If there is a bushfire, flood or severe storm, you cannot rush around in a panic to pack up your things and evacuate. You need to be ready.

Your safest option is to leave early. You must have everything you need ready to take with you.

This is your emergency kit.

Prepare your emergency kit using a strong plastic container. Do not use a cardboard box or other flimsy container, as it may damage or break easily. Use a strong, sturdy container that will last.

When you prepare your emergency kit, make sure you gather your important information,

including your photo identification, passport and any insurance documents.

Pack any medication and medical scripts, in case you need to renew your prescriptions.

Remember to include your will.

Make a list of contact information for your family, friends, doctor, local council and power companies.

If your phone goes flat or gets lost, you have a backup of important contact information.

You can also download all your important information onto a USB and put that in your emergency kit.

Pack any valuables such as your family photographs, and any precious jewellery.

Remember to include paper and pen in case you need to communicate by writing.

Make sure you include a first aid kit and additional medications, as well as your mobile phone and charger. It is worth including a radio in your emergency kit, in case any hearing family or friends need to use it.

Pack a torch with spare batteries, as well as batteries for your hearing aids or cochlear implants.

You will need strong boots and strong leather gloves. Do not use rubber or synthetic gloves that can melt or damage easily.

If you have pets, make sure you include their food bowl, leash and any medications.

Place woollen blankets on the back seat of your car. If you are stuck on the road during a bushfire,

they will offer you some protection from the heat and smoke.

Make sure you have a hard copy map; in case your phone battery goes flat or there is no reception.

If your GPS does not work, you will have a hard copy back up.

Pack enough food and water for you and your family for a few days, and be sure to include food and water for your pets too.

You can download a print a checklist from the website to help prepare your emergency kit.

Pack your emergency kit as soon as you watch this video.

Once you have prepared your emergency kit, store it in a convenient location, such as your garage shelf or in your hallway where you can access it easily.

You can then practice preparing to leave.

Position your car in the driveway facing the exit, and pack your emergency kit in your car along with any other items such as your computer and pet bedding.

It is important you work out how long it takes you to pack your car and leave.

Remember to check your insurance for your home, farm or business, in case your property is damaged or destroyed in a bushfire, flood or other natural hazard.

It is important you check your emergency kit regularly, to replace any flat batteries,

and medication that has expired.

Check your emergency kit once per year before summer, so you know it is ready.

Remember your safest option is always to leave early.

If your emergency kit is ready, you and your family will be safe.