

How Essential Energy plans for bushfire season

We understand the risks of living and working in bushfire-prone areas and have an ongoing program of activities to mitigate and manage the risks of bushfire and ensure the safety and reliability of our electricity network.

Aerial network patrols

Each year from January to July, we undertake aerial inspections using fixed wing aircraft, helicopters and drones to provide a bird's eye view of our electricity network, identify any risks and schedule any required work. Our inspections include vegetation, condition of crossarms and other pole-mounted equipment.

Vegetation management program

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

Maintaining assets

We inspect over 340,000 poles and 50,000km of powerlines annually. Inspections also cover underground powerlines and other network infrastructure and perform regular maintenance.

Bushfire management plans

We constantly monitor state-wide weather conditions and always alert our employees in the field so they are ready to respond to extreme conditions. Our Bushfire Risk Management Plan outlines our preventative strategies and operational requirements for managing bushfire risk.

Collaboration with emergency service partners

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.

Plan ahead. 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. For information on power outages visit essentialenergy.com.au/outages.

