

Planning ahead for bushfire safety

Safety comes first at Essential Energy.

Throughout the year we plan ahead to reduce bushfire risk and ensure the safety and reliability of our network.

Essential Energy's network covers 95 per cent of regional and rural NSW so we understand the risks of living and working in bushfire-prone areas and implement a range of ongoing activities to help us prepare for bushfire season.

AERIAL NETWORK PATROL

From January to July, fixed wing aircraft and helicopters provide a bird's eye view of the network. Inspections include vegetation around powerlines, the condition of cross arms and other pole-mounted equipment. Any known problems are prioritised for rectification.



MANAGING VEGETATION

Trimming or removing trees to maintain safe clearance zones is an ongoing priority. This reduces bushfire and public safety risks, and also helps protect the network from damage and potential power outages during storms.

SAFE THINKING DAILY

As an essential service, we constantly monitor state-wide weather conditions and always alert our employees in the field so they are ready to respond to extreme conditions, especially high bushfire risk days. We have a dedicated Bushfire Risk Management Plan - available on our website at essentialenergy.com.au - which outlines our preventative strategies and operational requirements for managing bushfire risk.

WORKING WITH RFS

We work closely with the Rural Fire Service to plan and prepare for bushfire season. At times of bushfire threat, we have open lines of communication to ensure we can respond appropriately with knowledge of fire conditions on the ground.



MAINTAINING ASSETS

Each year we inspect over 340,000 poles and 50,000km of powerlines. Regular inspections also cover underground powerlines and other network assets. Ongoing maintenance to ensure safety and stability includes use of line spreaders to maintain safe clearance between low voltage-powerlines, especially in windy conditions when line clashes could be a fire risk.

BE PREPARED

Visit rfs.nsw.gov.au to prepare a Bushfire Survival Plan for your household. Keep your mobile charged during high risk days and consider access to back-up power if you need to pump water.

We will endeavour to keep you informed of power outages and emergency conditions with regular updates via our contact centre, website, media and social media.



Keep Mobile Phones charged



Back-up power for water pumps



Tune in to local radio



Power outages - **13 20 80**
Or go to essentialenergy.com.au/outages

