

PERSONAL PROTECTION

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

Bushfires and Radiant Heat

Everyone should wear protective clothing to avoid injury from smoke, sparks embers and radiant heat.

The hotter, drier and windier the day, the more intense a bushfire will be and the more radiant heat it will generate. Being outdoors during a bushfire means you risk exposure to radiant heat.

The radiant heat from a bushfire can kill a human without flames ever touching them. Radiant heat kills very quickly. The human body cannot absorb large amounts of radiant heat or withstand extremely high temperatures. Radiant heat causes death from heat stroke where the body's cooling system fails, leading to heat exhaustion and heart failure.

SO WHAT SHOULD YOU WEAR!

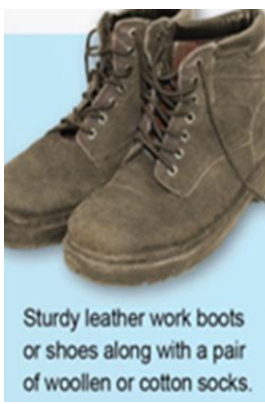
Loose fitting clothing made from natural fibres such as pure wool, heavy cotton drill or denim is important to protect you from injury. Synthetic fabrics can melt or burn.

Also include a first aid kit, gloves and a mask or cloth to cover your nose and mouth from inhaling smoke, ash and embers in your bushfire survival kit.

Images: Bushfire Survival Plan, Prepare. Act. Survive. (NSW Rural Fire Service) 2013



A pair of heavy cotton pants. For example denim jeans, oil-free drill pants or cotton overalls.



Sturdy leather work boots or shoes along with a pair of woolen or cotton socks.



A long-sleeved shirt made from thick cotton or wool is ideal (e.g. flannelette or cotton drill work shirt).



A wide-brimmed hat or hard hat can stop embers from dropping onto your head or down the back of your shirt.



Glasses or goggles will protect your eyes against any smoke, embers and debris that may be in the air.

LOOKING AFTER YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

Symptoms of dehydration include tiredness, irritability, irrational behaviours, loss of coordination and may lead to collapse and in some cases cause death.

To minimise chances of dehydration, ensure that you continue to stay cool and keep sipping water to stay hydrated.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

If someone is affected by dehydration or heat stroke, move them away to a shaded area and try to cool them down.

Call 000 and seek assistance immediately.

For additional information and resources:

- Visit the DFES website. www.dfes.wa.gov.au
- DFES' Prepare Act Survive and Homeowners Bushfire Survival Manual
- For more information please contact DFES Community Engagement on 9395 9816

