in sealed non-flammable container.
- Driveways and access ways must allow for the safe passage of a fire appliance to all buildings and assets on the land.
- Roof gutters should be free of leaves and other combustible material.
- Roof mounted evaporative air coolers should be fitted with ember proof screens to the filter media to reduce the possibility of bushfire embers igniting the air cooler.

### **Written Fire Plan**

Do occupants have a written Fire Plan to organise response to an approaching fire? If the home is rental or holiday accommodation, contact should be made with the owner to encourage development of a Fire Plan.

### **Independent Water Pump**

Is there a water pump that can supply water to hoses if the main electricity supply is lost?

### **Rooftop Sprinklers**

Does the home have a rooftop sprinkler system to wet down ember attacks?

### **Mobile Fire Unit**

Is there readily available a mobile fire fighting unit of 200 litres or more capacity?

## OCCUPANT SURVIVAL RATING

### **Occupant Survival Prospect**

Surviving a fire front requires protection from radiant heat as the front passes. LOW occupant survival prospect arises if there is Extreme Fire Hazard Exposure and a home the structure of which may not provide protection from radiant heat for up to 15 minutes. Survival prospect is reduced if there is both Extreme Fire Hazard Exposure and no Building Protection Zone. HIGH occupant survival prospect is absence of Extreme Fire Hazard Exposure and a home that could provide protection from radiant heat for up to 15 minutes. Sheltering inside the home should be in a space the opposite side to fire front and with an external exit. It is important the external exit open into a fuel reduced space.

## OCCUPANT RESPONSE

### **Occupant Response Preference**

After considering assessment of Hazard Exposure, Risk Management and Survival Prospect, does the Occupant prefer to GO/LEAVE EARLY or STAY AND DEFEND if a bushfire approaches? NOTE: (a) decision to GO/LEAVE EARLY must be made before exit roads become unsafe, and (b) Government authorities can order occupants to leave. If the occupant's response preference is to STAY AND DEFEND the home it is important to stress the difficulty of actively defending a home without a Building Protection Zone. If the home is rental or holiday accommodation, contact should be made with the owner to encourage development of a Fire Plan emphasising early and safe evacuation. The Fire Plan should be made obvious to the occupants.

### **Date and Time**

Tap to record time of completion of assessment.

[Guidance prepared by Neil Bartholomaeus, CreativityCorp, Member Jardee Bushfire Brigade]