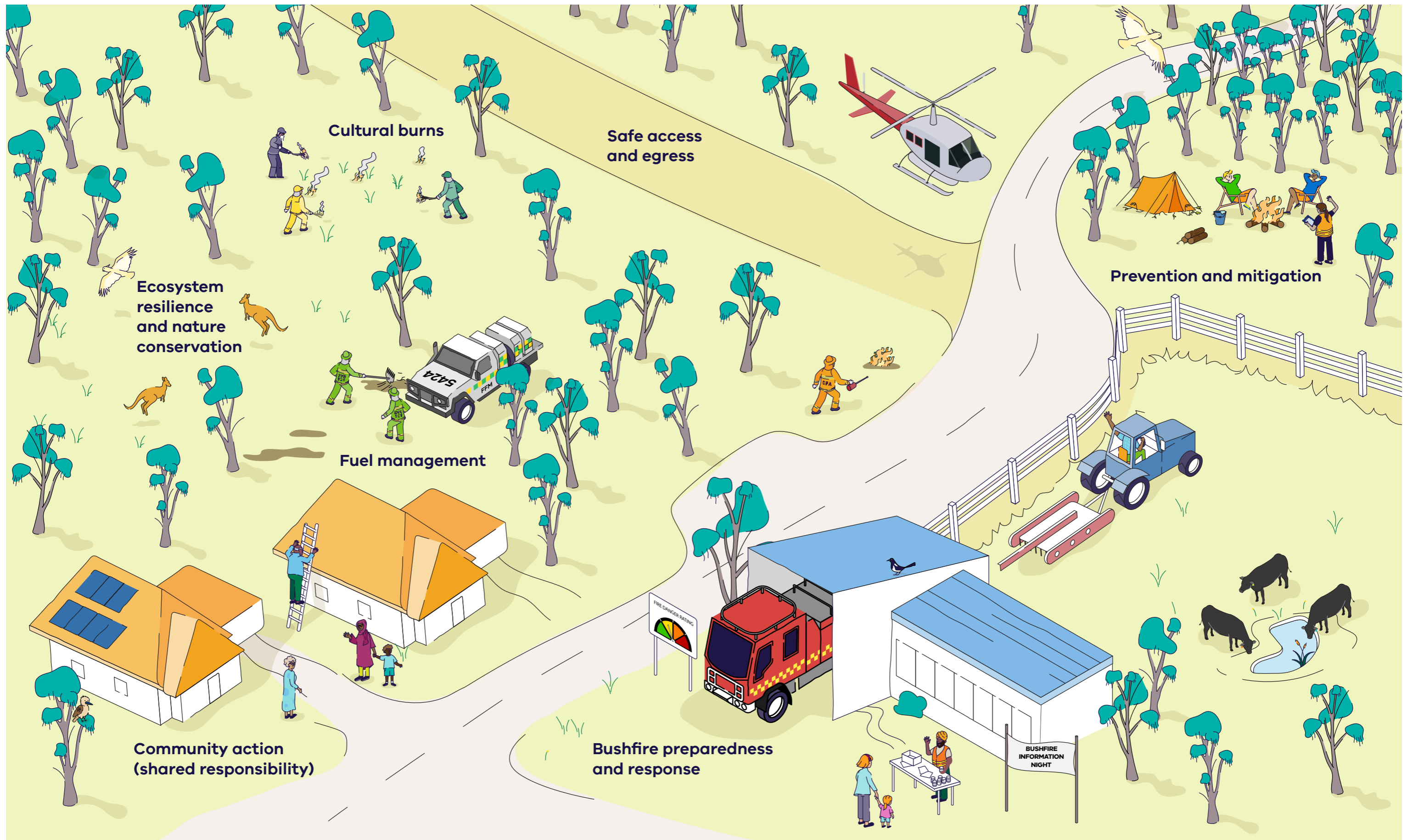


How we manage bushfire risk

Activities that reduce the risk of bushfires include:



We all have a role to play managing bushfire risk

Many people know that in Victoria we use planned burning to manage bushfire risk. But this is not our only tool – and bushfire management is not just the responsibility of land and fire, and emergency service agencies. It is everyone's responsibility and everyone can play a role in reducing their bushfire risk.

This infographic shows you some of the different ways Victoria manages bushfire risk.

Prevention and mitigation

- Declaring and enforcing Total Fire Ban Days, Fire Danger Periods and campfire compliance controls to prevent ignitions
- Closing forests and parks when conditions would make them dangerous to enter
- Setting and administering land use planning and building standards to reduce bushfire exposure
- Working with community, business and industry to help them understand bushfire and how they can take steps to reduce their own risk

Fuel management

Fuel management is an activity that reduces the vegetation available to 'fuel' a fire. As well as planned burning on public land, fuel management in Victoria includes:

- Planned burning on private and council-managed land, including burning along roadsides to allow firefighters access to bushfires when they do occur, and to help communities leave safely
- Non-burn fuel treatments, including slashing and mowing
- Removing storm debris
- Constructing and maintaining strategic fuel breaks

Bushfire preparedness and response

- Maintaining fire access roads and bridges to help crews respond quickly
- Training, maintaining equipment and pre-positioning aircraft and firefighters
- Watching out for new fires and responding rapidly and aggressively, including through use of rappel crews
- Keeping communities informed through advice and emergency warnings
- Having a well-trained workforce of volunteers and staff to respond to bushfires on the frontline and as part of incident management and support teams

Bushfire recovery

- Working to ensure infrastructure is safe, so evacuated communities can return quickly
- Working with communities and businesses to support recovery from bushfire. The aim is to minimise the social, economic and environmental consequences of bushfires

Integrating bushfire management into broader land management

In taking actions to prevent and suppress bushfires, Victoria's bushfire sector considers broader land management objectives for different landscapes across the State.

In addition to the strategies above, complementary actions include:

- Delivering ecological burns to maintain healthy and resilient ecosystems
- Supporting Traditional Owners to reintroduce cultural fire for a range of land management objectives, which also reduces fuels and bushfire risk

Community action – five ways with fire

1. Get started on a Bushfire Plan

Use sites such as cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare or fireplanner.vic.gov.au to learn some bushfire basics and to start building your Bushfire Plan. Start thinking about where and when you will go, who you will go with and what you will take.

2. Download and get to know the VicEmergency app – then set up 'watch zones' and turn on notifications to be kept up to date wherever you are

Emergency warnings can help you choose whether and when to leave and give you time to follow your bushfire plan. Agencies work year-round to maintain tracks and roads that will help access and egress in case of a fire, but it's still always safest to leave early.

3. Get to know the Australian Fire Danger Ratings System

There are four ratings – Moderate, High, Extreme and Catastrophic.

Work out what fire danger rating will trigger your Bushfire Plan.

If the Fire Danger Rating is Catastrophic or Extreme you're risking your life if you wait and see.

4. Plan your travel – head to exploreoutdoors.vic.gov.au to help you stay safe when visiting state forests

Government and agencies have a range of resources available online to help you navigate what you need to do if you are travelling or away from home. Sites such as Explore Outdoors and Parks Victoria have tips and advice for people visiting state forests and national parks..

5. Never leave a campfire unattended – if they are cool to touch, they are safe to leave.

Under the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958* It is an offence to leave a campfire unattended. The Office of the Conservation Regulator carries out compliance patrols to make sure people are acting safely in our forests and national parks. But you can help too: if a campfire is cool to touch, it is safe to leave.