

Bushfires and water supplies

2015/'16 Bushfire Season

Do not rely on scheme water supplies during a bushfire

Residents living in or near bushland are reminded not to rely on public water supplies if they plan to stay and defend their homes during a bushfire.

If you plan to defend your home, scheme water may not be available due to damaged infrastructure, extreme demand depleting supply and pressure, or a cut to power which is used to pump water.

We really want to get the message out to everyone who may be affected by bushfires that their usual public water supply may not be available. Residents need to have an independent water supply, such as a concrete or steel tank with a minimum 20,000 litre capacity.

There are other aspects to think of too, such as what to do if you lose power, what generator you will need, what pipes and fittings you will need as well as length and type of fire hoses.

We have made our own preparations for bushfire season by readying equipment and systems to cope with extreme conditions. Despite these efforts, it is likely there will be a reduction in water pressure, and scheme water supply tanks may run empty in the event of fire.

For more information about preparing a bushfire survival plan and what you will need to actively defend your home, visit the Department of Fire and Emergency Services website www.dfes.wa.gov.au

A message from the Department of Water

The Department of Water has advised people in bushfire prone areas with bores and access to surface water that they can take and store water to support bushfire plans.

For more information on how the Department of Water's rules support bushfire preparedness, visit www.water.wa.gov.au/fireplanning

The map below reveals the bushfire outlook for southern Australia through to 2016. Large areas of southern Australia, especially along the east and west coasts extending inland, face above normal fire potential for the 2015-2016 fire season,

SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA SEASONAL BUSHFIRE OUTLOOK 2015-16

