Every year as summer approaches, the bushfire season begins.

Before summer, you should prepare your home, business and holiday locations.

If the next town has a bushfire situation, your home could suffer an ember attack. If you have not prepared your home sufficiently, it may easily catch fire and burn down. You need to make sure your home and property is prepared so there is less risk of it catching fire.

There are several things you need to do if you live in a high-risk bushfire area, to ensure your home and garden are ready for summer.

If your home has a verandah or deck, move any flammable items such as boxes and door mats away from your house.

Wood piles should be located far away from the house.

Flammable liquids such as petrol or machine oil should be stored far away from the house.

You need to clean up your garden.

Ensure your gutters are cleared of leaves and debris.

Keep grass mowed to 10 centimetres, so there is less grass to burn if embers land on your property.

Sweep up any dry grass clippings, leaves and bark.

You may be able to burn your green waste, but not on a windy day. You must ask your local council for permission to light any fires. Make sure there are no shrubs near your windows, as the radiant heat from a bushfire can easily set them alight and burn down your house. Trim low hanging shrubs so they are clear off the ground, and prune trees and shrubs so they are not entangled together.

Tree limbs overhanging your roof should be cut back to at least 10 metres away from your house, to reduce the risk of them burning your house down.

You can use pebbles and rocks around your garden, instead of mulch, which is highly flammable and will easily catch fire if there is an ember attack. Rocks and pebbles are not flammable.

Ask your local CFA how to plan your garden strategically to defend against ember attacks and radiant heat. For example, ask your local CFA where you should plant any trees on your property.

These preparations will reduce the risk of your house and property catching fire.

Remember that fire burns with air, heat and fuel.

You cannot control the weather, but you can control the amount of fuel in your immediate environment.

If you leave early, a well prepared property will be at less risk of catching fire while you are gone.