

Wimmera Emergency Management Team



Wartook residents and visitors Are you Fire Ready?



It's up to you to stay informed



Local News

Listen to ABC local radio, commercial and designated community radio stations and watch Sky News TV. You can find a complete list at www.emv.vic.gov.au



VicEmergency Hotline

1800 226 226
(free call)



VicEmergency App

Download from the App Store or Google Play



Social Media

www.facebook.com/vicemergency



www.twitter.com/vicemergency



VicEmergency Website

www.emergency.vic.gov.au



Keep an eye on the weather and forecasts at the Bureau of Meteorology website – www.bom.gov.au



In some circumstances you may receive an SMS to your mobile or a call to your landline phone



This guide was developed by the Wimmera Emergency Management Team in conjunction with the Country Fire Authority

DISCLAIMER: This information was correct at the time of publication

Prepared: November 2023

Wartook residents and visitors

Are you Fire Ready?

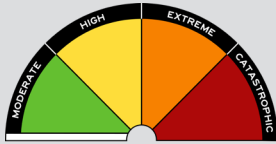
The information in this guide is for the Wartook area, which has an EXTREME bushfire risk because it's located in a valley surrounded by State and National Parks.

Bushfires and grassfires pose a significant threat to all people living, working or travelling in Victoria. They can be deadly and strike without warning.

If you choose to live, work or visit areas of high fire risk, it is vital to your safety to have a well-developed survival plan for all days when hot, dry and windy conditions create a fire risk.

Planning and preparation can save lives. Use this guide to help you and your family plan and prepare.

Check the signs ... Know when to go ...



FIRE DANGER RATING

www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/total-fire-bans-and-ratings
or call 1800 226 226

Know your Daily Fire Danger Rating

Fire Danger Ratings provide information to help you decide what actions you need to take to protect yourself and others.

Fire Danger Ratings feature in weather forecasts during the fire season.

Check the Wimmera District's rating every day during summer.

Every day you should:

- Monitor conditions and official sources for warnings.
- If a fire starts near you, take action immediately to protect your life.
- Do not wait for a warning.
- Adhere to local regulations governing fire activity.
- Ensure any industrial and agricultural activities adhere to relevant guidelines.



Know your Restrictions

Total Fire Bans tell you what you can and can't do to prevent a fire starting and what activities are banned.

They are legal restrictions which if broken can be penalized with large fines and imprisonment.

www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/total-fire-bans-and-ratings

Know your Fire Weather District

Wartook is in the Wimmera Fire Weather District.



Rating	What does it mean?	What should I do?
CATASTROPHIC	<p>If a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are the most dangerous conditions for a fire. 	<p>For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your life may depend on the decisions you make, even before there is a fire. • For your survival, do not be in bushfire risk areas. • Stay safe by going to a safer location early in the morning or the night before. • Homes cannot withstand fires in these conditions. You may not be able to leave and help may not be available.
EXTREME	<p>Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are dangerous fire conditions. • Expect hot, dry and windy conditions. 	<p>Take action now to protect your life and property.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check your bushfire plan and that your property is fire ready. • If a fire starts, take immediate action. If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, go to a safer location well before the fire impacts. • Reconsider travel through bushfire risk areas. • Leaving bushfire risk areas early in the day is your safest option.
HIGH	<p>Fires can be dangerous.</p>	<p>Be ready to act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There's a heightened risk. Be alert for fires in your area. • Decide what you will do if a fire starts. • If a fire starts, your life and property may be at risk. The safest option is to avoid bushfire risk areas.
MODERATE	<p>Most fires can be controlled.</p>	<p>Plan and prepare.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay up to date and be ready to act if there is a fire.
NO RATING	<p>The system also introduces an “off” level for days where no proactive action is required by the community. This does not mean that fires cannot happen, but that they are not likely to move or act in a way that threatens the safety of the community. This rating is the thin white wedge on the colour wheel sitting under “Moderate”.</p>	

It is your responsibility to prepare yourself, your family and your home for the threat of bushfire or grassfire.

When fires threaten, you need to act decisively in accordance with your Bushfire Survival Plan.

Your survival depends on your preparations and the decisions you make.

Plan and Prepare

Because you live in an area that's surrounded by national parks and bushlands, you need to plan and prepare before the fire season.

The best way to prepare yourself mentally is to have a written and practiced plan that everyone in your household understands and has agreed to.

It will help reduce confusion and wasting time during a crisis.

When preparing your plan, give some consideration to your fencing and if a fire truck would be able to access your property. It's also important to think about your landscaping design and plant selection to help reduce the effects of direct flame contact and radiant heat on your home. Details are available on the CFA website.

The CFA runs Bushfire Preparation Meetings and planning workshops to help you develop your own

Bushfire Survival Plan. Talk to your Laharum CFA brigade members, call District 17 Headquarters on 5362 1700, or visit the CFA website for more information.

Resources to help you to prepare your plan can be found at:

- **Australian Red Cross**
www.redcross.org.au/prepare/
- **Country Fire Authority**
www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare

Leaving early is always the safest option Don't wait until it's too late!

Understand the warnings

There are three different levels of warnings – Advice, Watch and Act and Emergency Warning – plus a recommendation to evacuate. Don't expect warnings to be issued in any particular order. The first warning you hear about could even be an Emergency Warning if a fire starts close to you.



Advice

An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions.



Watch and Act

An emergency is developing nearby. You need to take action now to protect yourself and others.



Emergency Warning

You are in imminent danger and need to take action immediately.



You may also see an **Evacuation** symbol. This means that an evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.

Do not rely on an official warning to leave

When to look for warnings

When	What should I do?
It's a hot, dry, windy day	During summer, check regularly for updates. Fires can start suddenly at any time.
It's a fire risk day. You have left early or are preparing to do so.	Ensure the route you have planned is safe. Stay up to date about fires in your area. Know when it is safe to return.
You can see or smell smoke in the area and want to check what's going on.	Check the VicEmergency website or app and listen to your local emergency broadcasters for information, warnings and locations of current fires.
You are staying to defend on a fire risk day.	It is important that you know at the earliest possible stage if a fire is in your area so that you can implement your plan. Once you are aware of a fire, continue to monitor updates.
When travelling, including for holidays or work.	Check for incidents or warnings at your destination and along your route. Continue to monitor while at your destination area.

Download the VicEmergency app and set up your watch zone

Where should I go?

It's up to you to decide on a suitable place to go when you leave early on a fire risk day.

If you don't have a place to go in a low risk area, consider going to a community facility such as a shopping centre or library, or the town centre of Horsham, Stawell or Hamilton.

Due to the geographic nature of the area, some roads may be affected by a bushfire event giving you limited options for leaving (refer to map on the next page).

If your plan fails and you have nowhere else to go...

A Bushfire Place of Last Resort may provide protection to you from the direct flames and heat from a bushfire.



**Last Resort: Laharum Football Oval,
Northern Grampians Road**

You need to be completely self sufficient. Make sure you bring food and water, protective clothing, mobile phone or radio, first aid and medication and provision for pets.

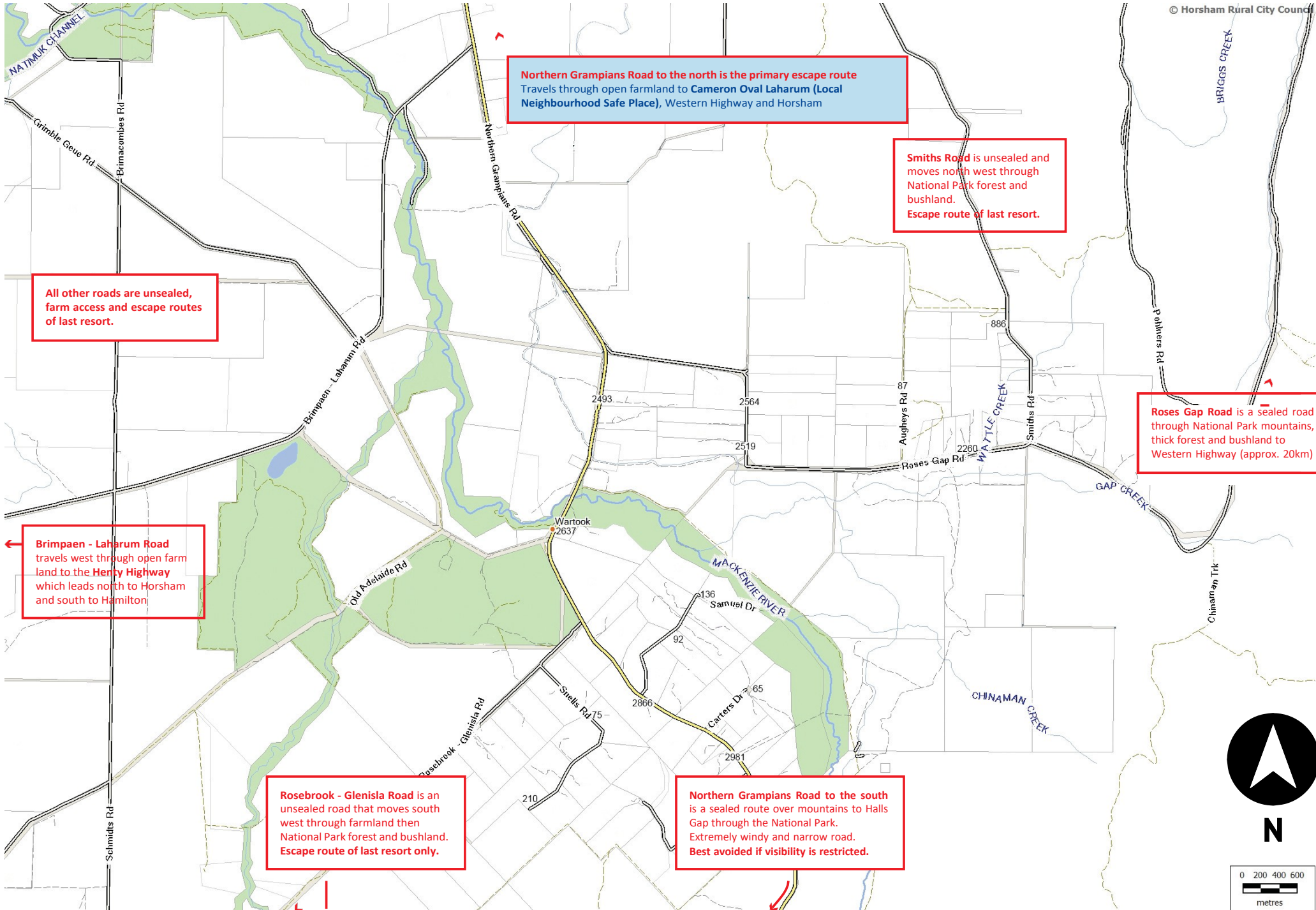
Further information about Bushfire Neighbourhood Safer Places is available at:
[www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-local-area-info-and-advice/
neighbourhood-safer-places](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-local-area-info-and-advice/neighbourhood-safer-places)

You may have to be there overnight or for many hours!

To report an emergency call triple zero – 000 (TTY 106)

Wartook/Laharum Fire Emergency Map

© Horsham Rural City Council



Northern Grampians Road to the north is the primary escape route
Travels through open farmland to **Cameron Oval Laharum (Local Neighbourhood Safe Place)**, Western Highway and Horsham

Smiths Road is unsealed and moves north west through National Park forest and bushland.
Escape route of last resort.

All other roads are unsealed, farm access and escape routes of last resort.

Roses Gap Road is a sealed road through National Park mountains, thick forest and bushland to Western Highway (approx. 20km)

Brimpaen - Laharum Road travels west through open farm land to the **Henry Highway** which leads north to Horsham and south to Hamilton

Rosebrook - Glenisla Road is an unsealed road that moves south west through farmland then National Park forest and bushland.
Escape route of last resort only.

Northern Grampians Road to the south is a sealed route over mountains to Halls Gap through the National Park.
Extremely windy and narrow road.
Best avoided if visibility is restricted.



Emergency Information Accessibility

For people who speak a different language

Call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and request translated information from the VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226).

To translate important fire safety information in other languages, go to the Other Languages (LOTE) page on the CFA to website.

www.cfa.vic.gov.au/about-us/publications/other-languages-lote

If you are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired

Contact the VicEmergency Hotline through the National Relay Service:

- **TTY** – phone 1800 555 677, then ask for 1800 226 226
- **Speak and Listen** – phone 1800 555 777, then ask for 1800 226 226
- **Internet relay users** connect to the National Relay Service.

Emergency information

Local News

ABC Local Radio (594AM),
Ace Radio 3WM (1089AM),
Mixx FM (101.3 or 98.5), Sky News TV

VicEmergency

1800 226 226 (free call) or
www.emergency.vic.gov.au

Country Fire Authority

www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Horsham Rural City Council

(03) 5382 9777 or
www.hrcc.vic.gov.au

Nurse-On-Call

1300 606 024 (24 hours)

Park Closures

131 963 or www.parks.vic.gov.au

Road Closures

131 963 or www.vicroads.vic.gov.au

School Closures (Department of Education) 1300 333 232 or
www.education.vic.gov.au

State Forest and Public Land Closures (DEECA) 136 186 or www.ffm.vic.gov.au/permits-and-regulations/closures-of-parks-and-forests

Wildlife Victoria

03 8400 7300 (24 hours) or
www.wildlifelifevictoria.org.au

Always use more than one source of emergency information

Keep up to date with local information by joining the
Wartook and Laharum Community Facebook Group
and subscribing to the North West Grampians Newsletter –
0427 838 207, giliz@activ8.net.au

Get a UHF fitted to your vehicle and tune into channel 10 to stay informed during a bushfire

Wimmera 72 Visit the Wimmera 72 website for important links and information when disaster occurs www.wimmera72.com.au