



## CFS FACT SHEET

# Bushfire Advice and Warnings Messages

You should not wait to receive an official warning message before you act.

### Types of messages

There are three levels of messages that can be issued during a bushfire.

These messages are issued via radio, an email subscription service, the CFS website, and the CFS Facebook and Twitter accounts.

You should take these messages seriously, consider the information carefully and take action.



### Bushfire Advice Message

#### Be aware.

Bushfire Advice Messages (BAM) are used to advise the public that the CFS is either investigating smoke or attending a small fire which may be of public interest.

Advice messages are issued when there is not a perceivable risk to property or life and will contain general information about the location and direction of the fire or smoke.



### Bushfire Watch and Act Message

#### Get ready to act.

Bushfire Watch and Act Messages (WAM) are used to alert the public that there is a fire burning or producing smoke which may become a risk to either life or property.

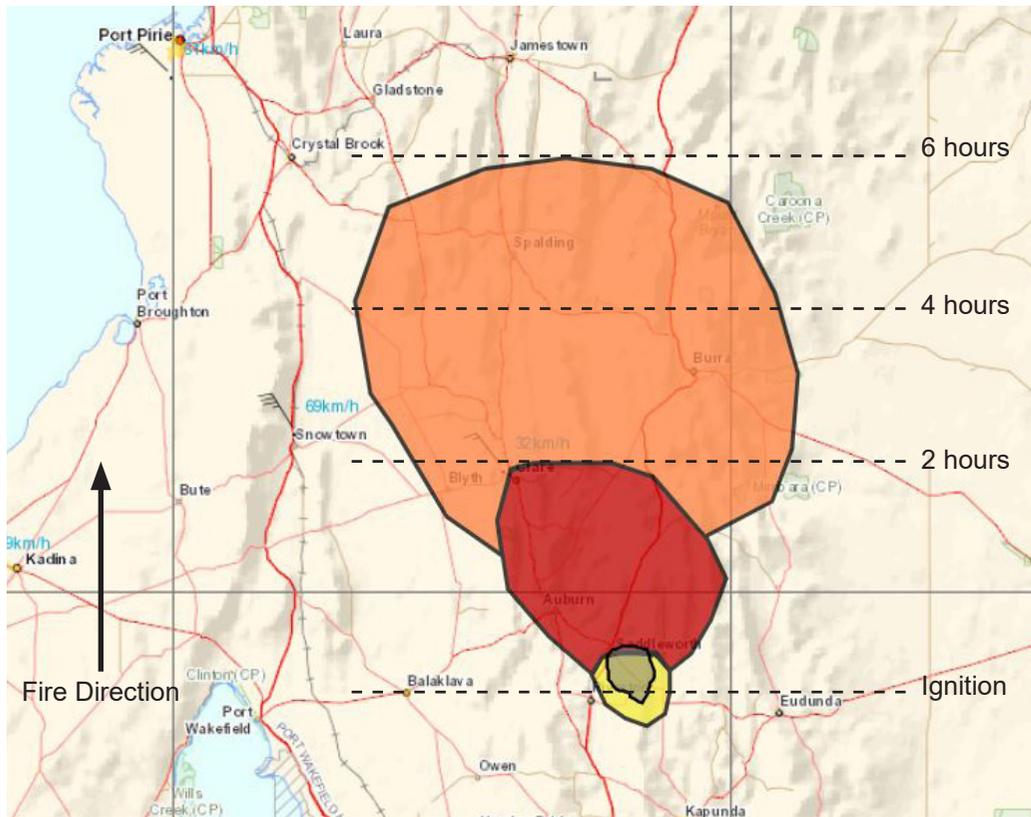
These messages will contain specific information about the danger, advice on what people near the fire can do to remain safe, and recommendations.



## Bushfire Emergency Warning Messages

### Act now.

Bushfire Emergency Warning Messages (EWM) are issued when people or properties are in immediate danger from a bushfire.



## Multiple messages for bushfires

Multiple warnings may be issued for a fire to advise of areas in immediate and soon-to-be-in danger.

An Emergency Warning could be issued for an area in immediate danger, and a Watch and Act Message provided for areas where the fire is expected to travel.



## Bushfire Advice - Reduced Threat Message

Reduced Threat Messages are issued when the threat to the community has lessened.

Smoke and re-ignition dangers may still be present, but the boundary of the fire is no longer spreading.



## Incident Update Message

Incident Update Messages will contain information about what actions the Country Fire Service are doing in the area, relief and recovery information, road closures, locations of Bushfire Safer Places and community meetings.

## Emergency Alert

Emergency Alert is a national telephone and text warning system used to send messages to landline telephones and text messages to mobile telephones during an emergency within a specified area.

Emergency Alert is used when lives are in immediate danger if action is not taken.

An Emergency Alert message is not the primary means of communicating bushfire information to a community, and is used in conjunction with Bushfire Emergency Warning Messages.

## Non-Bushfire emergencies

The same style of messages as above are also used for non-bushfire emergencies.

Advice, Watch and Act and Emergency warnings may be issued for incidents such as building fires that are producing large amounts of smoke, HAZMAT spills and stationary fires.

**Do not rely on a single source for information in an emergency.**



## CFS Area Burnt

The Area Burnt displayed on CFS maps are not a warning area, but it shows the area the fire has burnt and depending on the information available, this may only appear after an incident. When looking at the map on the CFS website the area burnt appears as a black outline with a line fill.

These mapped burnt areas are captured during major bushfire events. It is important to note that these updates are not real time and are subject to available information.

## Warning Area

Coloured areas on CFS maps show the area a warning applies to. Warning area colours can be yellow (Advice), orange (Watch & Act), red (Emergency Warning)