

Belgrave, Tecoma & Upwey

Community Information Guide - Bushfire

Prepare - Act - Survive



Bushfire rating: **EXTREME**

The **EXTREME** risk comes from the combination of high fuel loads in the bordering forest, the hilly terrain and a lack of accessibility with narrow dead-end roads and homes blended into bushland.

At the time of publication, there are **THREE** designated Neighbourhood Safer Places – Places of Last Resort (see page 13) in the vicinity of Belgrave, Tecoma and Upwey.

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.





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

- Belgrave, Upwey and Tecoma and townships are bordered by the Dandenong Ranges National Park to the north, a band of open grasslands with pockets of bushland to the south and another forested area around Lysterfield Lake beyond this.
- Belgrave is surrounded by Sherbrooke forest.
- These bordering Mountain Ash forests have large amounts of vegetation, high fuel loads with fuel continuous from ground level to tree canopies.
- The area is generally hilly, with steeper slopes from Burwood Hwy up towards Tremont and Ferny Creek.
- There is a long history of fires in this area with many losses experienced.
- Fires can come from any direction, and may come from multiple directions at the same time. Upwey's major risk is from the north from Tremont, west from Ferntree Gully National Park, and south west from Glenfern Rd area. Tecoma and Belgrave are at risk from fire in surrounding Sherbrooke Forest, in addition to fire from the south-west from Lysterfield Park and Birdland areas.
- These townships are at significant risk after a south-west WIND CHANGE.
- Accessibility is poor with a maze of narrow winding local roads increasing the risk.

Reduce **your** bushfire risk

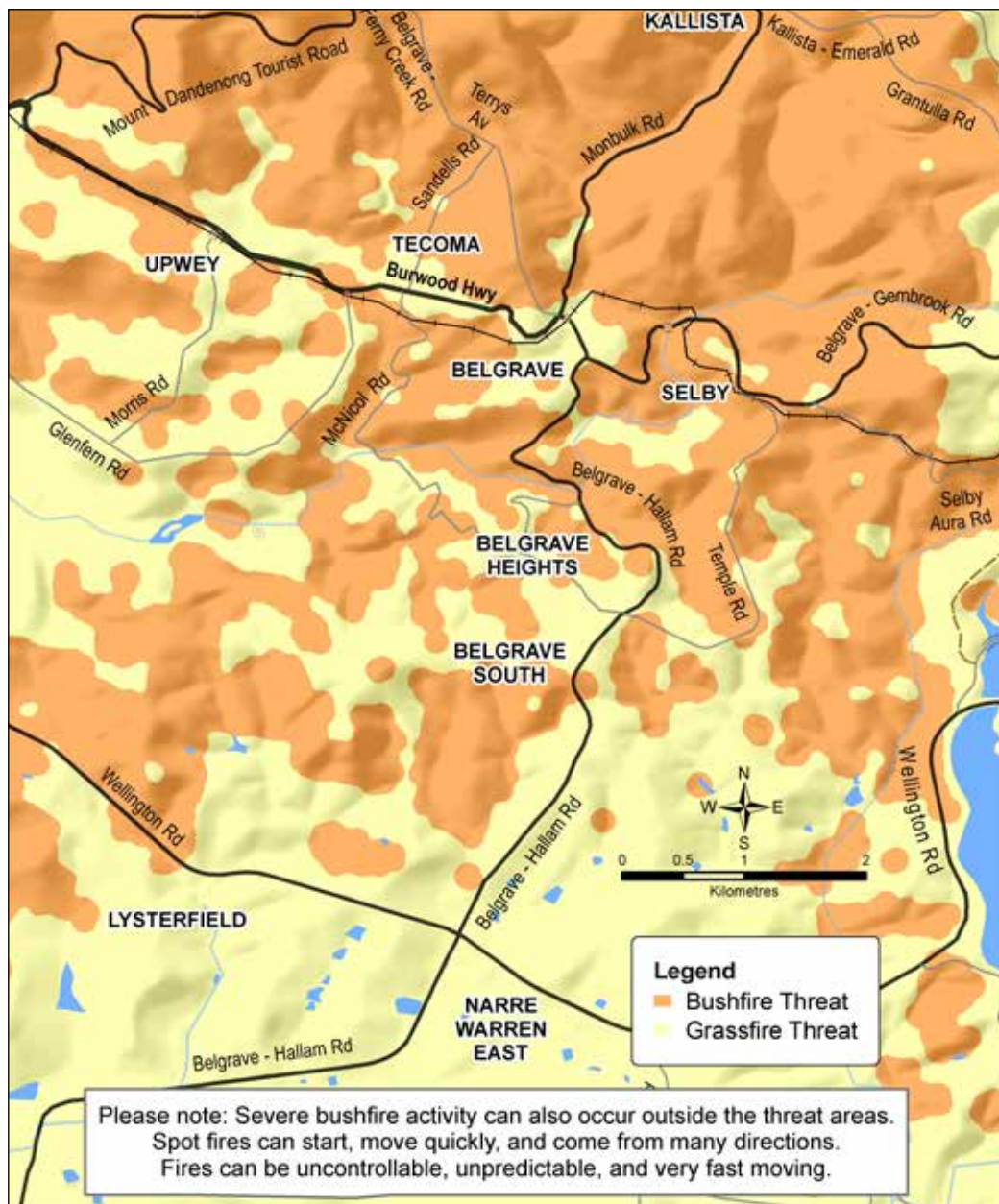
Living in a bushland environment means preparing your property and home AND managing vegetation around your home is essential - even if you are planning to leave early.

There are many resources available and activities you can be involved in to learn more about your risk and preparing your bushfire survival plan. .

- Check with your council about burning off regulations and green waste collection services.
- Get a Fire Ready Kit including the Leaving Early Planning Template and checklists.
- Encourage and assist your neighbours to reduce their bushfire risk, as this may help make your property safer.
- Contact your local CFA brigade.
- Go to a local Fire Ready meeting at the start of summer.
- Attend a Bushfire Planning Workshop.
- Join a local neighborhood Community Fireguard Group, or if there isn't one in your road start one.
- CFA's booklet LANDSCAPING FOR BUSHFIRE: Garden Design and Plant Selection has excellent information on creating a firewise garden.

All of these resources, meeting details and services can be accessed from **cfa.vic.gov.au** or by calling the **VicEmergency Hotline** on **1800 226 226 (TTY-1800 122 969)**

Belgrave, Tecoma & Upwey 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 bushfires 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:

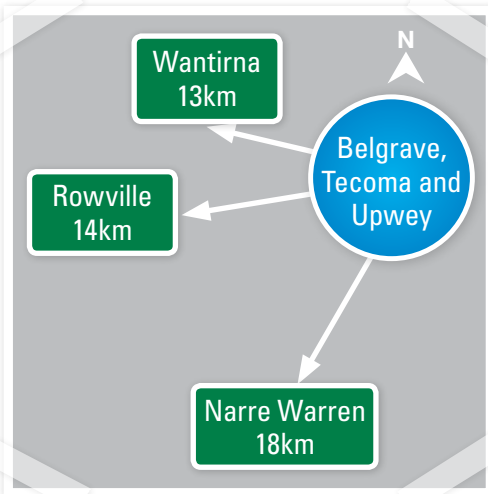
- The Fire Danger Rating is **CODE RED**. Homes aren't designed to withstand a bushfire during these conditions. Any fire that starts and takes hold will be so intense that you won't be safe to stay and defend your home – no matter how well prepared it is.
- There are children, elderly or disabled people 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 page 6 and 7). **Visit the CFA website www.cfa.vic.gov.au**

Where will **you** go?

- You need to go somewhere well out of the bushfire risk area that suits your personal needs and circumstances, eg. a family member's house in an urban area with a backyard for your pet.
- If you don't have any other options, you may wish to consider a shopping centre or the following townships: **Wantirna, Rowville and Narre Warren.**
- Always tell someone 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** or request a copy by phoning the **VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226**



DON'T 'WAIT & SEE'
what will happen.

DON'T rely on a warning.

DON'T rely on being evacuated!

In this area evacuation once a fire has started will be practically impossible due to the speed of fires & the limited road network.

- Bushfires in this area can travel fast and may impact you and your family without warning.
- Roads may be congested or blocked during a bushfire.
- Public transport services (including trains) will be affected during a bushfire.



How you can stay in touch

- Bookmark the VicEmergency webpage (www.emergency.vic.gov.au).
- Follow CFA on Twitter (www.twitter.com/cfa_updates).
- Join the CFA Facebook page (www.facebook.com/cfavvic).
- Access the CFA mobile website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au/mobile
- Download the VicEmergency app if you have a smartphone or tablet
Apple (App Store) and Android (Google play).
- Wireless communications, internet and landlines may vary between service providers.
- Mobile phone coverage in and around this area is generally good, but may not be accessible during time of emergency and may vary between service providers.
- Beware, cordless home phones will NOT work if the mains power supply is cut.
- There is a community alerting siren in Belgrave and Upwey, see page 8 for further details.
There is no community alerting siren in Tecoma.
- 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).

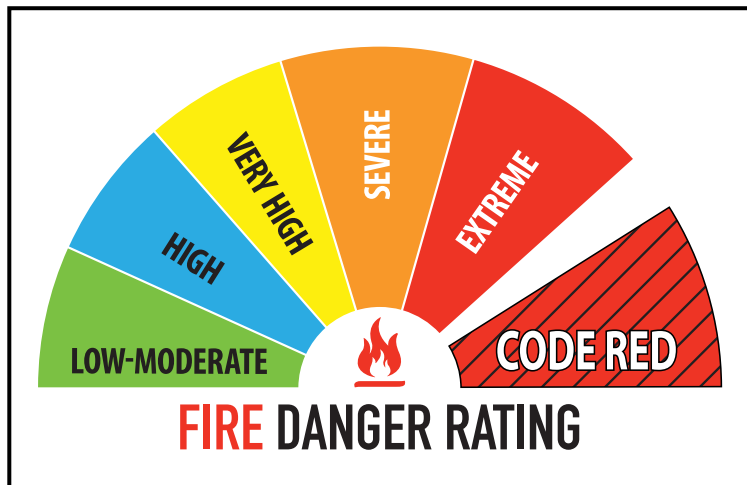


A written fire plan may save your life - would you remember a plan that's just in your head if your surrounded by smoke, heat, flame and noise?

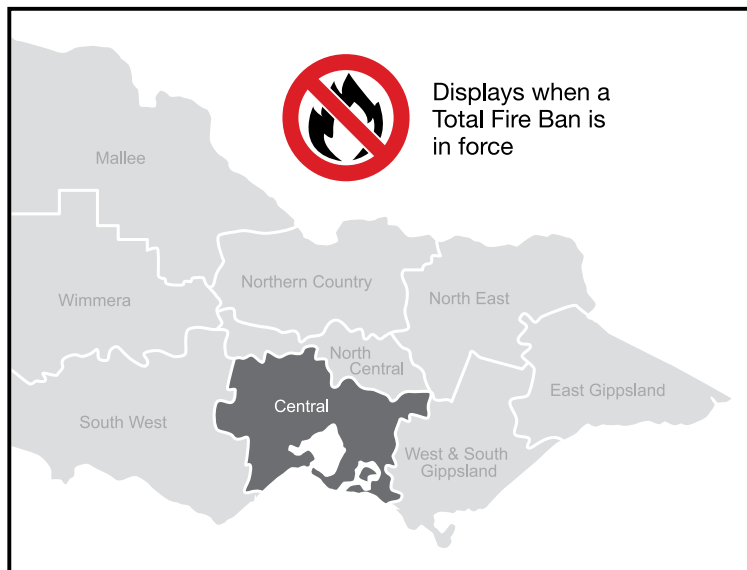


Act

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



**Belgrave, Tecoma & Upwey are in the
Central 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"> –when you will leave –where you will go –how you will get there –when you will return –what you will do if you cannot leave
<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 www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.</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 www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.</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

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
- Issuing of community advice and warnings
- Control and manage fire fighting activities
- Where safe to do so protect:
 - Identified community assets
 - Critical infrastructure
 - Residential property
 - The environment

Victoria Police

- Act as Emergency Response Coordinators (arrange requested resources for agencies)
- Keep people safe and property secure
- Coordinate traffic
- Assist with evacuation where applicable

Note: It will not always be possible to evacuate people in the event of fire, DON'T rely on evacuation

Belgrave, Tecoma & Upwey: Residents & Visitors

- Know your risk and act in accordance with the Fire Danger Rating triggers on pages 6 & 7
- Put your bushfire plan into action early

Yarra Ranges Council

- Open and manage Emergency Relief Centres to assist affected communities (as required)
- Coordinate ongoing Recovery Centres
- Support the community to recover from an emergency

NOTE: Code Red days may affect some services that are delivered by the council

Dept of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

- Coordinate a response for fires in State Forests and National Parks
- Coordinate the rescue and treatment of wildlife affected by fire
- Clear and restore roads, bridges and other assets on public land

Dept. Human Services

- Coordinate recovery activities for affected communities
- Coordinate interim accommodation after the emergency
- Coordinate emergency relief grants and material aid



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 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

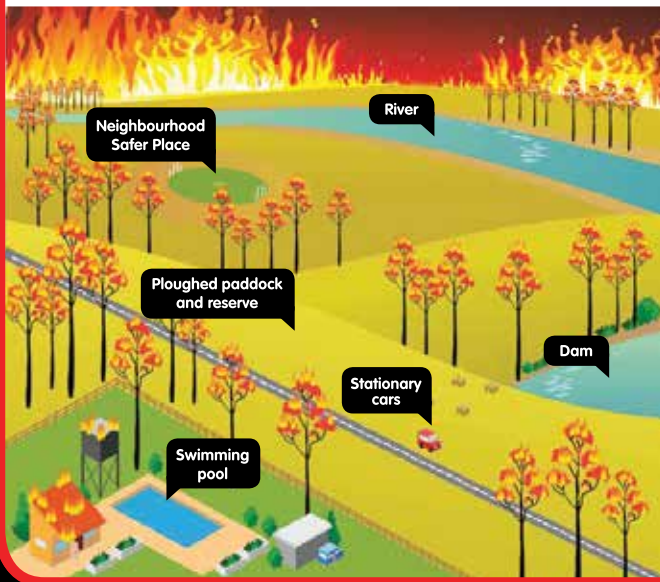


Last Resort

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 are **NO** Community Fire Refuges located in Belgrave, Tecoma or Upwey.

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.
- Regularly observe what is happening outside.
- Leaving early is the only option that will guarantee your survival.
- Many homes in Belgrave, Tecoma and Upwey will NOT be defensible.
- Do not consider staying unless you fully understand you are risking TRAUMA and DEATH.
- Have back up plans in case your original plan fails.
- You will also need to plan for the safety of your pets.

Leaving late is **DANGEROUS**

- Travelling 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 fallen trees, collisions or emergency vehicles.
- Roads in the area will become heavily congested during a bushfire.
- Burwood Hwy is the only major road with just a few secondary roads such as Glenfern, Morris and Belgrave-Hallam Rd. In past fires, traffic has been gridlocked and at a complete standstill.
- The maze of local roads that are narrow, winding and many being dead-ends means they will be dangerous to travel on during a bushfire.
- The roundabouts at Belgrave greatly limit traffic flow even on a normal day, the narrow section of Burwood Hwy at Tecoma and the junction with Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd will create bottlenecks.
- Do not risk getting trapped on the road during fire.
- Do not rely on GPS units to direct you safely out of the area. They are known to use unsealed and dead end roads.
- Lives are more likely to be lost when people make last minute decisions.



Neighbourhood Safer Place – Place of Last Resort

- **SURVIVAL IS NOT GUARANTEED**
- It should only be used if your Bushfire Survival Plans fail and you have nowhere else to go.
- Welfare facilities will not be available.
- It may not provide shelter from smoke and embers.
- The closest Neighbourhood Safer Places – Place of Last Resort (NSP) in the vicinity of Belgrave, Tecoma and Upwey are located at:

Dandenong Ranges Community Cultural Centre 'Burrinja' Car Park at North of site	Corner Glenfern Road and Matson Drive Upwey 3158. Entry to Car Park from Matson Drive
Recreation Reserve	Alexander Ave (opposite Austral Ave) entry also via Chosen Ave Upwey 3158
Alexanders Car Park (rear of Shopping Centre)	Reynolds Lane Belgrave 3160

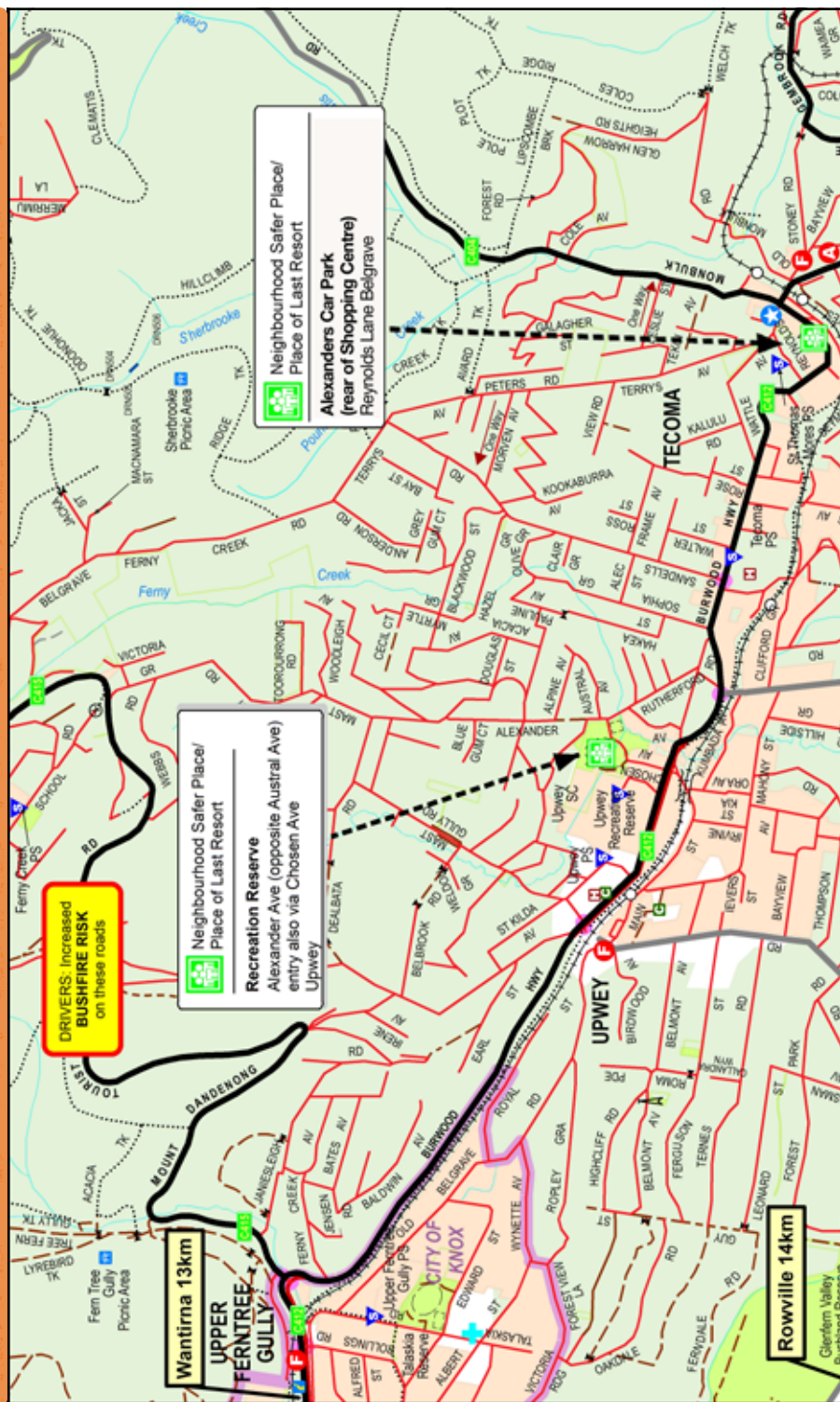
See map on page 15 for Neighbourhood Safer Place – Place of Last Resort locations.

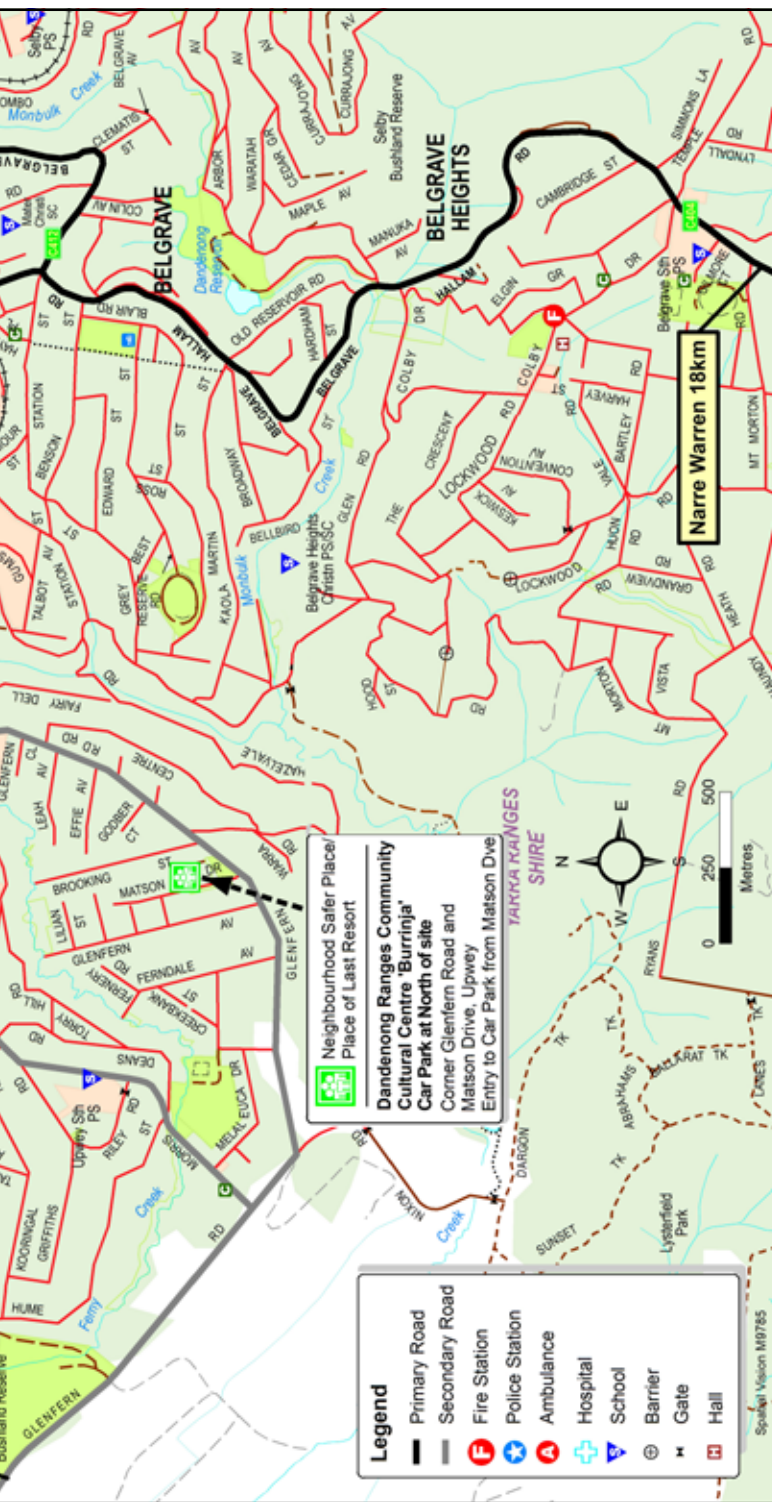
- !** High risk journeys to Neighbourhood Safer Places during a fire and outside of your immediate area are not recommended.

Relocation checklist

Protective clothing made from natural fibres	<input type="checkbox"/>	Important documents	<input type="checkbox"/>
Woollen blankets	<input type="checkbox"/>	First aid kit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water and medications	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cash, ATM/credit cards	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toiletries and sanitary supplies	<input type="checkbox"/>	Valuables and photos	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mobile phone and charger	<input type="checkbox"/>	Battery powered radio	<input type="checkbox"/>

Belgrave, Tecoma & Upwey 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

Download the VicEmergency app, the official Victorian Government App for access to community information and warnings.

Monitor the VicEmergency App and tune into your emergency broadcaster and VicEmergency website (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 774 AM, FOX FM 101.9, Triple M 105.1 FM, Gold 104.3 FM, Classic Rock 91.5 FM, Nova 100.3 FM, 3AW 693 AM, Magic 1278 AM, SEN 1116 AM, Mix 101.1 FM, Radio Eastern FM 98.1

Road closures: 13 11 70 www.vicroads.vic.gov.au

National Park, State Forest and Park closures: 13 19 63 www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

School, early childhood services and bus route closures: 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

CFA website: www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Follow CFA on Twitter: www.twitter.com/cfa_updates

Join the CFA Facebook page: www.facebook.com/cfaviv

FFMvic website (Planned burning): www.ffm.vic.gov.au



Further Information

Dept of Human Services: www.dhs.vic.gov.au/emergency

Environment and Wildlife: www.delwp.vic.gov.au/environment-and-wildlife

Weather: www.bom.gov.au

CFA District Office: (03) 8739 1300 (**non emergency calls only**)

Upwey CFA Brigade: www.upweycfa.org.au
www.facebook.com/UpweyUrbanFireBrigadeCfa

Yarra Ranges Council: 1300 368 333 or www.yarraranges.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**