

# The Go-To Bushfire Checklist



Bushfires can cause severe damage to your property if you don't prepare properly. Here are some key steps to fireproof your home including cleaning your gutters and keeping flammable materials away from your home when possible.

## Before a bushfire

- Pack a survival kit.
- Regularly clean leaves from gutters and fit quality metal leaf gutter guards.
- Screen vents on roof voids with fine metal wire mesh to protect from floating embers entering your roof cavity.
- Keep woodpiles and other flammable materials well away from the house and covered.
- Keep your lawn short and the backyard tidy, free from any build-up of flammable material.
- Ensure the sum insured for the rebuild of your home and replacement of your contents is adequate – all year round.
- Consider purchasing a portable pump to use from your swimming pool or water tank.

## In case of evacuation

- Turn off gas and power.
- Close all doors and windows and block gaps with wet towels or blankets.
- Move flammable curtains and furniture away from windows.

## During a bushfire

- Wear protective clothing such as enclosed shoes, wool or cotton full-length clothing for protection, a hat and gloves.
- Ensure all family members and pets consume enough water to prevent dehydration.
- Close all windows and doors.
- Do not under any circumstances leave the house while the flame front moves through.
- Ensure that someone has notified the fire brigade by ringing 000.
- Have eye and breathing protection.

### Survival kit should include:

- A portable battery radio, torch and spare batteries.
- Water, dried or canned food for 3 days and a can opener.
- Matches, fuel or battery-powered lantern, portable stove, cooking gear, eating utensils.
- Cash on hand for supplies.
- First aid kit and manual.

## What to expect from your insurance during a major event?

Extreme weather puts a lot of pressure on our homes, and therefore, our livelihoods. With Apia Home & Contents Insurance, your property is insured for a wide range of weather events\*. When dealing with a large volume of claims in majorly affected areas, our team at Apia will provide emergency assistance and assess the property damage when it is safe to do so. We're here to help—rain, hail or shine, you can claim over the phone or online.

\*Actions or movements of the sea and storm surge are not covered (unless the storm surge damage occurs at the same time as damage caused by storm). Other exclusions apply. The information is intended to be of a general nature only. We do not accept any legal responsibility for any loss incurred as a result of reliance upon it—please make your own enquiries.

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