

**PREPARE ACT SURVIVE**

**NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SCALED ADVICE AND WARNINGS TO THE COMMUNITY**

**PRINCIPLES:**

- Fires impact people and communities, therefore this framework errs on the side of public safety as its primary consideration
- A fire can threaten suddenly and without warning
- People living in high risk areas need to be prepared to take protective action at any time

**FIRE DANGER PERIOD – SEASONAL FORECAST**

**Preparedness Messages**  
*–Initiated by Bureau of Meteorology with Fire Agency Advice*

**Response Messages**  
*- Initiated by Fire Agencies with Bureau of Meteorology Advice*

FORECAST FIRE DANGER – Before a fire starts			FIRE DANGER RATING		Actual FDI calculations on the day along with the fire location and behaviour will dictate which level of message will be used.  If, for example, on a catastrophic forecast a fire starts in a location where there are no people or property threatened then an emergency warning would not be necessary.	TRIGGER POINTS – for messaging when a fire starts						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparedness and education strategies</li> <li>• Survivability options already identified and in place</li> </ul>			Category	Fire Danger Index		<2 hrs	2-6 hrs	6-24 hrs	24 hrs Plus			
<b>FIRE BEHAVIOUR PREDICTIONS</b>  The projected FDI along with the erratic nature of fire, the energy released and levels of area burnt are the main factors that have been used to differentiate between fire danger rating levels.  Volatility of fire Flame Height Speed of spreading Ability to Suppress	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>  The predicted wind levels combined with the application of the building code AS3959 have been used to describe the potential danger at each rating level.  Expected life and asset loss House survivability points (homes as a <b>place of safety</b> )	<b>CALL TO ACTION</b>  The fire behaviour and impact assessment along with the ability to suppress a fire has been incorporated into the specific instructions and directions to the community.	<b>CATASTROPHIC (CODE RED)</b>	<b>100 +</b>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">EMERGENCY WARNING + SEWS</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">WATCH AND ACT</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">ADVICE</div>				
			<b>EXTREME</b>	<b>75 – 99</b>								
			<b>SEVERE</b>	<b>50 – 74</b>								
			<b>VERY HIGH</b>	<b>25 - 49</b>								
			<b>HIGH</b>	<b>12 – 24</b>								
			<b>LOW – MODERATE</b>	<b>0 - 11</b>								
Inherent in the different levels of fire danger ratings is the applicability of AS3959 and the ability of homes to act as places of safety when needed. AS3959 is known to apply up to a FDI of 80 – 100 depending on the location in Australia.			The Fire Danger Index is fundamentally a predictor of fire behaviour and suppression difficulty.		The message levels have taken into account the evidence that suggests over warning can contribute to complacency and delays in people taking protective action.							
Prolonged heat waves, fire weather intensity, fuel variability and topography are all major variables that influence the behaviour of a fire. Further work is required to enable technology to calculate the FDR at individual community level.			Without supporting scientific evidence no change can be made to the calculation of the fire danger index. The existing rules and parameters therefore have been retained and only the categories have been recalibrated and described.		<b>Emergency Warning</b> is calibrated to the highest level of risk to life and aligned with the principle message that the safest option is to not be near the fire. The standard emergency warning signal (SEWS) would be played with this message.							
Significant historical evidence exists that is guiding the thinking and approach to the recalibrated fire danger rating. There is an undeniable link between higher FDI and loss of life and property, with exponential increases in losses as the FDI increases.			There is evidence to support the addition of two additional categories above the FDI of 50. This evidence relates to the house survivability points as determined by research; future impact as predicted through climate change research and recent experiences in SA, Vic, and ACT.		<b>Watch and act</b> messages are identified as supporting the need for people to be aware of their situation and the circumstances around them and take action to prepare and protect themselves, their family and neighbours.							
An important component of any education campaign involves the explanation associated with the Total Fire Ban prevention measure. TFB will be incorporated into the broader preparedness messaging and education programs.			It is important that a wide range of education and media campaigns teach the public about the fire danger ratings given their current low level of understanding.		<b>Advice</b> messages are to keep people informed and up to date with developments.							

**NOTE: Detailed descriptors and messages underpin this framework.**