Your evaporative air conditioning unit can catch fire as a result of embers from bushfires, or even small back yard fires, getting into your unit. If a fire starts in your air conditioner, it can spread quickly throughout your home.

It can be difficult for firefighters to put out a fire caused by embers getting into the roof space of your home. Knowing what to do to keep your evaporative air conditioner safe from fire can help save your property.

**What is Ember Attack?**

Embers are pieces of burning bark, leaves or twigs that are carried by the wind around the main fire creating spot fires.

**If there is smoke nearby you should:**

- Run the air conditioner to wet the filter pads
- When smoke is over your home or ash starts to drop around your house, switch the air conditioner off
- If possible, continue to run water over the filter with the fan turned off
- If the water can’t be run on its own, or if there is a power failure at the time, wet the air conditioner filter pads using a garden hose
- Keep checking your air conditioner and the area around your home for spot fires from embers until the danger has passed

**If you live within 500 metres of bushland and have a roof mounted evaporative air conditioning unit, your home may be at increased risk of ember attack.**

An Ember Protection Screen (shown below) can reduce your risk.

For more information on evaporative air conditioners see DFES Information Note on Ember Protection Screens.

If your home does catch fire, leave immediately and call **000**

For more information visit dfes.wa.gov.au
or contact DFES Community Engagement – 9395 9816