

Backdraft Behaviour:

Warning Signs and Firefighter Safety in Australia



Key Warning Signs of a Possible Backdraft

- Dark, dense, pulsating smoke
- Windows blackened with soot
- Sudden heat in walls and doors
- Whistling or hissing sounds
- Smoke “pushing” through gaps

Understanding Backdraft Risks

- Oxygen-depleted, fuel-rich environment
- High temperatures and volatile gases
- Rapid ignition if air reintroduced
- Buildings with enclosed spaces

Safety Tips for Firefighters & Responders

- Assess conditions before entry
- Use thermal cameras to check heat levels
- Communicate with all emergency services
- Plan controlled ventilation techniques



In Case of Fire, Remember:

- Call **000** for emergency help
- Do **NOT** open doors or windows if you suspect a fire inside!