

# Belgrave South, Belgrave Heights & Lysterfield

Community Information Guide - Bushfire

## Prepare - Act - Survive



### Bushfire rating: **EXTREME**

The EXTREME bushfire risk comes from the combination of high fuel loads in the surrounding forest and reserves, homes nestled into bushland, the hilly terrain and a lack of accessibility with few major roads and narrow unmade local roads.

Living in this area means you must have a well developed bushfire survival plan for ALL days when hot, dry and windy weather increases the risk of bushfire. Waiting and leaving once a bushfire has started will not be a safe option due to the limited road network, which will get blocked very quickly.

At the time of publication, there is **NO** designated Neighbourhood Safer Place – Place of Last Resort.

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

- The townships of Belgrave Heights and South are surrounded by forested areas. On the western side, forest stretches from Churchill Park and Lysterfield Lake to Birdsland Reserve. On the northern side, Selby Conservation Reserve runs from Park Drive up towards Temple Rd with Sherbrooke Forest just a few kilometres away.
- Large amounts of vegetation, high fuel loads and steep slopes with numerous gullies create the extreme bushfire risk.
- Local roads are narrow, steep and winding, with only one primary road through the townships.
- Many properties border the forest, with homes throughout the area being nestled into a bushland environment.
- On the south-eastern side, the area slopes down towards open grasslands with some forest around the edges of Cardinia Reservoir.
- History shows that fires can come into this area from any direction, not just from the north. Many fires have come from Birdsland Reserve or Selby, and there is significant risk of grassfires coming from the Lysterfield/Wellington Rd direction particularly after a south-west wind change.
- Any fire in the Dandenong Ranges will result in significant ember attack.
- Any fires in the area will move very fast.

## Reduce **your** bushfire risk

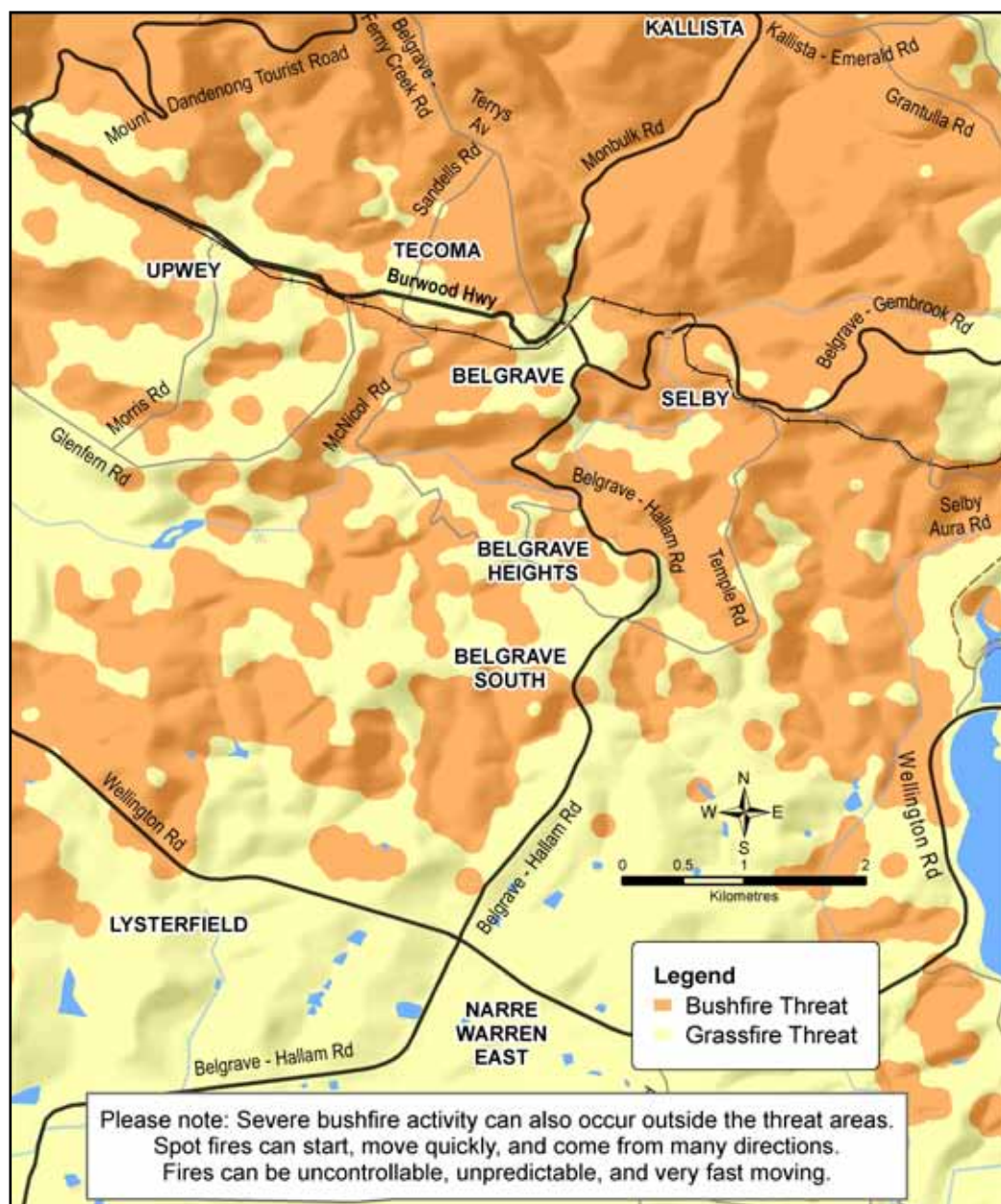
Living in a bushland environment means preparing your property and home AND managing vegetation around your home is essential - even if you are planning to leave early.

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](http://cfa.vic.gov.au)** or calling the **VicEmergency Hotline** on **1800 226 226 (TTY 1800 122 969)**

# Belgrave South, Belgrave Heights & Lysterfield 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 CFA website [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)**

### Where will **you** go?

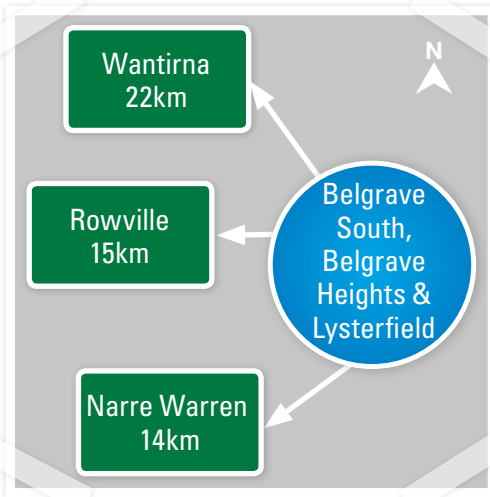
- You need to go somewhere well out of the bushfire risk area that suits your personal needs and circumstances, eg. a family member's house in an urban area with a backyard for your pet.
- If you don't have any other options, you may wish to consider a shopping centre or the following townships: **Narre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



- **LEAVE EARLY** - bushfires will travel fast and may impact you and your family with NO warning.
- Once fires start the roads will become quickly congested and blocked. You may not be able to leave.
- Plan how you will leave early as part of your bushfire plan.



## 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).
- 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 South and Belgrave Heights, see page 8 for further details. There is no community alerting siren in Lysterfield.
- 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).



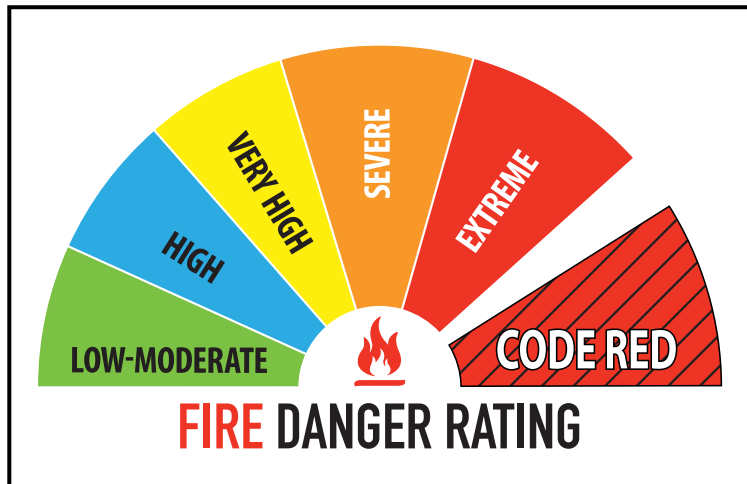
A written fire plan may save your life - would you remember a plan that's just in your head if your surrounded by smoke, heat, flame and noise?



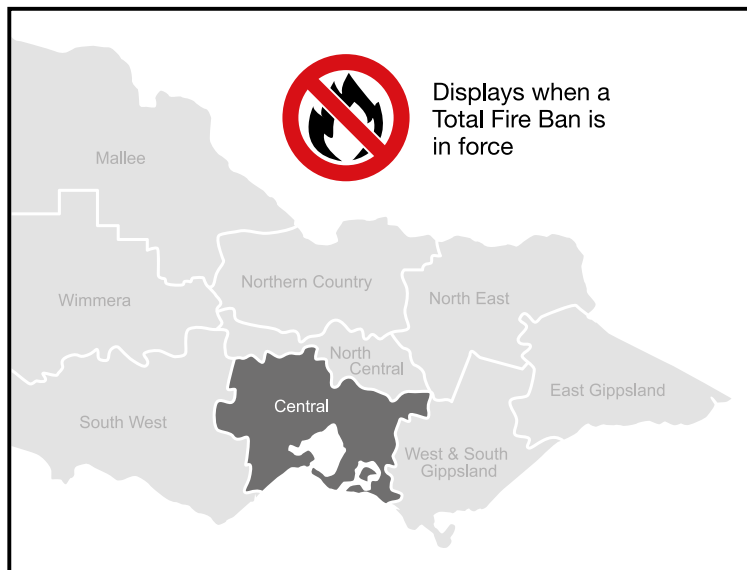


# Act

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



**Belgrave South, Belgrave Heights &  
Lysterfield 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"> <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
- 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 South, Belgrave Heights & Lysterfield: 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](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**

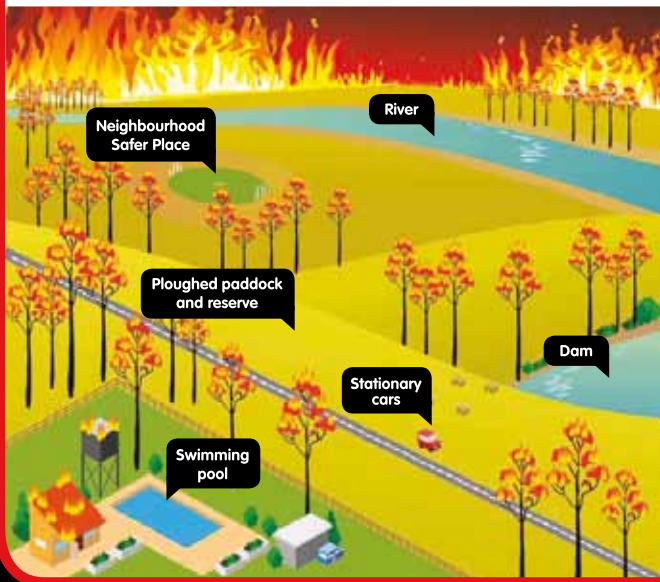


## Last Resort

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 are **NO** Community Fire Refuges located in Belgrave South, Belgrave Heights or Lysterfield.

## **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 South, Belgrave Heights and Lysterfield 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, horses and livestock.

## **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.
- Belgrave-Hallam Rd is the only main road through Belgrave Heights and South, and it will be heavily congested in bushfire. Travelling towards Belgrave, the roundabouts will cause a significant bottleneck and traffic will be at a standstill.
- Travelling towards Narre Warren on Belgrave-Hallam Rd, you will joining large amounts of traffic coming from Clematis.
- Side roads such as Courtneys Rd, Temple Rd and McNicol Rd are narrow. They will get easily blocked and are surrounded by vegetation.
- Don't risk getting stuck in your car on the road during bushfire.
- Local roads are steep, narrow and surrounded by dense vegetation. They will be dangerous to travel on during a bushfire.
- Do not rely on GPS units to direct you safely out of the area. They are known to use unsealed and dead end roads.
- Bushfires in this area are known to travel fast and you may be impacted without warning.
- Lives are more likely to be lost when people make last minute decisions.

# There is **no** Neighbourhood Safer Place – Place of Last Resort in Belgrave South, Belgrave Heights or Lysterfield

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

## Your 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:**

### Relocation checklist

Protective clothing made from natural fibres ☐

Woolen blankets ☐

Water and medications ☐

Toiletries and sanitary supplies ☐

Mobile phone and charger ☐

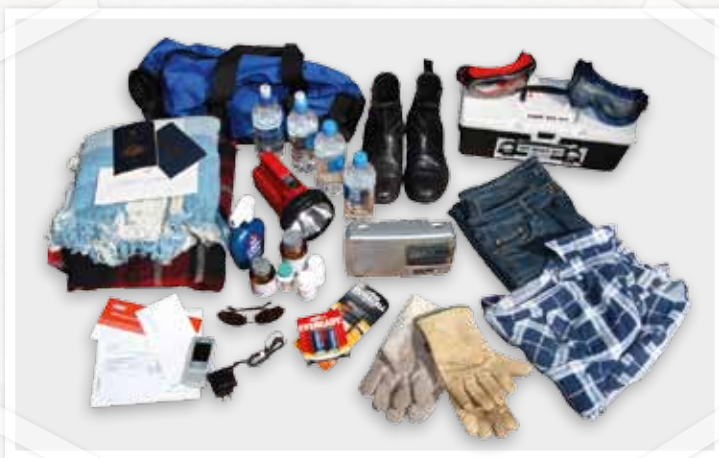
Important documents ☐

First aid kit ☐

Cash, ATM/credit cards ☐

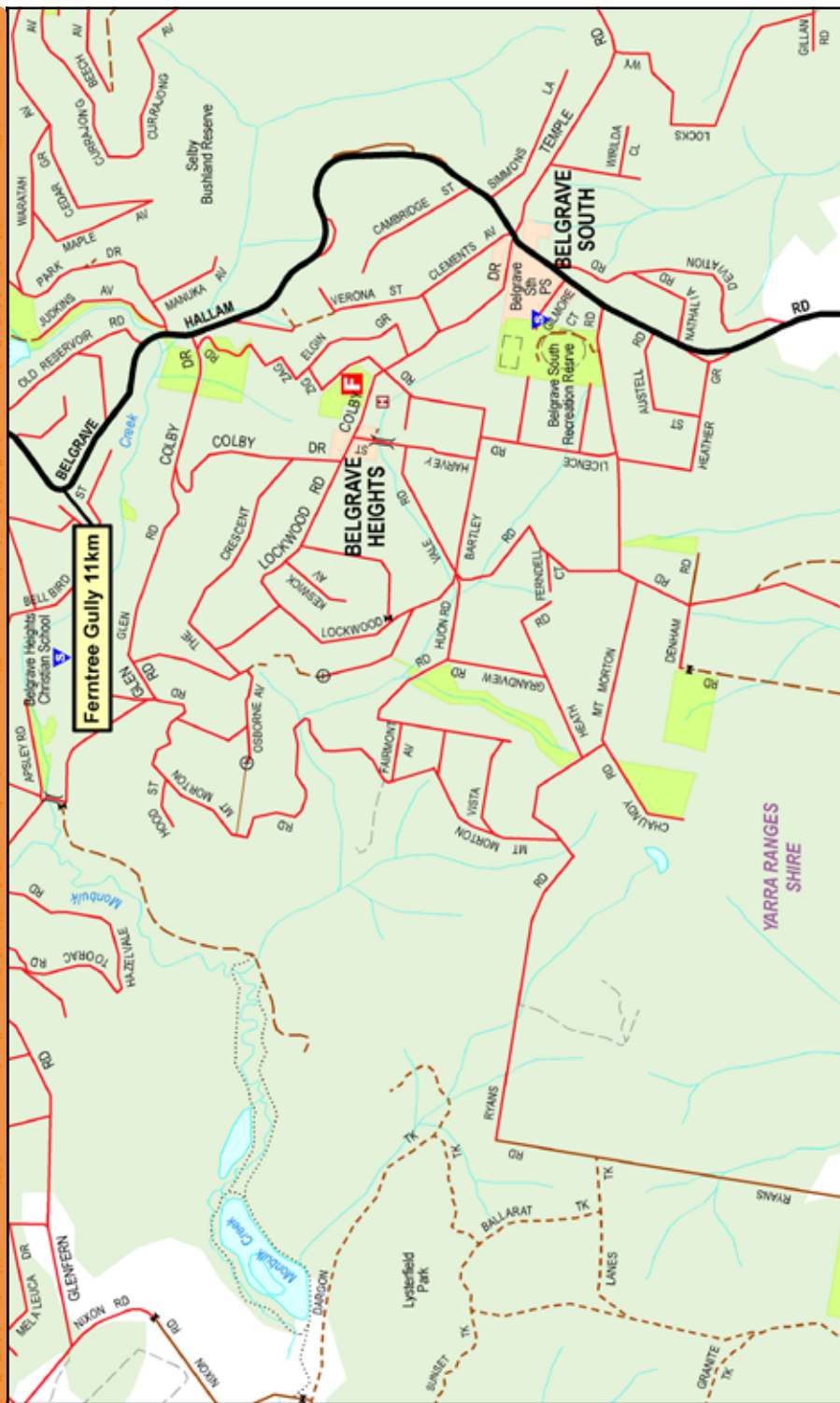
Valuables and photos ☐

Battery powered radio ☐





# Belgrave South, Belgrave Heights & Lysterfield Community Map







## 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](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 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](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/cfavic](http://www.facebook.com/cfavic)

**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:** (03) 8739 1300 (**non emergency calls only**)

**Yarra Ranges Council:** 1300 368 333 or [www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au](http://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**