

MEDIA RELEASE

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PREPARE FOR THE BUSHFIRE SEASON NOW

With summer here, home owners need to act now and prepare for the bushfire season, warns Ian Berry Insurance, with meteorologists predicting a dangerous bushfire season ahead.

Ian Berry Insurance Executive Manager Member Value and Distribution – Paul Modra says, “With the bushfire season looming, now is the perfect time to ensure that your home contents, building, and car insurance is all up to date, and commence preparing your bushfire action plans.”

“Bushfires can be deadly, and those impacted will no doubt experience devastating emotional loss. This can unfortunately be compounded with significant financial loss if your insurance policies aren’t current,” says Paul.

Up to 80 per cent of Australian households are underinsured, while 23 percent don’t have building or contents insurance policies at all.

“When calculating the value of their home contents, many people underestimate their accumulated worth. People oversee items such as clothing, kitchen appliances, entertainment devices, DVDs, CDs, toys, and also renovations or additions that have been added to the home.

“It’s also essential to calculate the total cost of rebuilding your home to its current size, quality, and value, when working out your insurance options.

“In the event of a bushfire destroying a home, many people don’t take into account the costs to remove debris, and for the services of a builder to design and rebuild the home, which is definitely another aspect to consider,” says Paul.

In the lead up to the bushfire season Ian Berry Insurance urges householders to be prepared by doing the following:

- Cleaning the gutters and downpipes of your home regularly, and fitting quality metal leaf guards.
- Maintaining the gardening by mowing the lawn, raking leaves, and cutting back overgrown trees, bushes, and shrubs.
- Storing flammable materials, such as paint and pool chemicals separately and away from the house.
- Ensuring any LPG cylinder valves are pointing away from the house and trees or shrubbery.
- Keeping garden hoses connected to outside taps, and making sure the hose length covers the perimeter of the property.
- Checking that your house is adequately insured for its total worth, and make updates if necessary.

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