

# Bushfires and your water supply

Parts of our region have been identified as high fire danger areas by the Country Fire Authority (CFA).

While North East Water is prepared for bushfire emergencies, we cannot guarantee to maintain pressure or an uninterrupted supply during or following a fire.

During a bushfire or on declared extreme fire risk days, we may not be able to safely access water supplies or respond to system failures.

When preparing your fire plan, please consider an independent water supply.

## **Independent water supplies**

We urge customers, particularly those in fire-prone areas and on rural properties, to consider alternative water supplies as part of a fire plan.

Independent water supplies may include:

- water tanks
- dams
- swimming pools
- rubbish bins or wheelie bins
- bathtubs and laundry troughs
- "44 gallon" drums or similar.

The CFA recommends a minimum of 10,000 litres of water for firefighting purposes.

Many houses in the Black Saturday fires used more than 40,000 litres.

## Water quality

During a bushfire we may need to bypass water treatment facilities to maintain water pressure and/or supply.

If this occurs, water will need to be boiled before drinking. We will endeavour to notify you via local and social media should such action be necessary.

We recommend keeping a supply of drinking water (like jugs of water in your fridge) on high risk days or when bushfires are likely.

## Water restrictions

Any water restrictions that may be in force will be waived if fire threatens your property.

## Pumping water

Consider a non-electrical pump because your electricity supply is not guaranteed during a bushfire.

Consult a pump specialist for suitable fire-fighting pumps and fittings required to protect your home.

## For further advice

For further information and advice on preparing your family and home for bushfire, we recommend you contact the CFA on 1800 240 667 or visit the website [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au).

## Emergency contact numbers

Emergency	<b>000</b>
Victorian bushfire information	<b>1800 240 667</b>
VicRoads road closure information	<b>13 11 70</b>
State Emergency Service (SES)	<b>13 25 00</b>
North East Water	<b>1300 361 644</b>

## Information during a bushfire

Emergency information and warnings website	<b><a href="http://emergency.vic.gov.au">emergency.vic.gov.au</a></b>
CFA website	<b><a href="http://cfa.vic.gov.au">cfa.vic.gov.au</a></b>
VicRoads website	<b><a href="http://vicroads.vic.gov.au">vicroads.vic.gov.au</a></b>
Local ABC radio	<b>106.5FM (Wodonga)</b>