

As a resident in the City of Whittlesea, it is important to understand your bushfire risks of living in a more rural area.

Many residents come from urban areas or countries where bushfire dangers are not common. Stay informed and prepared for bushfires and other emergencies.



Emergency Contact Numbers

In an emergency
(Fire, Police, Ambulance):
☎ Dial 000

Flood and storm emergencies
(Victoria State Emergency Service):
☎ Call 132 500

Alerts and Warnings
Stay informed with the latest
alerts and warnings via

- 📍 VicEmergency website and phone app
- 📍 Plenty Valley FM: 88.6 FM
- 📍 ABC News Radio
- 📍 Sky News: Official television broadcaster

Other Languages

If you require this brochure or any other emergency information in another language, please visit our website at whittlesea.vic.gov.au (search "language").



Free telephone
interpreter service

131 450



For more information scan the QR code or visit our website at whittlesea.vic.gov.au/emergency



Welcome to the City of Whittlesea

Important information about bushfire risk



Welcome to the City of Whittlesea.

Stay safe, prepared and informed about the risks of living in a more rural area.



Mowing and slashing during Fire Season

- With the introduction of the new Council Community Law in July 2024, landowners or occupiers must maintain vacant land between November and March each year by keeping grass, stubble, weeds, scrub, and undergrowth at a height not exceeding 10 centimeters. For larger parcels of land, a minimum fire break of 35 meters from every boundary is required.
- Property owners who do not comply with these requirements may face fines exceeding \$1,500.

Prescribed burning program

- The City of Whittlesea has a team dedicated to conducting prescribed burns on Council-owned and managed land.
- Prescribed burning involves planning and applying fire to a specific area under controlled conditions to achieve specific objectives.
- The goals of prescribed burning include reducing bushfire severity, maintaining biodiversity, rehabilitating vegetation, and researching fire interactions with the environment.

More details about the prescribed burning program, including maps of upcoming and past burns, can be found on the Council's website.



Reporting overgrown grass

- If you see properties that are overgrown with grass or fire hazards, report them on the Snap Send and Solve phone app on the Council website, or by calling Council on **9217 2170**

Declared Fire Season and Total Fire Ban days

- Stay updated on fire bans and danger rating by visiting the CFA website cfa.vic.gov.au

Find information on Total Fire Bans and Fire Danger Ratings, Warnings and Restrictions, Planning and Preparation, Volunteering, News and Information, and information specifically for schools.

Bushfire and grassfire risk in the City of Whittlesea

- Much of the northern area of the City of Whittlesea is considered bushfire-prone
- Bushfire-prone locations include the Kinglake Ranges, Humevale, Whittlesea, Eden Park, and Yan Yean. There are also bushfire-prone areas along the Plenty Gorge
- For further information on fire-prone areas, visit the Council Website
- Grassfires are a risk in many areas of the municipality – including around new residential developments or those against nature reserves
- Grassfire-prone areas include Wollert, South Morang, Mernda, Doreen, Epping and some areas of Bundoora and Woodstock




















Grassfire safety tips

- Grassfires can start anywhere and spread quickly
- If you live next to grassland and a grassfire starts, walk at least two streets back from the fire
- If you live two or three streets away from grassland and a grassfire starts, stay where you are; grassfires are unlikely to spread into built-up areas
- Never drive if you can see smoke or fire. Thick smoke will make it hard to see and traffic jams and accidents are likely
- Keep roads clear for emergency services

Home Emergency Checklist

Every household should have a home emergency kit that contains items that you will need, should you have to leave your home quickly if an emergency happens.

Kits should include things like:

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|  a copy of your home emergency plan |  note pad and pencils/pens |
|  first aid kit |  water bottles and non-perishable food |
|  torch and batteries |  snap lock bags |
|  AM/FM radio and batteries |  whistle and glow sticks |
|  phone chargers |  clothing |
|  important documents (eg: passports, insurance, etc) |  rain jacket |
|  medications and prescriptions |  pet items (food, bowls, etc) |
|  masks and COVID tests |  blankets (wool if in a bushfire risk area) |
|  toiletries and baby items such as nappies |  small amount of cash. |
|  something to entertain the family (pack of cards or books) | |

Other items may also be important to consider and there is a full list of suggested emergency kit contents on Council's website