

# Prepare - Act - Survive



### Bushfire rating: **VERY HIGH**

Fire Authorities have assessed Allans Flat as having a **VERY HIGH** bushfire risk. Local residents and visitors should be prepared for fire and have a plan for when the Fire Danger Rating is **SEVERE**, **EXTREME** or **CODE RED**.

This community information guide includes a map containing key elements of Allans Flat's bushfire risk. At the time of publication, there are no designated Neighbourhood Safer Places – Places of Last Resort at Allans Flat.

Important community bushfire safety information is provided to help you make informed decisions about how to survive a bushfire, whether you're a local resident or a visitor to the area. Planning and preparation can save lives in a bushfire. Use this community information guide to help you and your family to prepare.





# Prepare

It's important if **you** live, work and travel in this area, to plan what **you** will do if a bushfire threatens.

## Understand **your** bushfire risk

- Allans Flat has been assessed as having a VERY HIGH bushfire risk in accordance with the Victorian Fire Risk Register.
- Allans Flat locality has not directly been impacted by major fires in recent years, but has been affected by fire in neighbouring areas over the last 10 years.
- Grassland represents the major direct risk in Allans Flat, along with ember attack from bushland.
- It is impossible for emergency services to protect every individual home or property.
- Remember, your usual travel routes may be limited or blocked.
- Know the daily Fire Danger Rating in the district where you live or travel [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

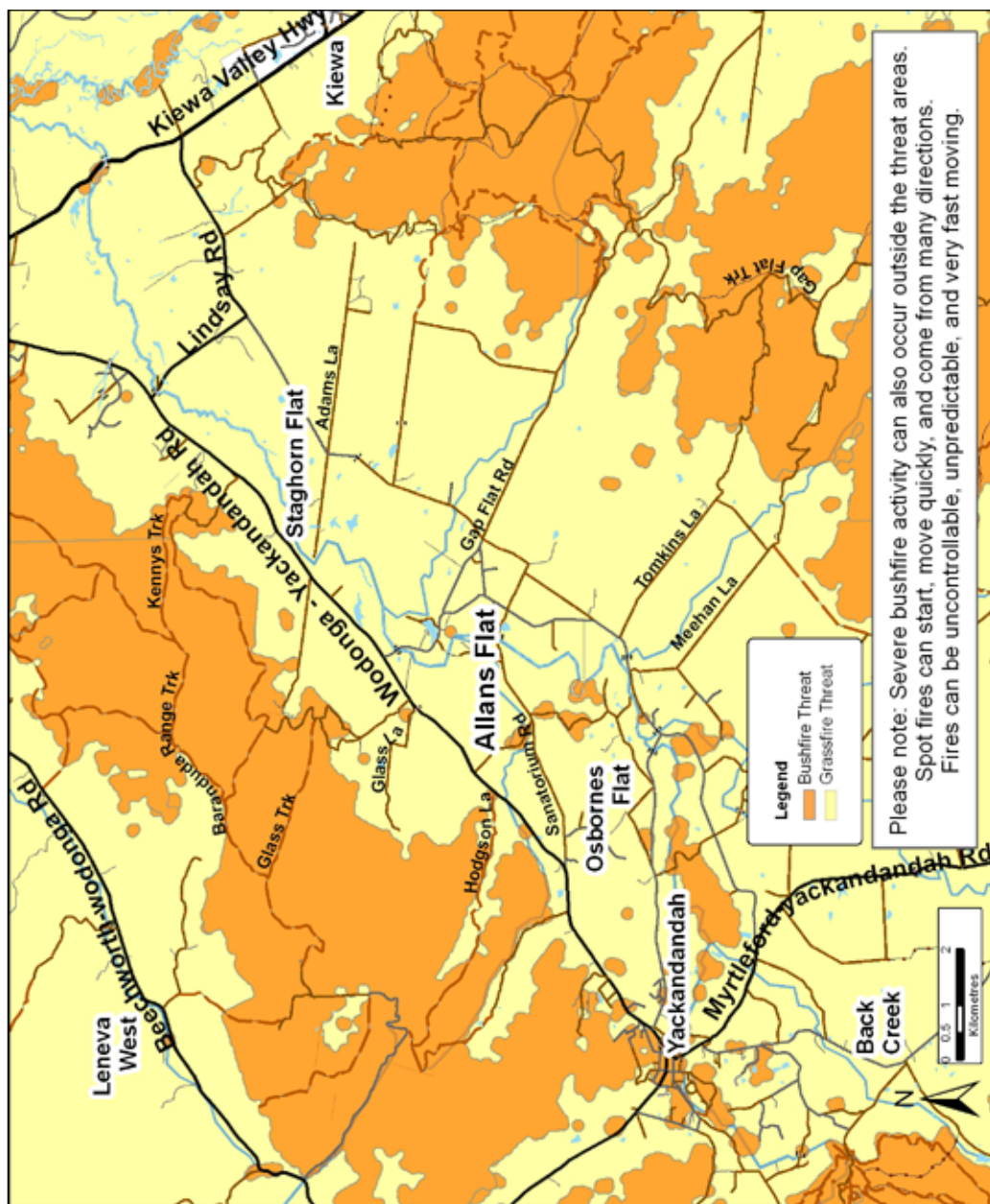
## Reduce **your** bushfire risk

- Prepare your home and property against bushfire, burning embers and radiant heat. A well-prepared home has a greater chance of not being destroyed by bushfire.
- Encourage and assist your neighbours to reduce their bushfire risk, as this may help make your property safer.
- **Develop and practise your Bushfire Survival Plan.**
- **You will also need to plan for your pets' safety.**
- You can attend or join:
  - A local Fire Ready Victoria meeting
  - A Bushfire Planning Workshop
  - A neighbourhood Community Fireguard Group
- **The Household Bushfire Self-Assessment Tool is available to help individuals assess the bushfire risk on their own property.**



You can download the CFA FireReady kit, containing the full Leaving Early Planning Template from [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au), or call **1800 226 226 (TTY 1800 122 969)**

# Allans Flat Bushfire Threat Map





# Prepare

**FACT**

It is your responsibility to prepare yourself, your family and your home for the threat of bushfire. You need to act decisively in accordance with your **Bushfire Survival Plan** when fires threaten. Your survival depends on your preparations and the decisions you make.



## Leave early

Leaving early is always the safest option.

### Leaving early is more important when:

- The Fire Danger Rating is **CODE RED**. Homes aren't 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 home – no matter how well prepared it is.
- There are children, elderly or disabled people in your home. People who are vulnerable due to age, health or any other reason, should always leave early.
- You have not prepared yourself or your property to give you and your home the best level of protection from a fire.
- Your house is not defensible. Some homes are not safe to defend because of their location or construction.

If you plan to leave, then you should leave well before a fire reaches your area and well before you are under threat. Follow the actions recommended for the Fire Danger Rating of the day (see pages 6 and 7). **Visit CFA website [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)**

### Where will you go?

- 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 the following townships:  
**Wodonga or Tangambalanga.**
- Always tell family, friends or neighbours, that you are leaving and where you are planning to go.

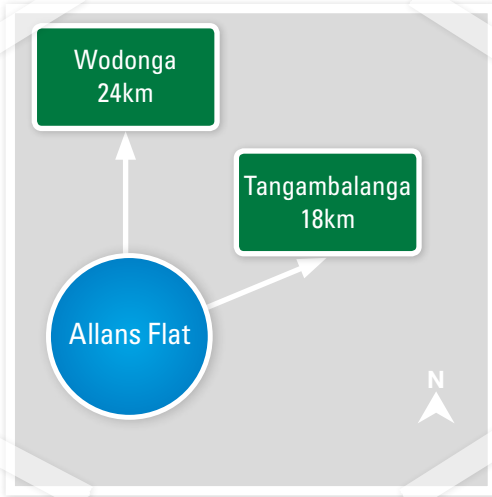
If you - or someone you care for - will need help to prepare and leave early when there is high fire risk, obtain a Red Cross **Bushfire: Preparing to leave early guide** at **[www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)** or request a copy by phoning the **VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226**

## PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

**PREPARE.** You must make important decisions before the fire season starts.

**ACT.** The higher the Fire Danger Rating, the more dangerous the conditions.

**SURVIVE.** Fires may threaten without warning, so you need to know what you will do to survive.



- When the fire danger is Extreme or Code Red, leaving early is the safest option.
- Leaving early can be the night before or early in the day.



## How you can stay in touch

- Bookmark the VicEmergency webpage ([www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au)).
- Follow CFA on Twitter ([www.twitter.com/cfa\\_updates](http://www.twitter.com/cfa_updates)).
- Join the CFA Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/cfavic](http://www.facebook.com/cfavic)).
- Access the CFA mobile website at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/mobile](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/mobile)
- Download the VicEmergency app if you have a smartphone or tablet Apple (App Store) and Android (Google play).
- Beware, cordless home phones will NOT work if the mains power supply is cut.
- Wireless communications, internet and landlines may vary between service providers.
- Mobile phone coverage in and around Allans Flat is generally good, but may not be accessible during times of emergency and may vary between service providers.
- There is no community-alerting siren operating in this township.
- Sirens sounding nearby are a trigger for you to seek information, as they may indicate fire activity in your area. When you hear a siren, further information may be available via ABC local radio, commercial and designated community radio stations, and SKY News TV (see page 16).
- Observe what is happening outside on a regular basis and check all information sources.

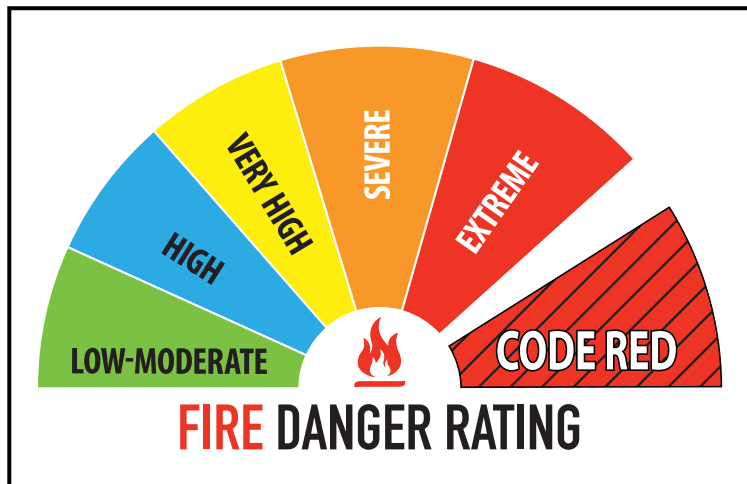


A written fire plan may save your life - would you remember a plan that's just in your head if your surrounded by smoke, heat, flame and noise?



# Act

Note *your* district's  
Fire Danger Rating  
daily as *your* trigger  
to act.



## Allans Flat is in the North East Fire District



## Triggers

CODE RED

EXTREME

SEVERE

VERY HIGH

HIGH

LOW - MODERATE

# Actions

What does it mean?	What should I do?
<p>These are the worst conditions for a bush or grass fire.</p> <p>Homes are not designed or constructed to withstand fires in these conditions.</p> <p>The safest place to be is away from high risk bushfire areas.</p>	<p>Leaving high risk bushfire areas the night before or early in the day is your safest option – do not wait and see.</p> <p>Avoid forested areas, thick bush and long, dry grass.</p> <p>Know your trigger.</p> <p>Make a decision about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>–when you will leave</li> <li>–where you will go</li> <li>–how you will get there</li> <li>–when you will return</li> <li>–what you will do if you cannot leave</li> </ul>
<p>Expect extremely hot, dry and windy conditions.</p> <p>If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving. Spot fires will start, move quickly and will come from many directions.</p> <p>Homes that are situated and constructed or modified to withstand a bushfire, that are well prepared and actively defended, may provide safety.</p> <p>You must be physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.</p>	<p>Consider staying with your property only if you are prepared to the highest level. This means your home needs to be situated and constructed or modified to withstand a bushfire, you are well prepared and you can actively defend your home if a fire starts.</p> <p>If you are not prepared to the highest level, leaving high risk bushfire areas early in the day is your safest option.</p> <p>Be aware of local conditions and get information by listening to ABC Local Radio, commercial and designated community radio stations or Sky News TV, going to <a href="http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au">www.cfa.vic.gov.au</a> or call the VicEmergency Hotline on <b>1800 226 226</b>.</p>
<p>Expect hot, dry and possibly windy conditions.</p> <p>If a fire starts and takes hold, it may be uncontrollable.</p> <p>Well prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety.</p> <p>You must be physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.</p>	<p>Well prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety – check your bushfire survival plan.</p> <p>If you are not prepared, leaving bushfire prone areas early in the day is your safest option.</p> <p>Be aware of local conditions and get information by listening to ABC Local Radio, commercial and designated community radio stations or Sky News TV, going to <a href="http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au">www.cfa.vic.gov.au</a> or call the VicEmergency Hotline on <b>1800 226 226</b>.</p>
<p>If a fire starts, it can most likely be controlled in these conditions and homes can provide safety.</p> <p>Be aware of how fires can start and minimise the risk.</p> <p>Controlled burning off may occur in these conditions if it is safe – check to see if permits apply.</p>	<p>Check your bushfire survival plan.</p> <p>Monitor conditions.</p> <p>Action may be needed.</p> <p>Leave if necessary.</p>





# Act

# Planned Emergency



## Understanding Warnings

- A warning will be issued when any type of emergency could impact you or your property.
- Warnings aim to provide you with the best advice and information on what is happening to help you make good decisions to protect yourself and others.
- Remember: don't rely on an official warning to leave. Emergencies can start quickly and threaten you within minutes.
- Always use more than one source for your emergency information.

## Evacuation

You may be advised to evacuate by police or emergency services. In fast-moving situations, you may not always receive a warning or recommendation to evacuate. Stay informed, aware of local conditions and the Fire Danger Rating, so that you can plan ahead and make the right decision in a bushfire. Leaving early is always the safest option. Refer to 'Community Evacuation Information', available at

**[www.police.vic.gov.au](http://www.police.vic.gov.au)**

Should a recommendation to evacuate be made, the following advice would apply:

- A fire is rapidly advancing.
- If advised, travel to the evacuation destination as advised by emergency services.
- Strictly follow all instructions and advice.



### Community information

- A newsletter containing updates for communities affected by an emergency.
- Can also be used as notification that an incident has occurred but there is no threat to community.



### Advice

- An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions.
- Can also be used as a notification that activity in the area has subsided and is no longer a danger to you.



### Warning (Watch & Act)

- An emergency is developing nearby. You need to take action now to protect yourself and others.



### Emergency Warning

- You are in imminent danger and need to take action immediately.



### Prepare to evacuate/evacuate now

- An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.



# Emergency Service Actions

## Fire Agencies

- Saving life is the highest priority
- Issue advice and warnings
- Control and manage fire fighting activities
- Where safe to do so, protect:
  - Identified community assets
  - Property
  - The environment

## Victoria Police

- Keep people safe and property secure
- Control traffic in bushfire areas
- Manage evacuations
- Register people who have evacuated
- Work with other agencies to keep the community informed

## Allans Flat

- Residents and visitors, know your risk and act in accordance with the Fire Danger Rating triggers on pages 6 and 7
- Water supplies, communication and power cannot always be guaranteed
- Regularly take note of what is happening outside in all directions
- Look and smell for signs of fire

## Indigo Shire

- Activate Municipal Emergency Management Plans
- Support and work with Emergency Services and responding Agencies
- Assist with the provision of local information to the Community and Media
- Activate and support Emergency Relief Centres when required
- Assist and support the Community to recover from the emergency

## VicRoads

- Manage road closures on advice from Police and Fire Agencies
- Undertake safety inspections of roads prior to opening
- Provide advice to communities about road closures



# Bushfire Survival

## WHAT TO DO

### Leave Early

- When the Fire Danger Rating is Code Red, leaving early is always the safest option
- Leave early destinations could include homes of families & friends who live outside the risk area, a nearby town or built up area

**Always the safest option**



### Well Prepared

If leaving the high-risk area is no longer an option, there may be options close to where you are that could protect you. These include:

**Your safety is**



**For more information on how to prepare your own**  
**[www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) VicEmergency Hotline**

# Options

- A well prepared home (yours or your neighbours') that you can actively defend on Severe & Extreme Fire Danger Rating days only
- Private Bushfire Shelter (bunker) that meets current regulations
- Designated community fire refuge

**not guaranteed**

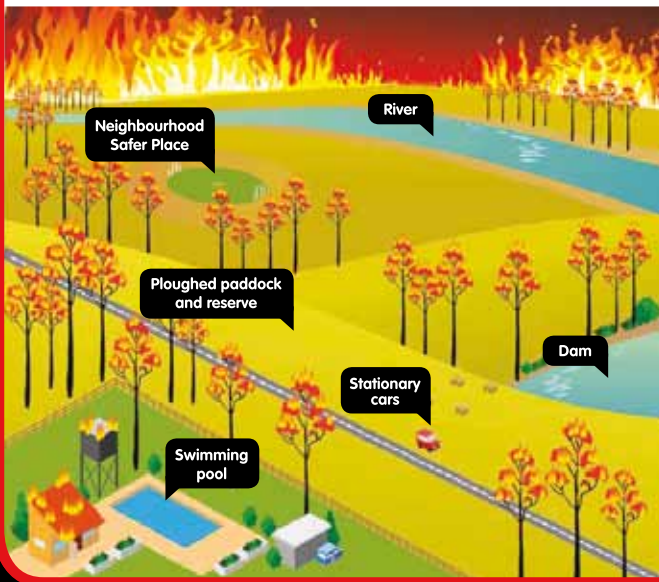


## Last Resort

In situations where no other options are available to you, taking shelter in one of the below may protect from radiant heat:

- Neighbourhood Safer Place (place of last resort)
- Stationary car in a clear area
- Ploughed paddock or reserve
- Body of water (i.e. beach, swimming pool, dam, river, etc.)

**High risk of trauma, injury or death**



**Bushfire Survival Plan:**  
**1800 226 226**

# **Survive**

*Fire may threaten without warning, so **you** need to know what to do to survive.*

## **Community Fire Refuges**

- A Community Fire Refuge is a purpose built or modified building that provides short-term protection from radiant heat and embers. Community Fire Refuges are designed to be a last resort option if your personal survival plan has failed during a bushfire event.
- There is **NO** Community Fire Refuge located in Allans Flat.

## **Activate **your** bushfire survival plan **early****

- Remember, bushfires can happen when least expected. Planning and preparation are essential.
- A last-minute decision may cost you and your family your lives.
- **You may not receive an official warning about a bushfire.**
- Do NOT expect a fire truck at your property.
- Your survival and safety depend on the decisions you make.
- Always tell family, friends or neighbours what you are planning to do.
- Observe the weather, including the direction the wind is blowing.
- Watch what is happening around you and where a fire may be located.

## **Leaving late is **DANGEROUS****

- Travel on roads in this area during a fire is dangerous.
- You may be impacted by fire, and visibility may be poor due to smoke.
- The roads may be blocked due to falling trees, collisions or emergency vehicles.
- Usual travel routes may not be accessible.
- Don't assume you can turn back, as the road may have become blocked behind you.
- Lives are more likely to be lost when people make a last-minute decision to flee a bushfire.
- The risk of being overrun by fire is very real.
- People caught in the open are likely to face severe and often fatal levels of radiant heat.
- Leaving late is a DEADLY option.

**It is important that you plan to leave early (see page 4). Assemble a relocation kit.**

Have a relocation kit with essential items already prepared and make sure it is stored in an easily accessible place.

**Some of the things that you might like to include in your kit are:**

Protective clothing made from natural fibres

Woollen blankets

## Water and medications

Toiletries and sanitary supplies

Mobile phone and charger

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## Important documents

First aid kit

Cash, ATM/credit cards

Valuables and photos

Battery powered radio

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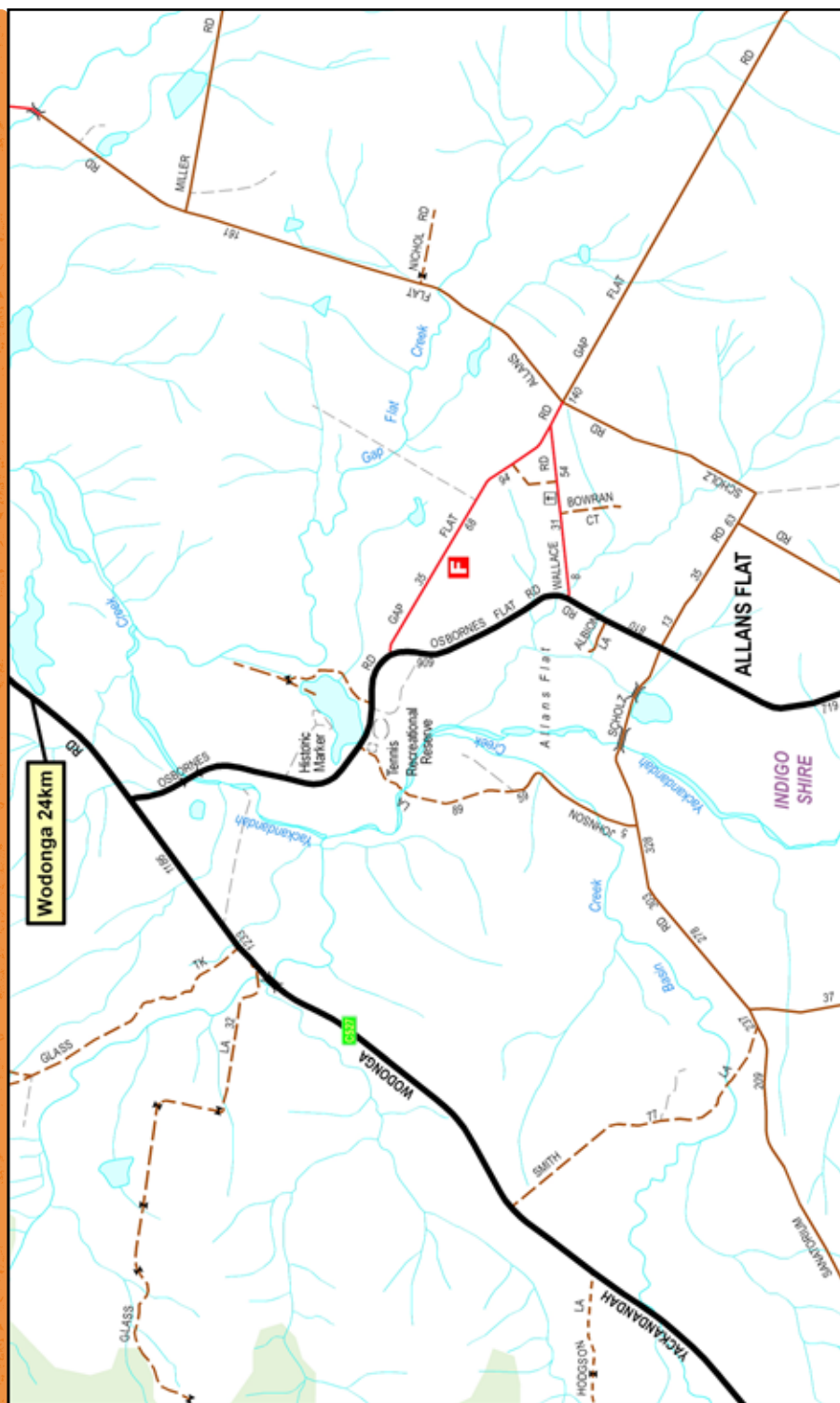
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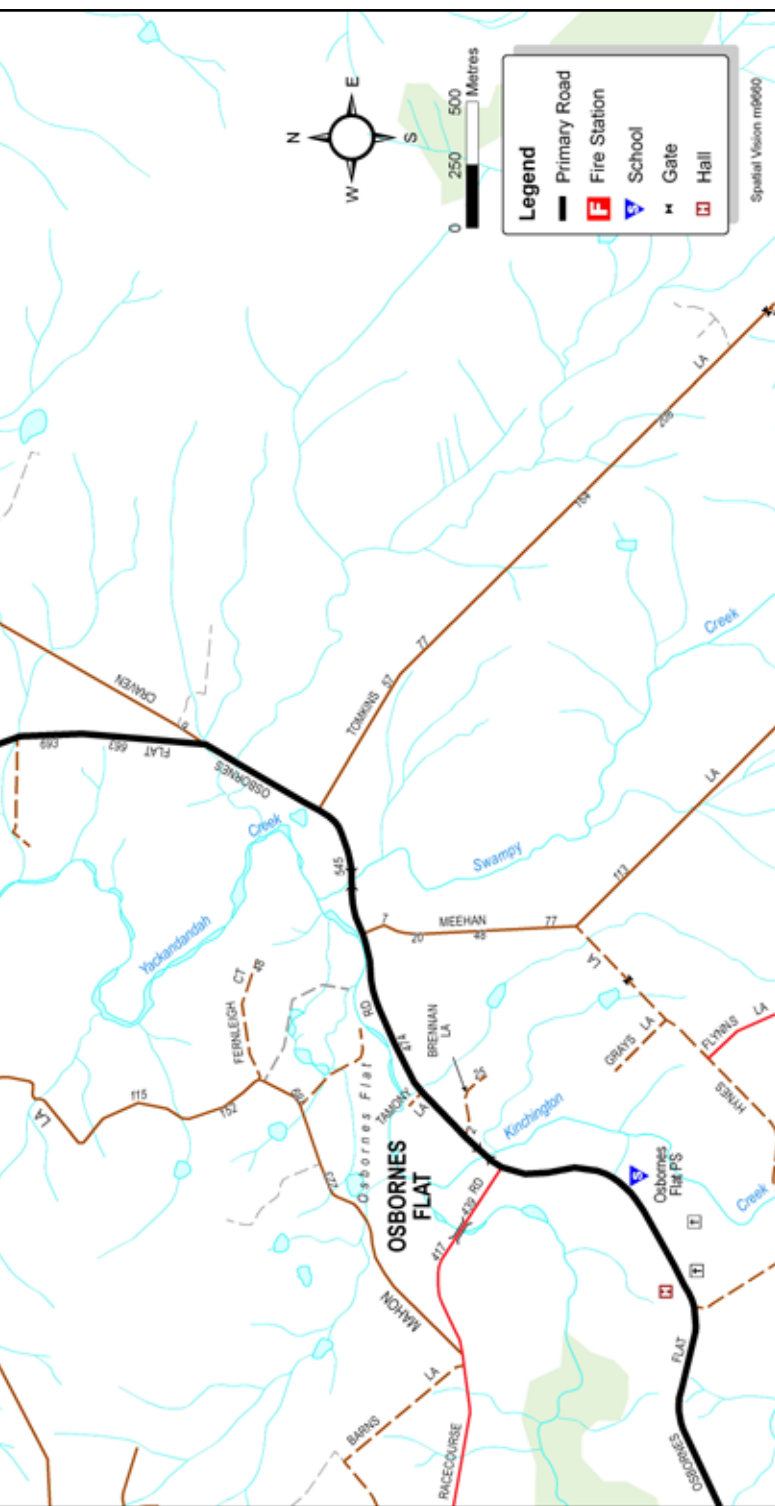
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# Allans Flat Community Map







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## In EMERGENCY dial 000 (TTY 106)

Do not call Triple Zero for information or advice. Calling Triple Zero unnecessarily may put others who are in a genuine emergency situation at risk.

### VicEmergency Hotline: 1800 226 226

#### Emergency Contact Information

Monitor the VicEmergency App and tune into your emergency broadcaster and VicEmergency website ([www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au)) on days of high fire danger ratings is the most reliable way of staying informed. Mains power may be unavailable, or fail, during fire and emergencies – keep a battery powered radio available.

**Emergency Broadcasters:** Sky News TV, ABC 106.5 FM, 2AY 1494 AM, HIT 104.9 FM, MMM 105.7 FM, Edge 102.1 Edge, 3NE 1566 AM, ABC 97.7 FM

**Road closures:** 13 11 70 [www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au)

**National Park, State Forest and Park closures:** 13 19 63 [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)

**School, early childhood services and bus route closures:** [www.education.vic.gov.au](http://www.education.vic.gov.au)

**24 Hour Wildlife Emergency:** 13 000 WILDLIFE or 1300 094 535

**24 Hour NURSE-ON-CALL:** 1300 60 60 24

#### Bushfire Information:

**VicEmergency website:** [www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au)

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

**Follow CFA on Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/cfa\\_updates](http://www.twitter.com/cfa_updates)

**Join the CFA Facebook page:** [www.facebook.com/cfaviv](http://www.facebook.com/cfaviv)

**FFMvic website (planned burning):** [www.ffm.vic.gov.au](http://www.ffm.vic.gov.au)



#### Further Information

**Dept of Human Services:** [www.dhs.vic.gov.au/emergency](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/emergency)

**Forest Fire Management Victoria:** 13 61 86 [www.ffm.vic.gov.au](http://www.ffm.vic.gov.au)

**Weather:** [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

**CFA District Office:** (02) 6043 4400 (**non emergency calls only**)

**Indigo Shire:** 1300 365 003 [www.indigoshire.vic.gov.au](http://www.indigoshire.vic.gov.au)

Deaf, hearing impaired or speech impaired? **Contact the National Relay Service on 1800 555 677** if you use a **TTY, 1800 555 727** if you use Speak and Listen, and then ask for: **1800 226 226**