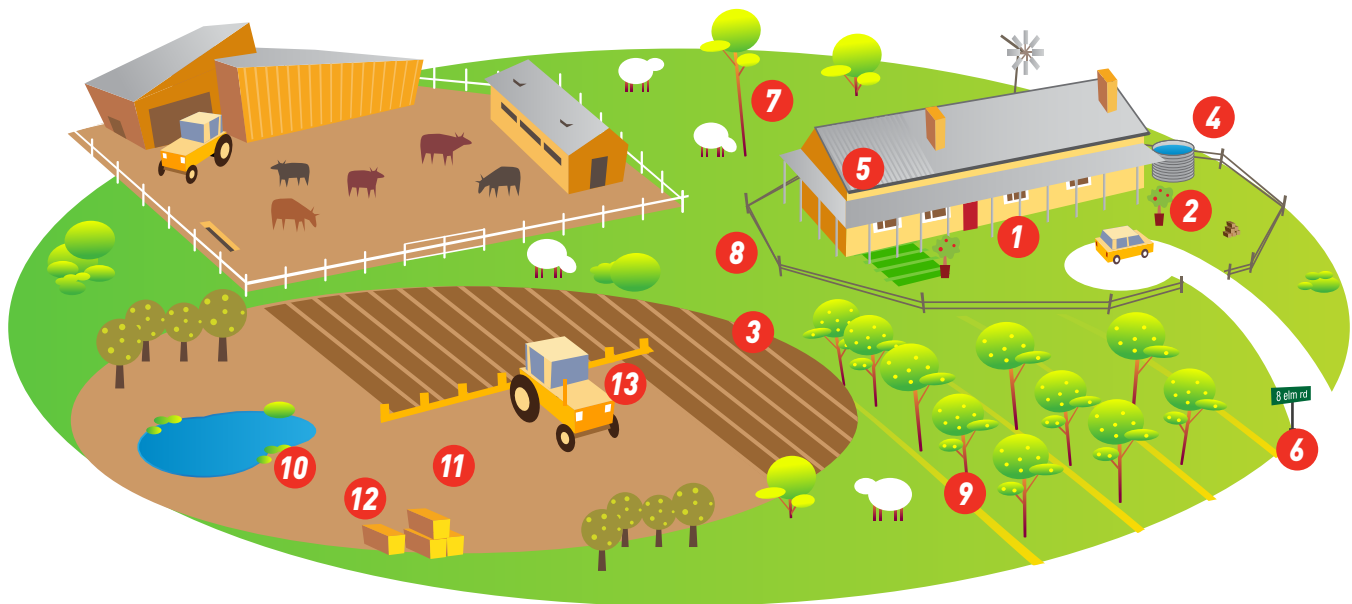


BE PREPARED THIS FIRE SEASON!

FARM FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST



The more you prepare your property the better the chance it will survive a bushfire, even if you are not there. The majority of properties can survive most bushfires with planning and effort. The illustration above provides an overview of key preparation activities you can undertake before the bushfire season. Ensure you are familiar with your equipment and it is well maintained with regular servicing.

- 1 Create a minimum 20 metre building protection zone around your farm and other buildings. Reduce the fuel load in this area by removing all rubbish, keeping grass cut short, and raking up leaf litter, twigs, bark and material that may catch fire. This can be achieved with a mulcher or slasher which further breaks down this material so it is not only less flammable but can provide composting.
- 2 Do not have large shrubs next to or under windows. Store firewood away from the house.
- 3 Make sure long grasses and brush are clear of fenceline. The Silvan Redline spot sprayers are an ideal and economical option to clear weeds & vegetation around fences where mowers/slashers cannot reach.
- 4 Fill water tanks and connect them to pumps for firefighting. The Selecta Power Water Transfer pumps handle high volume water pumping. They are ideal when portability is needed and electrical power may be unreliable during a fire.
- 5 Replace or repair damaged roofing and weatherboards where embers can enter. Install gutter guards and keep gutters clear of leaf litter.
- 6 Make sure your property name and number are clearly visible from both directions at the property entrance. Make sure a truck can turn around in access tracks near to house blocks, sheds and fences.
- 7 Mature trees can help shield against radiant heat and embers. They must be strategically located and well managed. Ensure these are pruned to keep clear of fuel on the ground.
- 8 Put in firebreaks along paddock boundaries. Use a slasher or mulcher to reduce long grass to create a break of 3m or use a grader blade for clearing tracks.
- 9 Prune lower branches (up to two metres off the ground) to stop a ground fire spreading into the canopy of the trees. Cut long grass and prune the scrub so that it is not dense and a fuel source for fire.
- 10 Draw water from dams and pools. Don't rely on mains water supply. Have at least 20,000 litres and a high volume water pump.
- 11 Create a heavily grazed area where stock can be moved on fire risk days.
- 12 Allow for airflow by not stacking hay right up against the rooves of sheds. Use a probe to test for heat. Ensure hay bales are stored in multiple locations to avoid large losses.
- 13 Check and clean machinery thoroughly before using for the first time. Equip large machines with appropriate fire extinguishers and a shovel.

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