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**Golden Beach & Paradise Beach**  
 Fire Safety guide for residents and visitors

CFA

THIS DIGITAL VERSION

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# **Golden Beach & Paradise Beach**

Fire Safety guide for residents  
and visitors



## Golden Beach & Paradise Beach residents and visitors do you know your fire risk?

The information in this guide is for the Golden Beach & Paradise Beach area, which has an **EXTREME** bushfire risk because it is surrounded by bushland

Bushfires and grassfires pose a significant threat to all people living, working or travelling in Victoria. They can be deadly and impact without warning.

If you choose to live, work or visit areas of **EXTREME** fire risk, it is vital to your safety to have a well-developed survival plan for all days when hot, dry and windy as these conditions create fire risk.

**Planning and preparation** can save lives. Use this guide to help you and your family plan and prepare.

Golden Beach, Paradise Beach and areas nearby are surrounded by coastal scrub and other fire prone vegetation.

Burning scrub, heath or other coastal vegetation can create hot, dangerous bushfires.

Beaches, foreshores and shallow waters may not be safe or protect you from radiant heat. Often a fire will be burning between you and the beach.

### What can you expect?

- Very hot and fast-moving fires
- Gusty ocean winds causing fire to behave erratically
- Fire reaching houses quickly
- Busy, congested coastal roads.
- Radiant heat (heat created by fire)



## Leaving early is always the safest option

### Leaving early is more important when:

The fire danger rating is Catastrophic. Homes are not designed to withstand a bushfire during these conditions.

Any fire that starts and takes hold will be so intense that you won't be safe to stay and defend your property-no matter how prepared it is.

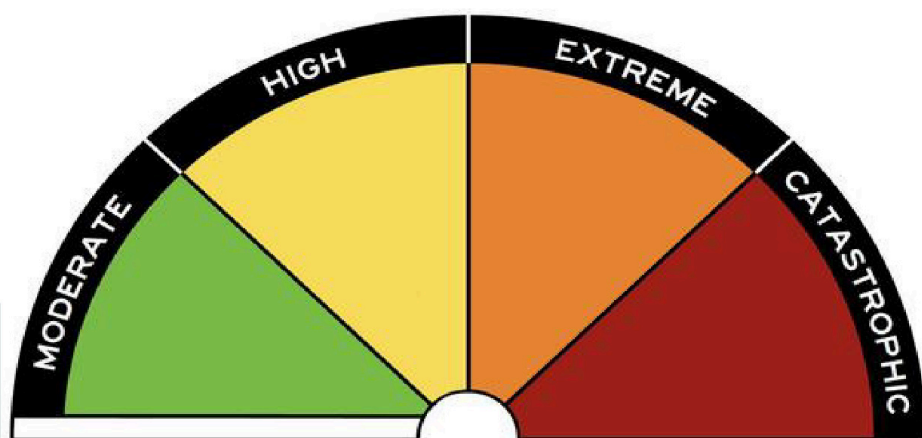
# Know your Daily Fire Danger Rating

Fire Danger ratings provide information to help you decide what actions you need to take to protect yourself and others.

Fire Danger Ratings feature in weather forecasts during fire season

Every day you should:

- Monitor conditions and official sources for warnings
- If a fire starts near you, take action immediately to protect your life.
- Do not wait for a warning.
- Adhere to local regulations governing fire activity



**MODERATE**

Plan and prepare

**HIGH**

Be ready to act

**EXTREME**

Take action now to protect life and property

**CATASTROPHIC**

For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas

There are four levels of fire danger:

- **Moderate** - Plan and prepare
- **High** - Be ready to act
- **Extreme** - Take action now to protect your life and property
- **Catastrophic** - For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas

Fire Danger Ratings will be issued on days when there is a fire risk.

Each fire danger rating will have a clear set of messages including the actions the community can take to reduce their risk.

Ratings are forecast using Bureau of Meteorology data for up to four days in advance, based on weather and other environmental conditions such as vegetation.

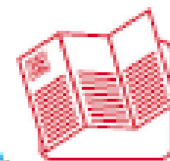
The rating is your trigger to take action to stay safe.

**Check the West & South Gippsland Fire Weather District when in Golden Beach or Paradise Beach area**

# Leaving Early

## Bushfire Survival Planning Template

Fill out this Template and take it with you when you leave.



### WHAT IS YOUR TRIGGER TO LEAVE?

Your trigger to leave is what prompts you to act. You should use the Fire Danger Rating to determine your trigger. On **Extreme** or **Catastrophic** days you should not be in a bush fire risk area.

Your trigger to leave is:

**Extreme**     **Catastrophic**

When will you leave?

The night before

Early in the morning

BEFORE YOU LEAVE	DONE
Add final items to your Emergency Kit such as medications, prescriptions, mobile phone chargers, pet food and water for everyone.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pack the car, remembering your most important items such as wallet, cards, keys, banking, medical and insurance documents (these should be easily accessible on a USB stick or in an expanding file).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turn off the gas supply.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Block the downpipes and partially fill the gutters with water, if time permits.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Make sure everyone is wearing protective clothing – long pants, long-sleeved shirts and sturdy shoes such as leather boots. Clothes should be loose fitting and made from natural fibres such as pure wool, heavy cotton drill or denim. Do not wear synthetics.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tell people you are leaving.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Close all doors and windows and lock doors.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leave the front or access gate unlocked.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decide on your <b>primary</b> destination	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decide on your <b>back-up</b> destination	<input type="checkbox"/>

GETTING READY TO GO	DONE
Stay updated on fire information so you will know if a fire has started near you.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Move livestock to a large, safely fenced area and put your pets in a safe place ready for loading in the car.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pack personal items such as a change of clothing for each person and toys for children and pets and put them in the car.	<input type="checkbox"/>
If your car is behind an electric garage door, take it out of the garage and position it in the driveway facing out or on the side of the road.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remove any material that could burn easily from around your house, on decks, verandahs and pergola areas. This includes mats and outdoor furniture.	<input type="checkbox"/>

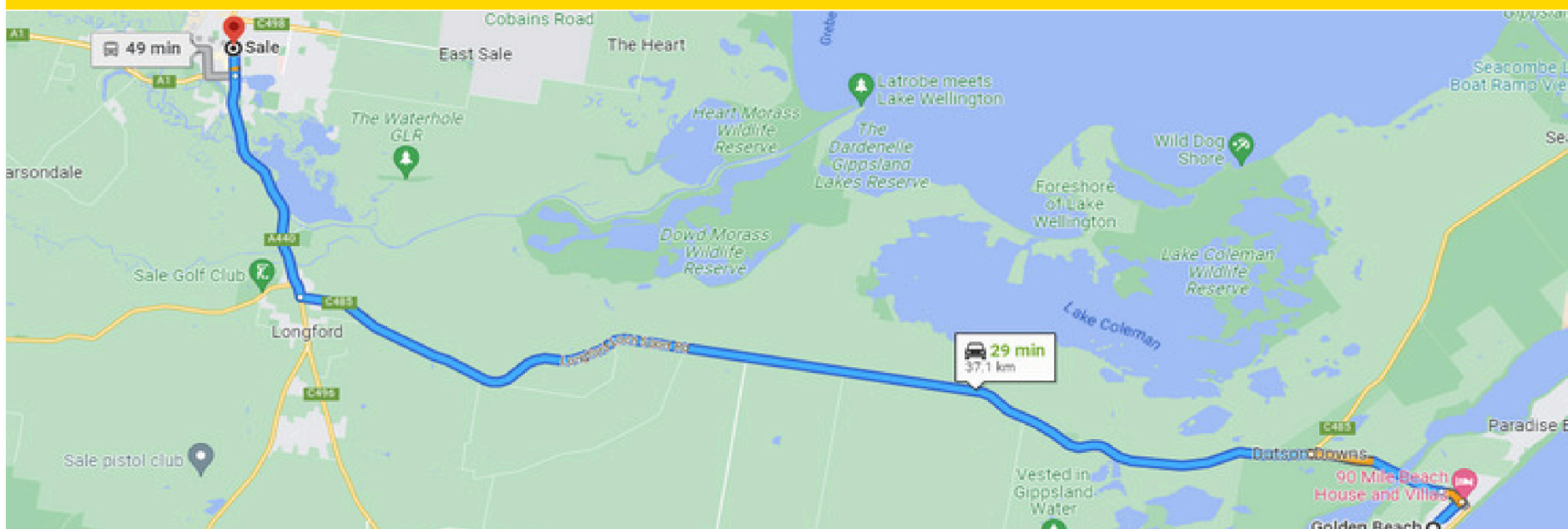
### CAUTION

Leaving early is you taking action to protect your life and the lives of your family members. In some conditions, any fire that starts is likely to be uncontrollable.

Leaving early does not mean waiting for a warning or a siren. It does not mean waiting to see or smell smoke. And it certainly does not mean waiting for a knock on the door.

## Where will you go when you leave early?

- Is it a safe choice? You may choose somewhere that suits your personal needs and
- circumstances, e.g a family member's house in an urban area with a backyard for your pet, or shopping centre complex, or central business district of a large regional centre
- If you don't have any other options, you may wish to consider going to SALE
- Always tell someone that you are leaving and where you are planning to go.



**The Golden Beach Community Hall is not a refuge or relief centre, Sale is your closest area for these options.**

## Emergency Kits

As part of your leaving Early plan it is important to put together and emergency kit that contains:

- Mobile phone charger
- Adequate amount of food and water
- Wool blankets
- Overnight bag with change of clothes and toiletries
- Important information, such as passport, will, photos, jewellery
- Contact information for your doctor, council and power company
- Additional masks
- Hand sanitiser
- Antibacterial wipes

# Staying Informed

## HOW DO YOU STAY INFORMED?



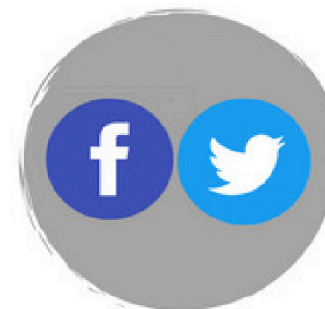
**VicEmergency website**  
emergency.vic.gov.au



**VicEmergency App**  
Apple and Android mobiles and tablets



**VicEmergency Hotline**  
1800 226 226



**Social Media**  
fb.com/vicemergency  
@vicemergency



**Radio**  
ABC local radio, commercial and agreed community stations.



**Television**  
Sky News



**Sirens**  
Continuous tone for 5 minutes



**Phone alert**  
SMS to mobiles  
Calls to landlines

## DOWNLOAD THE VICEMERGENCY APP



Android



Apple



# Pets and bushfires

A GUIDE FOR PET OWNERS



[cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au)

## Do you have a plan?

If you live near bush, grassland or coastal areas, you need to plan for your and your pets' safety on all bushfire risk days.

## Include your pets in your plan

If your plan is to leave early, think about what you'll do with your pets. On **Catastrophic** days the safest place to be is away from bushfire risk areas.

If you choose to take your pets with you, it's important to confine them early and remember:

- Pets are safest on a lead or in carriers.
- Make sure they have plenty of water to drink.
- Have an emergency kit for your pets.
- Practise moving your pets when you leave.
- Make a list of where you could house your pets.

This could include boarding kennels, a relative/friend's place or you may keep them with you.

If you travel to a high-risk bushfire area for a holiday, make sure you have a plan to keep you and your pets safe on hot, dry, windy days.

It is important that your pets are microchipped and wearing a collar identification tag at all times. Ensure all contact information is current and include an emergency contact linked to your pets' records.

Central Animal Records provides pet identification and recovery services for cats and dogs.

Visit [car.com.au](http://car.com.au).

Don't get caught out. Make sure your pets are well away from bushfire risk areas on all **Catastrophic** days.

## Prepare an emergency kit for your pets

Your emergency kit for pets should include:

- food and water
- a bowl for each pet
- a second collar and lead
- a carrier for cats and smaller pets
- bedding and a pure wool blanket
- a pet first-aid kit – seek your vet's advice
- a favourite toy any medications your pet is taking and a written list of them
- your pet's medical history including proof of vaccination
- your vet's contact details.

## Pet care during hot weather

Heat stress in dogs and cats occurs when they are unable to maintain their normal body temperature on a hot day.

On all hot days, especially days of **Extreme** or **Catastrophic** fire danger, it is important that you keep your pets as cool as possible.

Keeping your pets comfortable on a hot day is your responsibility. Look for the warning signs:

- excessive panting
- salivating
- pets that whine or seem agitated.

In cases of severe heat stress or heat stroke, pets may stop panting and vomit.

If your pet exhibits any of these symptoms, a vet should be consulted immediately.





### **Pet injuries after a fire**

If your pets suffer burn injuries during a fire, they must receive immediate treatment. As soon as it is safe to do so, take your pets to the nearest vet clinic or animal shelter. In the interim, treat affected areas with cool water.

### **Personal safety during bushfire**

Always put your own safety before the safety of your pets. Deaths occur during bushfires when people are caught out in the open, attempting to leave late. Ensure you wear protective clothing and drink water.

If you cannot leave the area, consider shelter options close by that may protect you. These may include:

- a well-prepared home (yours or a neighbour's) that you can actively defend
- a private bunker (that meets current regulations)
- a designated Community Fire Refuge.

Last resort options could include:

- a Bushfire Place of Last Resort (Neighbourhood Safer Place)
- a stationary car in a cleared area
- a ploughed paddock or reserve
- a body of water (such as the beach, pool, dam or river). This does not include a water tank. Dams may not be reliable as they may be empty in summer.

Note that last resort options carry a high risk of trauma, injury or death.

### **Ten tips for keeping your pets cool on hot days**

Have fresh, cool water available at all times.

Ensure your pets have shade at all times or bring them inside into a cool room.

Wipe your pets down with a cool, damp towel or leave wet towels out for them to lie on.

Wet your dog with cool water several times throughout the day.

Consider buying a wading pool for your dog.

For cats, rub damp hands over their coat or along their tummy.

Place ice blocks in your pet's water bowl.

Wrap ice in a cloth and place it near your pets.

Consider having your dog clipped if their coat is long and thick.

Never leave your pets in a vehicle on a hot day.

### **Further information**

- Pet Welfare - RSPCA [rspca.org.au](http://rspca.org.au)
- Bushfire safety and property preparation – CFA website [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au)

### **Where to find warnings and advice**

- Check the **VicEmergency App** for up-to-date Fire Danger Rating and Total Fire Ban information, as well as warnings and the locations of current fires. Download the App for free for Apple and Android.
- Local news: listen to ABC Local Radio, commercial and designated community radio stations and watch Sky News TV.
- VicEmergency Hotline: **1800 226 226**.
- National Relay Service: callers who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech/communication impairment can contact the VicEmergency Hotline via the National Relay Service **1800 555 677**.
- VicEmergency: [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au)
- Social Media: [facebook.com/cfavic](https://facebook.com/cfavic) twitter [@CFA\\_Updates](https://twitter.com/CFA_Updates)
- Interpreter **131 450**: If you do not speak English, call the Translating and Interpreting Service.

# Burning off in Golden Beach, Paradise Beach & Surrounding Communities

## **WARNING**

If you live in or are visiting these areas **YOU WILL** require a permit to burn off on your property at any time of year.

You must be able to demonstrate there is no alternative to burning, that smoke is unlikely to cause a nuisance to your neighbours and that the burn can be conducted safely.

To apply for a permit to burn, fill out a Local Laws Permit Application Form and submit to Council.

If you are unsure of your property zone, you may obtain a free report online.

Visit: [www.wellington.vic.gov.au/community/fire](http://www.wellington.vic.gov.au/community/fire)

scan here:



## Camping ?

**If you are here camping and wish to have a campfire for warmth or cooking please consider the below to ensure your campfire is safe to protect yourself and our community**

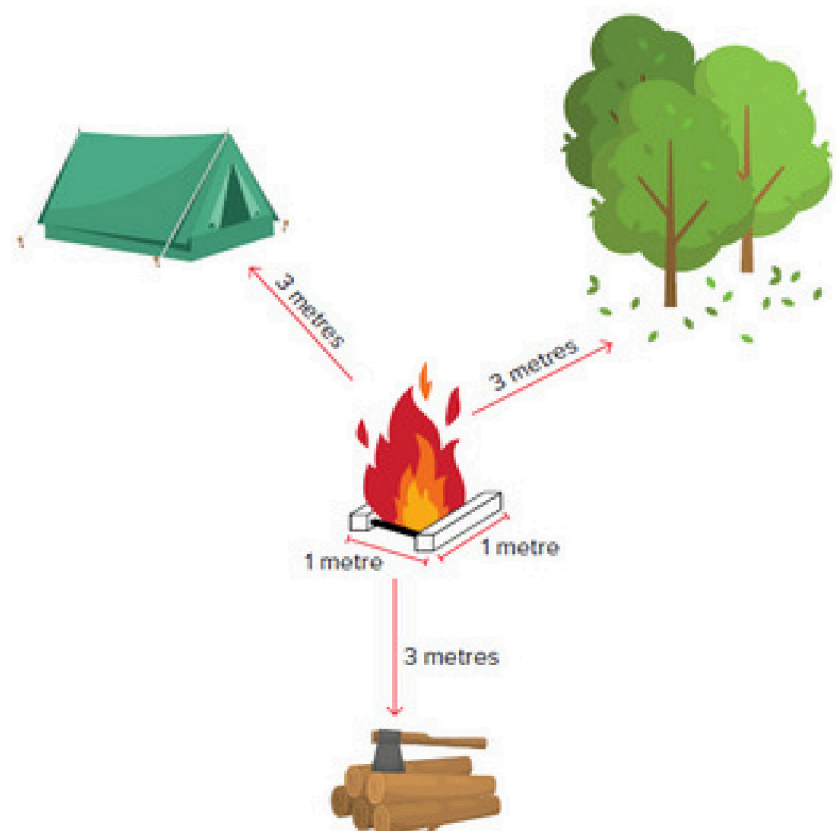
- Use a built fireplace (where provided) or dig a 30-centimetre deep trench to prevent fire from spreading.
- Create a border around the fire using large dry rocks – never use river rocks as they can explode.
- Clear 3 metres of ground surrounding the fire – remove branches, leaves and twigs and check there are no overhanging branches above the fire.
- Ensure the fire is at least 3 metres away from tents and other camping equipment, especially flammable items such as gas cylinders and fuel.
- Never use flammable liquid or fuel such as petrol or diesel on a fire.
- Always keep a 10-litre bucket of water and a shovel nearby.

### Putting your campfire OUT!

Make sure your fire is completely extinguished using water before leaving. Remember, if it's **cool to touch**, it's safe to leave!

Do not use soil. Fires can still smoulder under soil and can stay hot for more than eight hours (or even days).

This is a danger to anyone walking, living or visiting in the area after you have gone.



# Total Fire Ban Days



## On Days of Total Fire Ban

- Campfires and open flame barbecues are not permitted. This includes the use of kettle/Weber style barbecues and camp ovens.
- Solid fuel barbecues (eg wood, charcoal and briquettes) are not permitted.
- Liquid fuel barbecues or appliances are not permitted to be used in the open, or in a tent, annexe or tent-like trailer.

## Although

Gas and electric barbecues are permitted, provided that:

- The area three metres around the barbecue is cleared of flammable material.
  - You have a hose connected to a water supply or vessel (such as a bucket) with at least 10 litres of water.
  - An adult who has the capacity and means to extinguish the fire is present at all times.
  - The fire is completely extinguished before the adult leaves.
- Remember – if it's cool to touch, it's safe to leave!



Find out more about Total Fire Bans at  
[cfa.vic.gov.au/firebans](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/firebans)

# FIRE SAFETY



OUTREACH PROGRAM

FREE

The Fire Safety Outreach program is a free service for community members and professionals to access information and fire safety education from trained CFA community education officers.

Our community education officers will get in touch at a time that suits, via whatever communication method works for you.



#### Find out about:

- Bushfire planning for your household
- Property preparation for bushfire
- Understanding the fire danger ratings
- Where to gain trusted information during emergencies
- Fire restrictions, what you can and cannot do
- Home fire safety information
- Support education sessions for your community groups and clubs



To register your interest for the program please contact  
E: [firesafetyoutreach@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:firesafetyoutreach@cfa.vic.gov.au) or M: 0419 874 484 (BH)  
We will then make contact with you and refer you to one of our  
CFA Community Education Officers

For further fire safety information head to: [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

Contact your local CFA office or visit the  
CFA website:  
[www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare)

## Other sources of information



Listen to ABC Local Radio, Commercial and designated community radio stations and watch Sky News TV.



Social Media outlets:  
Twitter@CFA\_Updates  
and  
[facebook.com.au/cfavic](https://facebook.com.au/cfavic)



**1800 226 266**  
VicEmergency Hotline is a  
freecall



CFA website:  
[www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)



**1800 555 677**  
Callers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech/communication impairment can contact VBIL via the National Relay Service on this number



**131 450**  
If you do not speak English, call the Translating and Interpreting Service for translated information from VBIL. If you know someone who cannot speak English, provide them with this number.



***Get in touch with the  
Golden Beach Fire Brigade  
via their Facebook Page***



# TEAM GOLDEN BEACH



# SERVING OUR COMMUNITY



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# 000 EMERGENCIES

Stay focused, stay relevant, stay on the line

- Is someone seriously injured or in need of urgent medical help?
- Is your life or property being threatened?
- Do you want Police, Fire or Ambulance?
- Stay calm, don't shout, speak slowly and clearly.
- Tell us exactly where to come — Give an address or location.



- Have you just witnessed a serious accident or crime?  
If you answered YES **call Triple Zero (000)**. Triple Zero calls are free.

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