

# SHELTERING IN YOUR OWN HOME



**SHELTERING IN YOUR HOME DURING A BUSHFIRE SHOULD BE YOUR LAST OPTION, WHEN ALL OTHER PLANS FAIL AND YOU ARE UNABLE TO LEAVE.** Bushfires are very unpredictable and you need to be well prepared to change your plans if you can no longer leave your property.



## IF IT IS TOO LATE TO LEAVE THE PROPERTY:

- Stay in the house when the fire front is passing.
- If people are expecting you to leave, let them know you are now staying.
- Take shelter inside in the room with two exit, furthest from the fire front.
- Make sure all doors and windows are sealed as best as possible.
- Soak towels and rugs in water, and lay them along the inside of external doorways.
- Keep woolen blankets handy for protection against radiant heat.
- Take down curtains and push furniture away from windows.
- Get down low to limit your exposure to smoke.
- Actively defend your property by putting out spot fires.
- Remember to check the roof cavity through the manhole for any spot fires.
- Drink plenty of water to avoid becoming dehydrated.
- Shelter in the house for as long as possible.
- Many people have died sheltering in bathrooms and other rooms without an exit door leading outside when their house has caught fire. Make sure you can easily escape and shelter in a room with at least two ways to get outside and one that has a water supply.
- If your house catches on fire and the conditions inside become unbearable, leave through the door furthest from the approaching fire and go to an area that has already been burnt.
- The majority of people die in a bushfire from radiant heat. You should protect yourself from radiant heat with long sleeves, long trousers and strong leather boots.



For more information visit  
[dfes.wa.gov.au/bushfire](https://dfes.wa.gov.au/bushfire)

or contact DFES Community Preparedness:  
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