



Livestock and bushfires

Have a bushfire plan

It's important to have a plan of action for how you will keep your livestock safe during a bushfire. Starting to develop your bushfire plan could be as simple as having a conversation with your staff or household, making sure that everyone knows:

- ☐ what your triggers are for evacuation or moving livestock to safer areas (high fire risk days, emergency alerts)
- ☐ evacuation routes, planning for fire travelling in several possible directions
- ☐ where livestock can be agisted during a fire
- ☐ how you will protect animals if they are unable to be evacuated, such as moving animals to paddocks with no vegetation
- ☐ how you will maintain containment (fencing) and provision of food and water for your animals after the fire has passed
- ☐ your plan for working dogs and household pets.

Prepare your property

- Ensure your property has access to large volumes of water in case of fire – mains supplied water is likely to be unavailable during a fire.
- Ensure your animals always have a water supply that will last them at least five days, even if you expect to return home that evening.

- Fit gates on internal fences to avoid moving stock along public roads.
- Install sprinkler systems for livestock housed within structures (e.g. poultry or pig sheds).
- purchase emergency fodder or food to last at least five days and store in a place safe from fire.

Evacuate or move animals as early as possible

If you plan on evacuating large animals out of the area, early is best. Traffic congestion and access to routes for evacuating larger animals may become difficult if a fire develops.

Identification

Ensure PIC, NLIS and insurance details are up to date and easily accessible (e.g. electronically on cloud, hard copies with your emergency kit). Update NLIS details as soon as reasonably practicable when moving livestock in an emergency.

Remember: Do not cut fences or leave external property gates open during a fire – this can pose a safety risk to people evacuating and emergency responders.

Important disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

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