If there is a bushfire in your area, do not expect the CFA to tell you when to leave.

The CFA are not responsible for safe-guarding your property; they are responsible for safe-guarding an entire bushfire area. Their role is not to protect one house.

So if you live in a bushfire risk area, you have two options: to leave early, or to stay and defend.

I will explain both options.

The first option is to leave early. Leaving early means that when there is a high risk of bushfire in your area, before there is any fire, but still highly likely a fire will start, you are a far away from high-bushfire risk areas.

High-risk bushfire areas include grasslands, bush, coastal areas with scrub, and where the suburbs meet the bush. These areas are explained in more detail in the previous video. They represent the most high-risk bushfire areas.

If you are in one of these high-risk bushfire areas, leaving early means you monitor your local conditions, identify your trigger to leave, and leave that morning or the night before.

Places with only one road in or out are also high-risk bushfire areas, as your road could be blocked during a bushfire leaving you with no option to escape.

For example, if I live in a dense bushland, and tomorrow will be hot and windy with a high chance of bushfire, I will leave early and make sure I am far away from the high-risk bushfire area.

However, you can still prepare your home so that when you leave, there is less risk of your home catching fire if there is a bushfire in your area.

More information on how to prepare your home is available in another video.

The second option is to stay and defend your property. This is a serious decision.

Deciding to stay and defend involves serious risk of injury or death to you and your family.

You should only consider staying and defending if your property is extremely well-prepared in advance, if your home is built to the correct specifications, and if you know how to actively defend your home.

I will explain in more detail.

Your home must be built to the correct specifications for defending against bushfire in a high-risk area. For example, your home must have a steel frame not a wood frame, and your windows must be a specific thickness to offer any protection.

If you decide to stay and defend, you need at least two adults, both of whom must have the appropriate clothing, and who are mentally and physically fit enough to work for long hours,

in extremely difficult and physically challenging conditions. Both must have good understanding of how fire behaves in changing weather conditions, regardless of whether the bushfire is small or large.

You must also have access to at least 10,000 litres of water, and a fire-fighting hose specifically for bushfire. A regular garden hose is not sufficient, you must have the specialised equipment, including a strong pump connected to your water source.

If you decide to stay, you need to be sure you can actively defend.

If you are not prepared, for example, if you do not have at least two fit adults, if your house is not built to the correct specifications, if you do not have the minimum required water, and if you do not have appropriate clothing, you cannot stay and defend your house against bushfire.

Your only option is to leave early. You leave before there is any sign of fire. In order to be safe from bushfire, you need to be prepared.

Watch these videos and decide on your trigger to leave early.

Learn how to prepare your property so there is less risk of it catching fire after you have left.

Consider all the places you need to prepare, including your parent's home, work and any holiday locations.

Learn how to prepare your emergency kit.

These videos will help you prepare for bushfire.