



Fire Danger Ratings

From the 3 to 5 of August, a national Designshop was facilitated by Capgemini utilising their Accelerated Solutions Environment to develop a range of products and outcomes to improve community warnings.

The event brought together 62 people from across Australia's emergency services, government agencies, community groups and media to design:

- An updated fire danger rating scale (fire danger prediction)
- The key common, nationally consistent messages, before and during fire (what is the message?)
- The key terms to reflect the Australian context of the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) (sending a message)
- The criteria that determine the trigger points of when a warning is issued (when is the message sent?)
- A Model that aligns all of the above in a way that facilitates consistent application by States and Territories.

Developed using the Capgemini's Accelerated Solutions Environment, the outputs from the Design Shop represent key dependencies that are required by a range of projects and programs needing to be completed before the next fire season.

Designshop Outcomes

Fire Danger Ratings

Fire Danger Ratings (FDR's) were amended, with agreement that the current terms did not adequately describe the most extreme conditions (for example Black Saturday). See the accompanying poster

Community messages – need for national consistency

There was a large focus on terms, and triggers for community messages. All agreed on a need for succinct, personal messages and the need to emphasise preparedness, action and survival. There was also agreement for a nationally consistent model, matching the new FDR categories. New messages were developed and agreed upon to be implemented pre

fire, based on forecasted fire weather and during an actual fire based on FDR's and time to impact.

Trigger Matrix

A matrix was developed to identify triggers used to implement the agreed messages for prediction of fire danger on a given day (FDR) along with being used to consistently disseminate messages at set times during an actual fire event.

The Model

A model was developed and agreed to bring together in a simple diagram all the elements relevant to the warnings process and their relationship with the key actors in the process.

Slogan

A new slogan "Prepare. Act. Survive." was developed to represent the new national model and to replace the 'stay or go' term currently used in the media. See the accompanying poster.

Fire Danger Rating	Description
<p>CATASTROPHIC FDI 100+ (Code Red)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fires will be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving – flames will be higher than roof tops. • People will die and be injured. Thousands of homes and businesses will be destroyed. • Well prepared, well constructed and defended homes may not be safe during the fire. Construction standards do not go beyond a Fire Danger Index of 100. • Thousands of embers will be blown around. • Spot fires will move quickly and come from many directions, up to 20 km ahead of the fire. <p>Leaving is the best option.</p>
<p>EXTREME FDI 75-99</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fires will be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving – flames will be higher than roof tops. • People will die and be injured. Hundreds of homes and businesses will be destroyed. • Only well prepared, well constructed and actively defended houses are likely to offer safety during a fire. • Thousands of embers will be blown around. • Spot fires will move quickly and come from many directions, up to 6 km ahead of the fire. <p>Leaving is the safest option for your survival.</p>
<p>SEVERE FDI 50-74</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fires will be uncontrollable and move quickly– flames may be higher than roof tops. • There is a chance people may die and be injured. Some homes and businesses will be destroyed. • Well prepared and actively defended houses can offer safety during a fire. • Expect embers to be blown around. • Spot fires may occur up to 4 km ahead of the fire <p>Leaving is the safest option for your survival. Your home will only offer safety if it and you are well prepared and you can actively defend it during a fire.</p>
<p>VERY HIGH FDI 25-49</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fires can be difficult to control – flames may burn into the tree tops. • There is a low chance people may die or be injured. Some homes and businesses may be damaged or destroyed. • Well prepared and actively defended houses can offer safety during a fire. • Embers may be blown ahead of the fire. • Spot fires may occur up to 2 km ahead of the fire. <p>Leaving is the safest option for your survival. Your home will only offer safety it is and you are well prepared and you can actively defend it during a fire.</p>
<p>HIGH FDI 12-24</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fires can be controlled • Loss of life is highly unlikely and damage to property will be limited • Well prepared and actively defended houses can offer safety during a fire. • Embers may be blown ahead of the fire. • Spot fires can occur close to the main fire. <p>Know where to get more information and monitor the situation for any changes</p>
<p>LOW-MODERATE FDI 0-11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fires can be easily controlled • Little to no risk to life and property <p>Know where to get more information and monitor the situation for any changes</p>