

# Introducing the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System

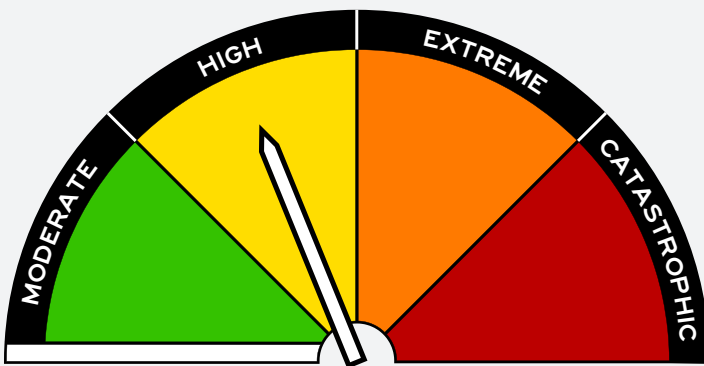






**Fire danger ratings describe the potential level of danger should a bushfire start.**

They are important because they provide people with information so that they can take action to protect themselves and others from the potentially dangerous impacts of bushfires.

From 1 September 2022, Australians will have a simplified, action-oriented Fire Danger Rating System.

## The new Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) levels are:



	<b>Moderate</b> Plan and prepare
	<b>High</b> Be ready to act
	<b>Extreme</b> Take action now to protect life and property
	<b>Catastrophic</b> For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas

- The AFDRS will also introduce 'no rating' for days where bushfires are unlikely to spread in a dangerous or life-threatening way. On these days you still need to remain alert and abide by local seasonal laws and regulations.
- The AFDRS is informed by one of Australia's largest social research projects which found that most Australians do not understand the current system and would prefer a simpler, action-oriented set of fire danger ratings.
- The AFDRS is being implemented consistently across Australia and will mean that wherever you are across the country, you will be able to understand the threat posed on any given day and make appropriate decisions to keep you and your family safe.

# Introducing the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System

## Changing the science:

- The current Fire Danger Rating System is largely based on science that is more than 60 years old. New technology and research have greatly improved our ability to accurately predict fire behaviour and the potential threat to the community.
- The AFDRS uses the latest scientific understanding about weather, fuel and how fire behaves in different types of vegetation to improve the reliability of fire danger forecasts. This strengthens the ability of those working in emergency services to be better prepared, make improved decisions and provide better advice to the community.
- The new fire danger rating system is designed to be continuously updatable so that the system can take advantage of improving science, data and information into the future.
- By better understanding fuel types and fire behaviour on any given day of fire risk, agencies will be in a stronger position to respond to fires, adopting specific firefighting suppression strategies.



## Benefits:

The AFDRS Program is redesigning the forecasting of fire by:

- Improving the scientific accuracy behind fire danger predictions.
- Improving the way that fire danger is communicated.
- Providing government and industry with better decision-making tools.
- Reducing the costs associated with bushfire impacts.

The key benefit is a more prepared and resilient community resulting in a reduction in loss of life, property and human harm.

The AFDRS calculates fire danger at a finer geographic scale than ever before so more relevant and specific information can be provided.

Significant cost savings are expected due to improved fire danger information leading to better decisions and more appropriate and timely action. It will also improve cross-border operations and support sharing of firefighting resources.



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