



Bushfire Advice

This advice is relevant to all clients who board their dogs at Tiptree Boarding Kennels during the bushfire season. We strongly encourage you read this advice and consider it in the context of your circumstances.

Tiptree Boarding Kennels is situated in the Adelaide Hills within the Mount Lofty Ranges. It must be acknowledged we are situated in a bushfire prone area.

The following advice intends to help you manage that risk and decide if and when you may wish to evacuate your dog based on the best available information from the Country Fire Service (CFS).

To manage the risk whilst you are away, we suggest you give serious consideration to organising a person(s) willing and able to monitor the CFS warnings and evacuate your dog(s) if necessary.

Stay and defend or leave?

Bushfires often threaten property and life with little or no warning. The CFS encourages individuals and businesses to formulate a bushfire plan. Tiptree Kennels' bushfire plan is that in the unfortunate event a fire is threatening Tiptree and its property, we will **evacuate and leave**. We are not in a position to defend the Tiptree property given its size. Therefore, in catastrophic fire conditions as rated by the CFS, we strongly recommend evacuating your dog(s) from the property the day before.

As a client it is critical to understand that should your dog(s) be on the property at the time a bushfire is approaching **we will be unable to evacuate it**. Given we could have around thirty dogs it is regrettably physically impossible for us to evacuate the kennel. This is the reason we encourage you to consider this advice and choose if you wish to evacuate your dog(s) on catastrophic fire days.

Tiptree Kennels has made significant investment in bushfire prevention and safety. This includes:

- Regular clearing and 'burning off' of combustible material
- Sprinklers on the kennel roof
- Kennel roof fire sprinklers can be changed from bore water connection to rain water driven by a petrol pump (in case electricity connection lost)
- Double brick kennels with excellent ventilation
- Bushfire advice that encourages the evacuation of guests when the CFS forecast catastrophic bushfire warning (typically three to four times per fire season).
- Working relationship with local CFS for preventative advice and evacuation planning.

What can you do to help keep your dog(s) safe?

The best advice available in predicting when there would be catastrophic circumstances should a fire break out is to follow the 'warning and ratings' for bushfires from the CFS.

We recommend that when the rating is catastrophic it is best to evacuate your dog the day prior. **Please note that we will not accept any dogs due to check in on catastrophic fire warning days.**

On the following page we will explain how to check the CFS website for the fire danger rating. It is released before 5pm each day for the following day. Also there is a four day prediction available which is useful to plan ahead but importantly only serves as a warning, not official advice.

How you can check the fire rating for zone two, Mount Lofty Ranges.

1) Visit this website to bring up the fire ratings map, predictions and fire rating for the following day:

https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/bans_and_ratings.jsp

2) Tiptree Kennels is located in **zone two**. By clicking on zone two it will bring up the information you require. Below is an example of a catastrophic fire day:

District Map



South Australia
Country Fire Service

Today-6/1

Tomorrow-7/1

Mon-8/1

Tue-9/1

Last updated 05/01/2018 5:37 PM Fire Bans for Today 06/01/2018



Fire Danger Ratings

- No Fire Danger Rating
- Catastrophic
- Extreme
- Severe
- Very High
- High
- Low-Moderate

Catastrophic

- These are the worst conditions for a bush or grass fire.
- If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be extremely difficult to control and will take significant fire fighting resources and cooler conditions to bring it under control.
- Spot fires will start well ahead of the main fire and cause rapid spread of the fire. Embers will come from many directions.
- Homes are not designed or constructed to withstand fires in these conditions.
- The safest place to be is away from bushfire prone areas.



FIRE DANGER RATINGS

LOW-MODERATE, HIGH, VERY HIGH

You need to be prepared – check your bushfire survival plan, monitor the conditions and know where to go for more information. If a fire starts, it is likely to be controlled and homes can provide safety.

SEVERE (TOTAL FIRE BAN)

You need to be aware – leaving early is the safest option for your survival. Only stay if your home is well prepared and you can actively defend it with the correct equipment. If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be hard for firefighters to bring under control.

EXTREME (TOTAL FIRE BAN)

You need to get ready to act – leaving early is the safest option for your survival. Only stay if your home is prepared to the highest level, which includes the construction of bushfire protection, and you can actively defend it with the correct equipment. If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be unpredictable, move very fast and be very difficult for firefighters to bring under control. Spot fires will start and move quickly and embers may come from many directions.

CATASTROPHIC (TOTAL FIRE BAN)

You need to act now – leaving a bushfire-prone area the night before or early in the day is the best option for your survival. You should act immediately and avoid forested areas, thick bush or long, dry grass. Prepare, know and practise a plan for when you will leave, how you will get there, what you will do if you cannot leave, where you will go and when you will return. If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be extremely difficult to control and will take significant firefighting resources and cooler conditions to bring it under control. Spot fires will start well ahead of the main fire and cause it to spread rapidly and embers will come from many directions.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Will you call me if catastrophic fire conditions are predicted?

No. We will be busy preparing for evacuation and assisting with the evacuation of guests and preparing the property. We will also be evacuating the office and property. It remains your decision to evacuate and your responsibility to monitor the CFS warnings. We encourage you to decide on a plan well before the event.

Will someone be with my dog if we choose to leave them?

Shifts for Tiptree staff will be automatically cancelled on a catastrophic fire warning day. We will evacuate at the first sign of danger and will not return until safe to do so. If an owner has decided not to evacuate their dog, they will be left in a pen inside the main kennel house with food and extra drinking water.

Couldn't a bushfire happen at any time?

Yes. We are prepared for fire at any time however the best advice from the CFS is to leave bushfire prone areas the night before when weather conditions are predicted as catastrophic. This is why we encourage you to consider the evacuation of your dog.

Will I get a refund for that day if I choose to evacuate my dog?

The evacuation and then rebooking of dogs is a huge amount of extra work. Unfortunately we cannot absorb this cost so unable to give refunds.

Can you help me choose what to do?

The decision to leave or evacuate your dog(s) remains with you. Pre-warned evacuation follows reliable information that prompts a decision to undertake a controlled managed evacuation. The CFS prefer this option. It is best you make a plan now and be ready to act.

What if I'm overseas or interstate?

In these circumstances we recommend that you organise either family, friend, vet that are not going away and agree to monitor the fire ratings and be prepared to evacuate your dog(s) the night before the catastrophic fire warning day.

What if my dog(s) are due to check in on a catastrophic fire warning day?

Tiptree is unable to accept dogs checking in on a catastrophic fire warning day. Check in will need to be delayed until after the potential threat is over.