

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**

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

**or contact DFES Community Engagement – 9395 9816**

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