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## Your details

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## Submission details

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**I am making this submission as**

A resident in a bushfire-affected area

**Submission type**

I am making a personal submission

**Consent to make submission public**

I would like this submission to remain anonymous

## Share your experience or tell your story

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**Your story**

My father stayed to protect our holiday home and it was lucky he did. The fire came to the end of our street and he put out several spot fires on our property and both sides of our neighbours who evacuated. One neighbours yard was fully of dead leaves, gum bebrie and overgrown. One spot fire was of kwaves blown into our wooden front soor and we expect if dad hadnt staves we would have lost our property. Dad was then stuck without communications and no contact from rfs in the days between new years and the following Saturday where he fought again. Apparently the rfs door knocked but not to us. They told others we found out afterwards that our street wouldn't survive due to the thick gum trees

## Terms of Reference (optional)

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The Inquiry welcomes submissions that address the particular matters identified in its [Terms of Reference](#).

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**1.1 Causes and contributing factors**

Lack of burning off in region  
Lack of clearing in region  
Houses with out of control untidy yards  
Too many gum trees in residential areas  
Lack of information due to lack of power. Briefings were held at evacuation centre but those who chose to fight and save properties missed information and couldn't travel outside of their areas necessarily due to fuel issues of fires

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**1.2 Preparation and planning**

There should be a national approach that each Rfs places information on a noticeboard relevant to area (or where to find this information) or about times for briefings about situations. Then those holidaying know the find the rfs station to get or find where to get information.

Clearing, burning off and reduction of thick bush and gum trees in residential areas is required.

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**1.3 Response to bushfires**

There was a lack of information and with no power or mobiles, it is a wonder more people didn't die.

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**1.4 Any other matters**

A service station shouldn't be able to operate without generators to provide fuel, ATMs and eftpos machines. This should be mandated.

Rfs should also be issued a satellite phone dedicated for people to contact their loved ones to inform them they are safe. Many people went weeks without hearing.

Rfs need more equipment Australia wide and we need more aircraft.

## **Supporting documents or images**

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