



MEDIA RELEASE

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Simple steps to 'prepare and stay aware' this summer

As the state swelters this week, residents in Victoria's west are being urged to 'prepare and stay aware' this bushfire season.

Powercor - owner and operator of the electricity network across western Victoria - has launched a campaign to encourage homes and businesses to prepare for summer.

Bushfire Mitigation Manager Dene Ward said it wasn't too late for residents to get ready for summer.

"We are already experiencing hot weather and that means bushfires are a risk and will continue to be throughout summer," Mr Ward said.

"Bushfires can affect electricity supply so it's important people are prepared for power outages and understand how they can stay aware in the lead up to and during an incident."

"By taking a few simple steps, people can reduce the bushfire risk on their property as well as be prepared in case of an emergency."

Powercor is encouraging people to:

- Clear dry vegetation from properties and clean gutters of debris;
- Report any vegetation growing close to powerlines to 132 206;
- Sign up to SMS alerts and receive information, including outage details and estimated restoration time;
- Prepare an emergency kit;
- Understand how to operate gates and garages without electricity;
- For those on life support, review individual plans in case of a power outage;
- If water pumps rely on electricity, have an alternative power source; and
- Download the Powercor Outages and Vic Emergency apps.

"As the owner and operator of the electricity poles and wires across some of Victoria's most bushfire-prone areas, we work throughout the year to prepare for summer," Mr Ward said.

"This year we have inspected more than 185,000 power poles across our network as well as over 320,000 of our line spans to ensure vegetation is outside of the required clearance space.

"We are also making other changes, such as undergrounding powerlines in high bushfire risk areas."

The Prepare and Stay Aware campaign will appear as a series of short videos and infographics on social media including Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.

To find out more about how to prepare for summer, visit www.powercor.com.au/keeping-you-safe/safety-around-the-home/summer-safety-tips/

For more information call Powercor's media hotline on 03 9683 4342.