

Hyams Beach Fire Information Guide

Hyams Beach is a seaside village in the City of Shoalhaven, New South Wales, Australia, on the shores of Jervis Bay. At the 2016 census, it had a population of 112

The purpose of this document is to provide some guidance to residents and visitors to the Hyams Beach area in relation to a bush fire emergency. This should not be relied upon as a fully comprehensive plan. Residents and owners of tourist destinations (rental properties, Hyams Beach café) are encouraged to prepare a bush fire survival plan of their own which may also incorporate part/s of this plan.

Bush Fire Survival Plans are available to download by visiting www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

There are four simple steps to preparing a Bush Fire Survival Plan:

1. Discuss what to do if a bush fire threatens your home.
2. Prepare your home and get it ready for the bush fire season.
3. Know the bush fire alert levels.
4. Keep all the bush fire information numbers, websites and the smart phone app.

Key points that need to be determined and understood when developing a Bush Fire Survival Plan are:

1. What is my level of risk?
2. Do I/we stay and defend or leave early?
3. If I/we are staying and defending is, my home prepared and am I/we physically prepared to defend our property?
4. Do my neighbours have a plan? What is their plan? Could we work together/ pool our resources?
5. If I/we are leaving early where will we go (identify at least two places)?
6. Know the alert levels and the fire danger rating for the day.
7. Keep up to date, monitor conditions and stay informed.
8. Have a plan B.

NOTE: leaving early is the safest option, leaving the Hyams Beach area completely.

It is important to note that Hyams Beach does not have a Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP). The nearest NSP is located at Erowal Bay Public Hall Grounds (19 King George St Erowal Bay). The Vincentia Market Place may also offer a place to shelter (Moona Creek Rd Vincentia).

Key points people need to be aware of in relation to the Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP).

1. If it is unsafe to leave the area completely, or to stay and defend your property, and the roads (Booderee Avenue, Naval College Road, Erowal Bay Road) are clear, you should move to your pre-identified NSP, or other safer location, prior to the impact of bush fire.
2. If it is unsafe to leave the village, and stay in your dwelling, you should go to the beach, taking with you sun protection, water and towels. Damp towels can also provide some protection against smoke and ember attack.
3. Be aware that when you are travelling to your NSP there may be heavy smoke and poor visibility. It is important that you are familiar with the area.
4. Gather at the NSP location and remain there until the bush fire threat has passed.
5. The conditions at the NSP may be uncomfortable and smoke and/or embers may affect you.

6. Water, toilets and food may not be available at the NSP and emergency service personnel may not be present.
7. People with special needs, such as the elderly and disabled, should always leave the area before the threat of fire.
8. NSP's are not intended for pets and livestock.
9. **Your safest option will always be to leave early.**

Key sources of information:

1. ABC local radio.
2. Fires Near Me smart phone app
3. Social media (Facebook and Twitter pages)
4. Bush Fire Information line 1800 679 737
5. www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Other relevant information:

Fire Danger Ratings Fact Sheet:

https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/9428/Fire-Danger-Ratings-Factsheet.pdf

Leaving Early Fact Sheet:

https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/9425/Leaving-Early-Factsheet.pdf

Staying and Defending Fact Sheet:

https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/9426/Staying-and-Defending-Factsheet.pdf

Bush Fire Alerts Levels:

https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/3113/Bush-Fire-Alerts-Factsheet.pdf

NSP Fact Sheet:

https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/9427/Places-of-Last-Resort-Factsheet.pdf

