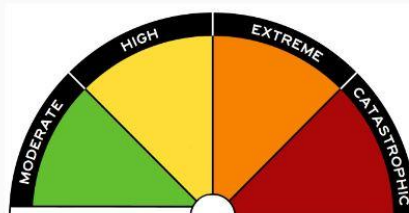


## Introduction

The risk of bushfires and other weather hazards must be considered when planning fieldwork. Field workers must check weather and fire risk forecasts when planning field work and have plans and support mechanisms in place to mitigate risk.



The new Fire Danger Ratings



## Advice and Action

Fire season in Australia traditionally runs from December through April. Climate change and drought may increase the risk outside this period. **No fieldwork may be conducted in forests, grasslands, or other areas of significant bushfire risk during Total Fire Bans or on days rated as Extreme or Catastrophic fire danger by the CFA.** Work under trees must not be conducted at any time of the year if wind speeds are expected to exceed **40 km/h**.

- Check the [CFA fire danger rating](#) when planning fieldwork.
- Fire Danger Ratings are forecast for four days and are updated twice daily at 5:30am and 4pm.
- Total Fire Bans are usually declared by 5pm pm the day before a ban.
- Risk assessments for fieldwork activities must consider fire, heat and wind risks and include appropriate controls.
- Even if the above restrictions are not in place, **constant assessment is required**, and it may be necessary to cancel or suspend fieldwork if conditions become unsafe.
- Some trees may be unsafe regardless of wind speed, due to damage, disease, or other factors.
- Preparation for field work in forests and grasslands during fire season must include a **fire plan relevant to your location**, including **multiple egress routes** from field sites.
- Setup the [Vic Emergency app](#) on your phone and configure it so that you'll receive bushfire notifications for your area. Set a minimum 20km radius for warnings. If mobile signal is weak, organise a support person to forward warnings via satellite communication devices such as inReach units or satellite phones.
- A **Watch and Act** warning is your signal to evacuate the area if you have not done so already.
- [Weather forecasts](#) are available from the Bureau of Meteorology website or app.
- Provide your itinerary to the relevant park ranger when entering a fire prone park area during the fire season. Be aware of scheduled [fuel reduction burns](#) which are done outside the regular fire season.

## Resources

- [VicEmergency](https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/) website <https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/>
- CFA Victorian Bushfire Information Line (VBIL) on **1800 240 667**
- [DEECA Forest Fire Management](http://ffm.vic.gov.au) information [ffm.vic.gov.au](http://ffm.vic.gov.au) including information about [planned burns](#)
- [Bureau of Meteorology](http://www.bom.gov.au/) weather forecasts <http://www.bom.gov.au/>