

Your safety is our concern, but it is also your responsibility. At all times take ownership of your own health and safety.

When planning your maintenance activity, it is very important you consider...

## Critical Safety Information

Please follow these safety points, as your life may depend on it:

- Do not conduct maintenance activities in days of Very High, Severe or Catastrophic Fire Danger
- Do not conduct maintenance activities in extreme weather conditions such as high temperatures, thunderstorms or strong winds
- Avoid working alone. If working alone is unavoidable make sure you have completed a Track Maintenance Intention Form (available on the Maintenance Matters archive)
- Take a first aid kit with you and know how to use it
- Ensure you have some way of communicating with others during an emergency by having a Mobile Phone, PLB or Sat Phone with you

## General Safety Information

When performing Track maintenance ensure you are well prepared for your work tasks:

- Review your checklist of equipment before leaving.
- Check before you leave home, to see if your maintenance section is subject to a prescribed burn
- Ensure the tools you will be using are in good working order
- Check your vehicle – lights, battery, tyre pressure (including spare), water, fuel and oil
- Wearing appropriate clothing to protect you from the sun, insects and working in the bush (see Fig. 1)
- Wear high visibility clothing so you can be identified in the bush
- Take with you at least two litres of water and food snacks
- Only complete maintenance tasks that you are physically capable of undertaking
- Avoid fatigue by taking regular breaks, eating and drinking
- Ensure you have a plan to deal with a bush fire (see Fig. 2)
- Take care when driving to and from your maintenance section, especially when driving on gravel roads and bush tracks

You might like to print a copy of our **Maintenance Pre-Trip Checklist** (available on the Maintenance Matters archive) to assist your preparation.



Fig. 1 PPE: spot the differences?!



Fig. 2 Be Bushfire Ready

**ARE YOU BUSHFIRE READY?**  
 PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

Bushfires are dangerous and common in Western Australia. They can start without warning throughout the year and can spread rapidly on hot and windy days.

**If conditions are too dangerous, rescuers will not be able to check the track and campsite.**

**PREPARE - Make a plan**

- Plan a route within your capabilities: Where will you go to? How far is it? How fast can you travel? Be certain you can reach your goal.

**ACT - Don't delay**

- Leave the track if the Fire Danger Rating is **Very High** or above.
- If you see signs of a bushfire assess your situation: How close it is? Is the wind blowing it towards you?
- If the way is clear, **escape** to safer ground.
- If the way is not clear, prepare to **shelter**.

**SURVIVE - Stay alert**

**Escape**

- Use existing tracks and roads.
- Move to clear or burnt ground.
- Do not try to outrun the fire or escape uphill.
- Avoid the tops of hills and densely vegetated gullies.

**Shelter**

- Stay low and seek shelter behind a log or rocky outcrop, on a beach or in a sufficiently large body of water to fully submerge (including a running river but not a water tank).
- Campsite buildings are not designed as a fire refuge, but it may be a safer place to stay than outside.
- Prepare your surroundings by removing leaves and branches.
- Cover yourself with wool or cotton. Avoid synthetics.
- Once the main fire front has passed, move to burnt ground.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions | PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

*Your safety is our concern but your responsibility.*