



# Yarra Junction Community Bushfire Mitigation Group



What  
you need  
to know

— 2025 —





# Who we are

We are a committed group of Yarra Junction community members focused on reducing the risk and impact of bushfires through proactive fuel management strategies and sharing bushfire knowledge.

We work collaboratively with the community, fire agencies, and the Yarra Ranges council to ensure a comprehensive and effective approach to bushfire mitigation.



## Our Purpose

To develop a community-led bushfire mitigation plan that:

- Endeavours to reduce the severity of impacts of bushfire on Yarra Junction and its surrounds.
- Contribute to the safety of people and the natural environment.
- Provide Bushfire behaviour and mitigation Information to the broader community.

**This brochure provides information for preparing your property for bushfire.**

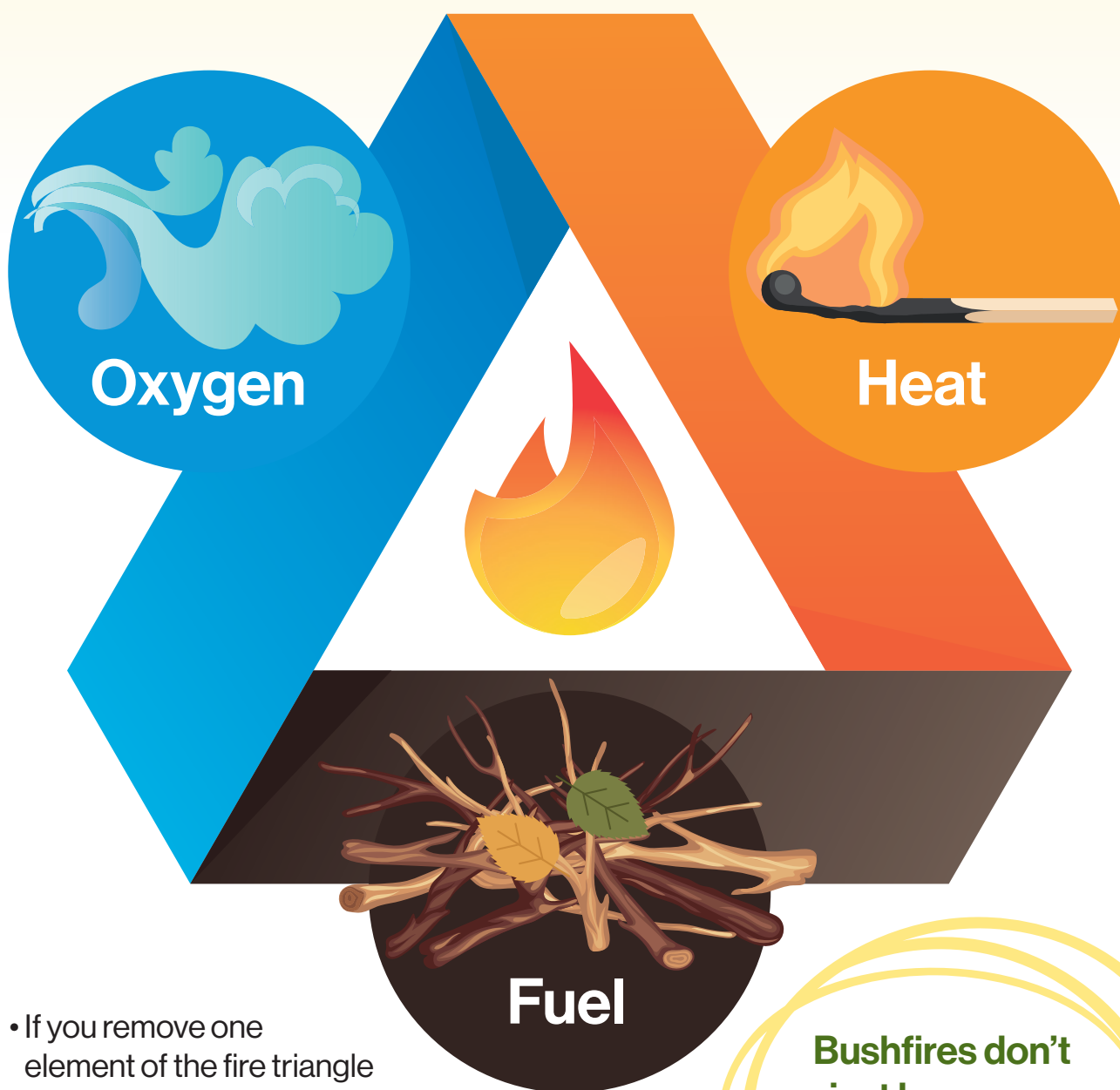
*This community initiative is supported by the Yarra Ranges Council under a Federal Government Preparing Australian Communities grant.*



# Fire – The Basics

The fire triangle depicts the basic components necessary for a fire to ignite and continue to burn.

**This is known as the fire behaviour triangle – because all three factors combine to shape how a bushfire behaves.**



- If you remove one element of the fire triangle a fire will not burn.
- The only element we can change is 'fuel'.
- **Reducing fuel will reduce the impact of fire on your property.**

**Bushfires don't just happen – the conditions need to be right.**

# Weather

The temperature must be high and the humidity must be low.



**Hot**



**Strong  
winds**



**A period of  
low rainfall**



**There must  
be low relative  
humidity  
(low moisture  
in the air)**



# Terrain

Fire behaves differently over flat ground compared to steep ground.



## Slope

When fire travels up hill, the unburnt fuels are preheated and will ignite quicker.

Fire traveling downhill is slowed due to the fuels not being preheated as much.



## Aspect

Northern and Western slopes receive more sun and are drier.

Southern and Eastern slopes receive less sun and remain wetter longer.

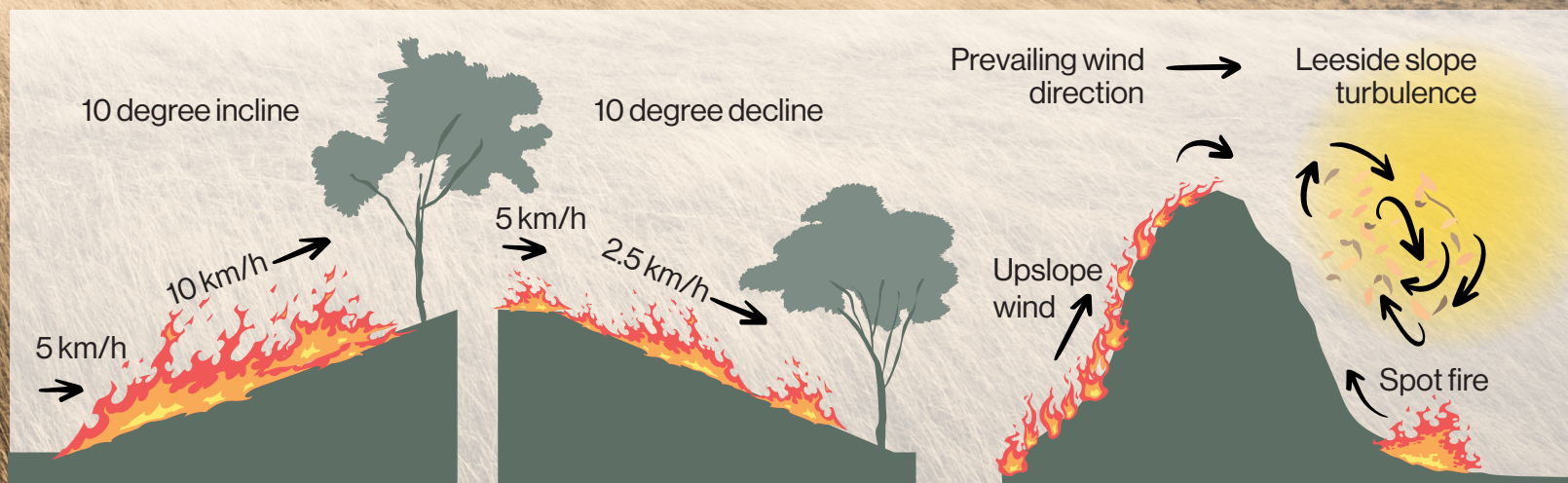


## Terrain

Wind blowing over terrain can make fire very unpredictable.

Hot, dry mainland wind can help preheat terrain.

Cooler coastal wind can help cool the terrain.





# Fuel/Vegetation

Fine fuels (leaves, twigs, small branches, grass) and other flammable objects need to be dry.



## Type

- Grass.
- Leaf litter, prunings.
- Small shrubs & scrub.
- Trees, logs, bark, stumps.



## Size

- Defined as fine or heavy.
- Fine = less than 6mm diameter.
- Heavy = greater than 6mm diameter.



## Quantity

- More fuel = greater intensity.
- Double the fuel = 4 times intensity.



## Moisture Content

- Fuels need to be dry!
- Affected by: last rainfall, humidity etc.
- Try the “crackle” test: leaves and grass are dry underfoot and when crunched in hand.



## Other Flammable Objects

- Remove flammable items from decks and verandahs, such as boxes, furniture and doormats.
- Keep woodpiles away from house.
- Store flammable liquids away from house.



## Arrangement

- Tightly packed fuels smoulder due to lack of oxygen.
- Loosely arranged, continuous fuels burn more fiercely.



**We can't do anything about the terrain.**

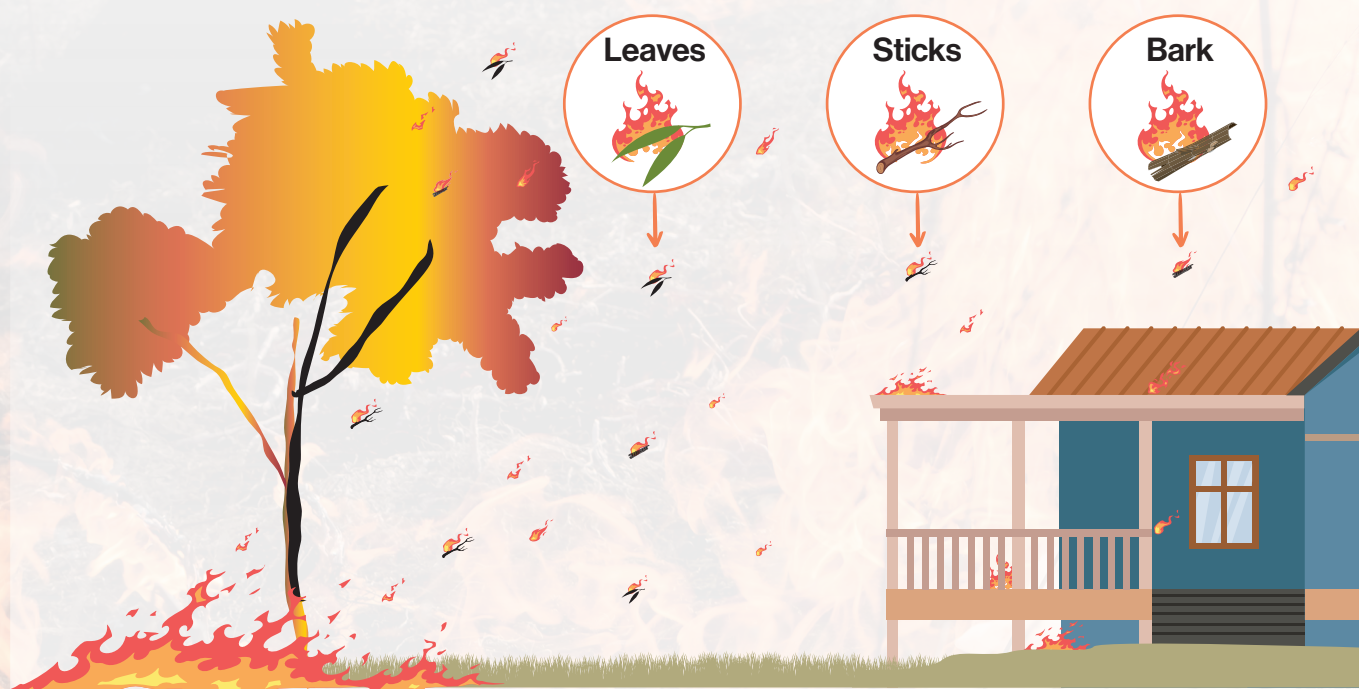
**We can't do anything about the weather.**

**But we can do a great deal to remove the fine fuels from around our properties and houses.**



# Ember attack

Research shows that at least 85% of houses destroyed during a bushfire are a result of ember attack. (CSIRO, 2019)



Ember attack poses a significant risk to Yarra Junction, which was shown through the bushfire modelling DEECA undertook in support of the Yarra Junction Bushfire Mitigation Group.

- Embers are burning twigs, leaves and pieces of debris (fine fuel).
- Ember attack occurs when twigs and leaves are carried by the wind and land on or around houses.
- Ember attack is the most common way houses catch fire during bushfires.
- Embers can land on top of debris in your gutters and set fire to your house.
- Embers can continue to burn and pose a risk even after a bushfire has passed.

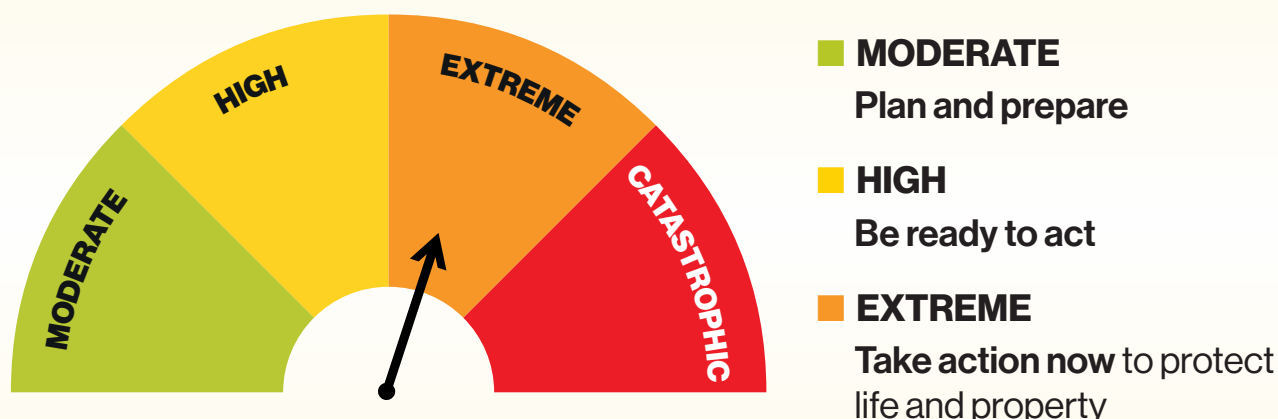
**Cleaning up  
fine fuel on your  
property can  
help reduce  
ember attack**



# Further Resources

For further information on how to prepare your property refer to the CFA booklet *'Preparing your Property'* which accompanied this handout.

**FIRE DANGER RATINGS** tell you how dangerous a fire could be if one started. The higher the rating the more dangerous the conditions.



The Yarra Valley is located in the **CENTRAL FIRE WEATHER DISTRICT**

**For further information on Fire Danger Ratings visit:**

[www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-bans-ratings-and-restrictions](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-bans-ratings-and-restrictions)

**For further information on Emergency planning visit:**

[www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-and-during-a-fire/your-bushfire-plan](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-and-during-a-fire/your-bushfire-plan)

**VIC EMERGENCY webpage:**

[www.emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/)

