



How to Prepare Your Home and Family for Emergencies in Australia

A practical one-page household checklist



Key takeaways

- Make a simple household emergency plan and practise it regularly.
- Prepare an emergency kit with water, food, first aid supplies, and essential documents.
- Check smoke alarms, reduce bushfire hazards, and learn basic first aid.
- In any emergency, call 000.



1. Create a household emergency plan

- Talk about the most likely emergencies in your area.
- Decide roles: documents, children, older people, and pets.
- Choose primary and backup meeting places.
- Write down important contacts and an out-of-area contact.
- Plan for anyone with disability, medical needs, or mobility aids.



2. Prepare an emergency kit

Pack enough essentials for at least 72 hours.

- Bottled water
- Non-perishable food
- Torch and spare batteries
- Portable phone charger
- Battery-powered radio
- Medicines and prescriptions
- First aid supplies
- Copies of ID and key documents
- Hygiene items, blankets, and sturdy shoes
- Baby or pet supplies if needed



Store the kit in a clear, waterproof container and review it every 6 months.



3. Fire safety and bushfire readiness

Install smoke alarms on every level of the home.

- Test smoke alarms monthly.
- Replace batteries as needed.
- Clear leaves and flammable debris from gutters and around the house.
- Keep vegetation trimmed and firewood away from the home.
- Know your bushfire plan: leave early or stay only if fully prepared.
- Monitor official warnings and weather conditions.



On severe fire danger days, safety comes before property.



4. Basic first aid preparation

- Keep a stocked first aid kit at home.
- Learn CPR and basic first aid.
- Know how to respond to burns, bleeding, choking, and heat illness.
- Give care only within your level of training.
- Call 000 for serious injury, unconsciousness, or breathing problems.



5. Review and practise

- Run household drills regularly.
- Review evacuation routes.
- Update plans when family needs change.
- Attend local emergency information sessions when possible.
- Keep everyone aware, calm, and prepared.



If you only do five things

- Make and practise a household emergency plan.
- Install and test smoke alarms.
- Keep an emergency kit ready.
- Learn formal first aid.
- Reduce fire hazards and act early.

Who does what in Australia?



Fire/Rescue

Firefighting, rescue, and fire prevention.



Police

Public safety, law and order, traffic and incident control.



Ambulance

Emergency medical care and hospital transport.



SES

Storm and flood response, rescues, and emergency support.



In any emergency call 000