

# Bushfire Management



## Key points

- Sustainable Timber Tasmania is one of the State's key firefighting agencies.
- We organise our firefighting around the principles of preparedness, prevention, response and recovery.
- We periodically carry out fuel reduction burns to help protect property and forest assets from bushfire.

**Our priorities when fighting bushfires are to protect life, property, community assets and forest resources.**

## Sustainable Timber Tasmania's role

Sustainable Timber Tasmania is one of the State's key firefighting agencies. We are obliged to control and extinguish any bushfires that occur on the land we manage, and many of our staff are trained firefighters, planners and incident controllers.

## Firefighting across land tenures

Along with the Tasmania Fire Service and Parks and Wildlife Service, Sustainable Timber Tasmania is part of the Interagency Fire Management Protocol.

This protocol is the only one of its kind in Australia, and ensures that streamlined communications, adequate resources and a strategic approach are provided for all bushfires in Tasmania, regardless of land tenure.

Under the protocol, Sustainable Timber Tasmania also fights fires on land other than the forests we manage.



## Bushfire management principles

We organise our bushfire management activities around four principles: preparedness, prevention, response and recovery.

**Preparedness** ensures that appropriate firefighting capacity is maintained, through programs such as staff training and maintaining fire trails and water storages.

**Prevention** aims to minimise the incidence and severity of bushfire, through fire detection and fuel reduction burns.

**Response** is the reaction to uncontrolled bushfires, and includes firefighting and investigation.

**Recovery** includes post-fire activities, such as site rehabilitation and reviewing the effectiveness of prevention, preparedness and response procedures.

## Fuel reduction burns

Fuel reduction burns are generally low intensity and reduce the quantity of vegetation on the forest floor, without damaging standing trees. Used strategically, they can help to protect property and forestry assets from bushfires. They can also be beneficial to some vegetation communities, such as coastal heath or buttongrass.

Sustainable Timber Tasmania carries out fuel reduction burns where required and when weather conditions are suitable, usually in spring and autumn.

## More information

[‘Smoke management’ fact sheet No13](#)

Available at: [www.sttas.com.au](http://www.sttas.com.au)



TFS firefighter on duty during an east coast bushfire.



STTas officer operating water pump to draw water from a water point (waterhole, dam, stream etc) into the water tanker.



STTas officer using a drip-torch to light a fuel reduction burn along a road boundary.



STTas firefighting vehicle monitoring the safety of bulldozer operator while cutting track along a fire perimeter.