Remember your safest option is to leave early.

But what can you do if there is a bushfire in your area and it is too late to leave? What if you are stuck at home or driving in your car? You will be at high risk of injury or death.

However, there are several places of last resort you can try if you are stuck with no other options.

Taking shelter at your home is usually not safe, due to the risk of ember attack, radiant heat and the fire front approaching your home. You could die.

There are a few other options that may be safer.

There are four places of last resort that may be safer, but these options still carry a high risk of injury or death.

Remember your first action should be to ensure you are wearing appropriate clothing. Make sure your clothing is made of natural material and offers good coverage to your body. Your clothing may be the only protection you have against ember attack or radiant heat.

I will explain the places of last resort.

Your first option is to go somewhere safer, away from the immediate fire danger.

These are locations identified by the CFA. Your local CFA assessed the safety of different locations in your area, and identified some areas as safer than other areas. These locations are known as Neighbourhood Safer Places, and they are usually an open area such as a sports oval. I will explain in more detail later in this video.

Your second option is to stay in your car.

Your third option is to go to an open area, such as a ploughed paddock or sports oval.

Your fourth option is to find a body of water.

I will explain each option in more detail.

Your first place of last resort is your Neighbourhood Safer Place. If you are stuck in a bushfire situation and your home is not safe, you can relocate to your Neighbourhood Safer Place. The CFA has identified these areas as the safest option for your community.

Neighbourhood Safer Places are the safest locations in your area during a bushfire, and may be safer than your home. They may be a sports oval, a local reserve or possibly your community hall. Your community will have its own Neighbourhood Safer Place. Find out your Neighbourhood Safer Place by checking the CFA website, or ask your local CFA directly. Ask your local CFA now, before the summer season begins.

If you relocate to your Neighbourhood Safer Place during a bushfire, do not expect it will be attended by the CFA or that you will find any assistance there. There may be no-one. There may only be other people like you who left it too late to leave, or you may be the only person there.

Do not expect any facilities. There may be no toilet facilities and no food or water. Your Neighbourhood Safer Place may not offer any protection from radiant heat. It may an open area with no wall or rock barriers you can use to protect yourself from radiant heat. Your Neighbourhood Safer Place was designated by the CFA mainly because there is less risk of it catching fire.

For example, an open, flat area with few trees and limited fuel for a fire. This means that Neighbourhood Safer Places can still be very dangerous.

Your second option is to stay in your car.

If you are driving towards a bushfire, turn back if possible. It is extremely dangerous to be on the road during a bushfire. You will be driving through extreme conditions and heavy smoke which will limit visibility. Trees and powerlines may fall onto your path, and you may need to navigate around other cars or fire trucks parked on the road. You could have an accident due to limited visibility.

Driving during a bushfire is dangerous and you will be at risk of injury or death.

If you cannot turn around and drive away from the bushfire, there are a few actions you can take, but these steps will not guarantee your survival. Park your car off the road in an open area, as far as possible from trees and bush. Position your car facing the fire front.

If you can park in front of a rock, it may offer some protection from radiant heat.

Stay in your car, do not leave your car. Turn on your orange hazard lights and head lights.

When you become aware that the fire front is approaching, turn off your air conditioner and shut all interior vents. Turn off your engine. Keep your head below window height to avoid radiant heat and smoke. Cover your lowered head with your woollen blanket. This is an extremely dangerous situation and you may not survive.

Your third option is to find a ploughed paddock, or an open reserve or park land. If you are stuck you can relocate to a large open area, preferably a flat area with no bush, and no grown crops. You can park your car or sit in this area.

Your fourth place of last resort is to find a body of water, such as a lake, river or large dam. Do not seek shelter in a swimming pool because it may be too close to a burning house or falling trees.

Do not seek shelter in a water tank because many are plastic and may melt.

Remember that even if your body is under water, your face will be unprotected. Seeking shelter in a body of water will leave your face exposed to ember attack, radiant heat and thick smoke.

If you have a woollen blanket with you, it may offer some protection to your face during a bushfire.

You may also be able to seek shelter behind a big rock, in a cave, down a gully or even in an animal burrow. These places may offer protection from radiant heat.

Do not seek shelter uphill, because fire travels very quickly uphill. Seeking shelter uphill will increase the risk to your life.

These options for shelter during a bushfire are extremely dangerous.

If you have no other option, try your best to be safe near a bushfire. You may see things you wish you did not see, and be at high risk of injury or death.

Remember your safest option during a bushfire is to leave early.