



## CFS FACT SHEET

# Private bushfire shelters (bunkers)

**The SA Country Fire Service does not endorse the usage of private bushfire shelters or bunkers. Priority should always be given to leaving early in a bushfire event.**

Unsuitable private bushfire shelters (bunkers) are a dangerous option for personal protection in a bushfire. Bunkers built and designed to the National Construction Code and the Private Bushfire Shelters Performance Standard, published by the Australian Building Codes Board may, as a last resort, provide some protection from the life threatening effects of a bushfire.

If you wish to investigate building a bunker you must gain the appropriate approvals from the State Government's Planning Commission Building Technical Panel.

Further information and links to relevant documents can be found at the Plan SA website (<https://plan.sa.gov.au/resources/building/private-bushfire-shelters>)

Private bushfire shelters are a classified building associated with a dwelling and are not to be used to accommodate any commercial guests or used for any community shared bushfire shelter facilities.

### **Building a bunker does not guarantee the safety of people or property.**

You should still carry out normal fuel reduction and safety practices including:

- Vegetation management.
- Ensuring your home meets current fire protection standards.
- Having adequate water storage for firefighting.
- Regularly maintaining and clearing your property.

You should only consider building a bunker if:

- You are confident it will provide better bushfire protection than your home.
- You can afford a good quality, appropriately positioned bunker that has been approved through the necessary planning and building approvals in South Australia.
- You can maintain it in good working order.
- You have considered how the bunker will fit into your Bushfire Survival Plan.