

22 September 2023

Risk of Bushfire

Background

Work that occurs off campus such as fieldwork may occur in bushfire prone areas. Bushfire risk and emergency planning should be considered when planning work activities.

The [Australasian Fire Authorities Council \(AFAC\)](#) are predicting an increased risk of significant bushfires occurring in Australia over the coming Spring/Summer seasons. This increased risk exists across multiple Australian states and territories.

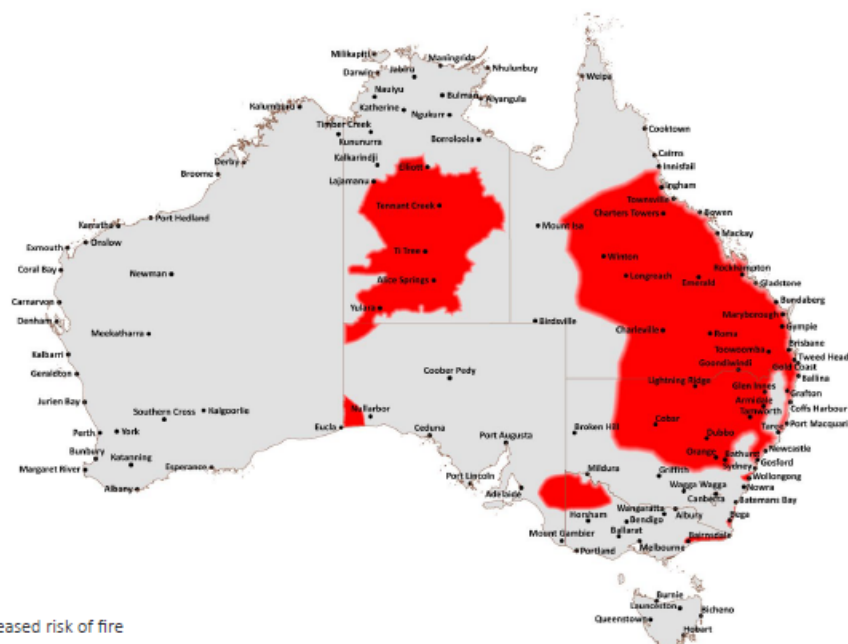


Figure 1 Seasonal Bushfire Outlook Spring 2023. Areas are based on the interim biogeographic regionalisation for Australia and other geographical features.

Source: [AFAC Bushfire Outlook Spring 2023 v1](#)

Issues to Consider

Consider the following when planning fieldwork activity:

- What tasks are you performing? Could these increase the risk of fire?
- What is the fire load in the area you are visiting? Is the area well maintained with fire breaks?
- What is the current fire rating in the area you are visiting?
- Do you have an evacuation route planned?
- What is the weather like for the time you are visiting? Ensure that you regularly review the emergency warnings and fire danger information for the areas you plan to visit.
- What communication systems are available if the mobile phone network is disrupted due to a bushfire?
- Could asthma or other respiratory conditions be triggered?

Activities which may potentially cause a bushfire **must not occur when there is an increased risk of bushfires.**

Several UQ sites are also at increased risk of bushfires due to their location. Please refer to the UQ Bushfire plans for UQ sites below.

Resources

Bushfire information (location, danger ratings etc):

- [QLD Current bushfires and Warnings](#)
- [QFES Postcode Checker](#)
- <https://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/prepare/bushfire/tune-in-to-warnings> and <https://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/prepare/bushfire/fire-danger-ratings>
- [Bureau of Meteorology Bushfire Weather](#)
- [Bushfires and Asthma](#)

Interstate Locations:

- [NSW Current fires](#)
- [SA Incidents and Warnings](#)
- [VIC Emergency](#)
- [ACT Incidents](#)
- [WA Incidents](#)
- [NT Incidents](#)
- [TAS Incidents](#)

UQ Bushfire Plans

- [Long Pocket bushfire plan](#)
- [Pinjarra bushfire plan](#)
- [Gatton bushfire plan](#)
- [Darbalara bushfire plan](#)
- [Hiddenvale bushfire plan](#)

Additional Information

For further information, contact your local Work Health and Safety Manager/Coordinator or the UQ HSW-Division, phone: +61 7 336-52365 or email hsw@uq.edu.au. Current Hazard alerts are available at <https://staff.uq.edu.au/information-and-services/health-safety-wellbeing/health-safety-workplace/governance/communications>.

For information relevant to UQ's Bushfire Plans please contact Anthony Waldron, Fire Safety Supervisor, at fire@uq.edu.au