
LEAVE EARLY

It is the responsibility of the individual to make decisions about their safety. For this reason, owners and those in charge of animals, must take pre-emptive action by planning for animal needs and leaving early so that welfare problems can be avoided or minimised. Each individual or family need their own personalised bushfire survival plan, based on their capabilities. This includes deciding whether they will leave their property and when.

The key is planning ahead. Everyone should have a Bushfire Survival Plan and should practice it. In high fire risk areas, on days of extreme or code red conditions, plan to leave the area the night before or early in the day. On days of high fire danger consider staying with family or friends in a low risk area, or taking a day trip to your nearest regional centre.

When Storm and Flood warnings are released, know where to look for current and up to date information on the severity of the event and make a decision to stay or Leave.

The decision to LEAVE EARLY is not the same for every household. The place you decide to go to depends on your individual needs. There is no designated or set LEAVE EARLY location in this municipality.

A Relief Centre is not a LEAVE EARLY place.

A Relief Centre is opened once an emergency is declared. Its purpose is to provide shelter, support and information for evacuees, including food, first aid and registration.

Your key sources of information in **preparing** for an emergency are -

- Visit the Bureau of Meteorology Australia website when warnings and alerts are released (www.bom.gov.au).
- For bushfires - Ring the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667 (visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au and look under FIRE SAFETY tab).
- Red Cross' Emergency REDiPlan can assist you prepare an Emergency Plan for your home (visit www.redcross.org.au and look under the Emergency Services in Australia Tab)

Your key sources of information during an emergency are -

- Listen to your emergency broadcasters: ABC Local Radio, commercial radio and designated community radio stations or SKY NEWS Television. (Visit www.oesc.vic.gov.au on the internet for a full list of emergency broadcasters)
- For bushfires - Ring the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667 (visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au and look under FIRE SAFETY tab).

General, supportive information:

If feeling unwell seek medical assistance

Those most at risk in the heat are

- People over 65 years
- Those with poor mobility
- Infants and babies
- Pregnant and nursing women
- Those living with chronic illness such as heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, cancer or kidney disease

Who to Call

Have you thought about who you can call if you need help? Family? Neighbours? Friends?

For babies and young children call your Maternal and Child Health Nurse

Nurse on Call 1300 606 024

If you have a medical condition discuss any concerns with your GP

Practical Suggestions

Plan to keep yourself cool and avoid the sun

Turn on air conditioning if available at home and in cars

Stay inside, close the house up, pull down the blinds, open up at night to let cooler air in

Drink plenty of water

Wear comfortable loose clothes, hat and sunscreen if outside

Stay in shade

Avoid rigorous exercise and outdoor games

Visit cool places such as the library, cafes

Plan activities and shopping for early and late in the day