

# JUNIOR RANGERS FIRE ACTIVITY BOOK

[JUNIORRANGERS.COM.AU](http://JUNIORRANGERS.COM.AU)



# FIRE IN OUR PARKS

Fire is an important part of maintaining healthy parks. Many of our plants and animals have adapted to survive fire in different ways.

**Seed pods** only open after experiencing the heat of a fire. This will trigger the release of the seed from the pod allowing new plants to grow.

**Epicormic growth** are small leaves that sprout from underneath the bark, giving burnt trees a fuzzy look. These leaves provide food for the tree (through photosynthesis) while it recovers from the fire.

**BORN TO EXPLORE.**



Junior Rangers are born to explore. If you have an interest in nature, animals and the outdoors then Junior Rangers is for you.

Junior Ranger activities are led by a park ranger and are designed to get children outdoors, have fun and learn about Victoria's wonderful parks.

Ranger led activities are available during school holidays in many parks across the state.

Junior Ranger activities that you can do anytime with your family in a park are also available, as well as animal fact files, games and other environmental activities.

Visit [juniorrangers.com.au](http://juniorrangers.com.au) for more information.

## LABEL THE FIRE ADAPTATIONS

1 \_E\_D \_ \_ \_ \_

2 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ M \_ \_



What evidence of bushfire can you see in a park on your next visit?

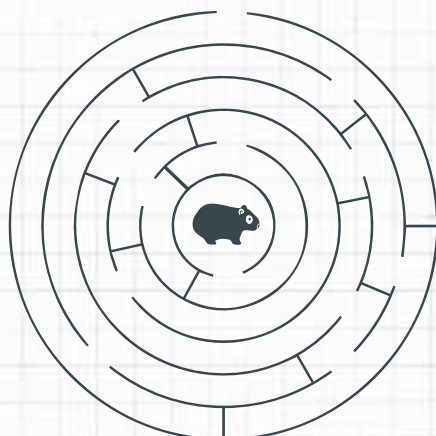
- ☐ Open seed pods
- ☐ Epicormic growth
- ☐ Black charred bark



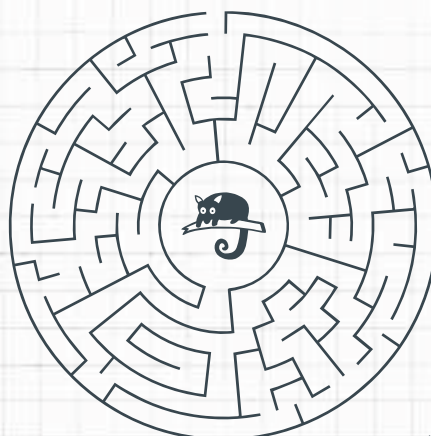
## A-MAZE-ING SURVIVAL

The plants in the bush need fire to survive and grow, but where do the animals go when there is a fire? Help each animal find their hide-out!

Help the wombat find his underground burrow



Help the possum find shelter in a hollow, deep inside a tree



# THE FIRE TRIANGLE

Fire needs 3 elements to burn; heat, oxygen and fuel. These elements make up the fire triangle.

Fire fighters work hard to eliminate one or more of the three sides of the fire triangle to stop a fire.

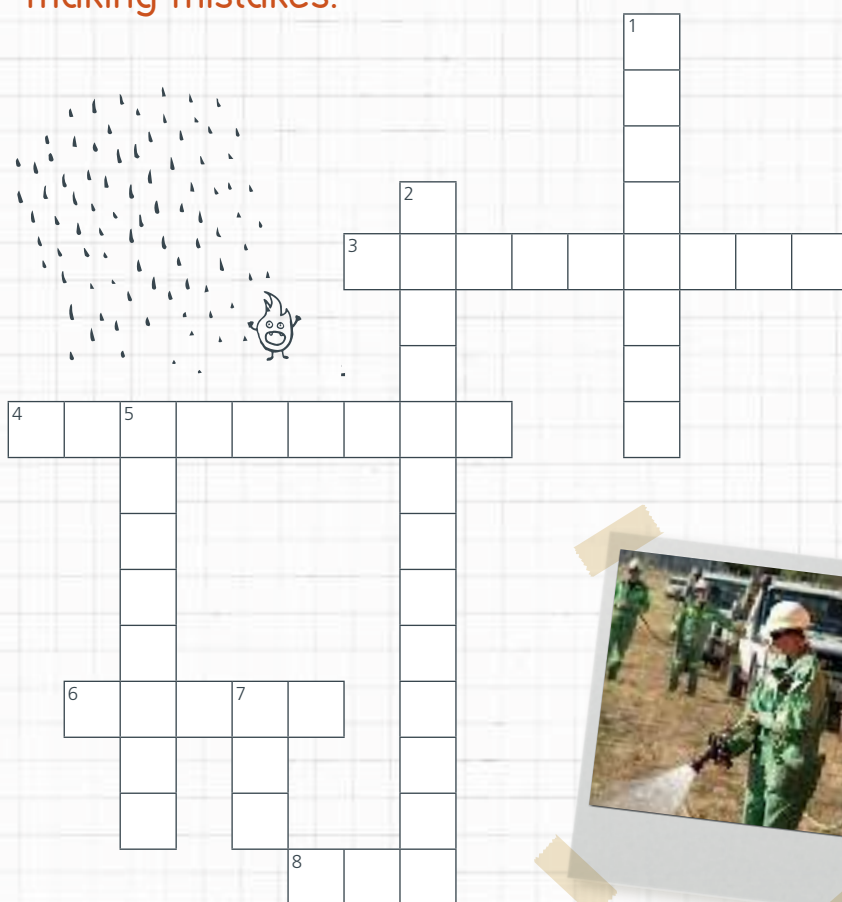
- Water will reduce the heat
- Dirt or fire fighting foam will smother the oxygen
- Removal of trees and plants in the path of a fire will reduce the amount of fuel available to burn



## WHAT CAUSES BUSHFIRES IN OUR PARKS?

Bushfires can start in many different ways. Some causes are part of nature, others start because of people making mistakes.

Discover how fires start by completing the crossword.



### CROSSWORD CLUES:

#### Across

3. During a thunderstorm, \_\_\_\_\_ can ignite dry fuel
4. Farm \_\_\_\_\_ and tractors in open paddocks can get hot and accidentally ignite dry grass around them
6. Fires are fanned with oxygen on \_\_\_\_\_ days
8. Summer days can get very \_\_\_\_

#### Down

1. Sparks from a \_\_\_\_\_ used to cut logs on hot days can accidentally start a fire
2. Fires can be accidentally started if someone smoking litters with their \_\_\_\_\_
5. An unattended \_\_\_\_\_ that isn't completely extinguished can reignite and escape into the bush
7. Lack of rain and warm days will cause leaves on the ground to become \_\_\_\_, making it easier to catch fire

**Down:** 1. chainsaw, 2. cigarette butt, 5. campfire, 7. dry

**Across:** 3. lightning, 4. machinery, 6. windy, 8. hot

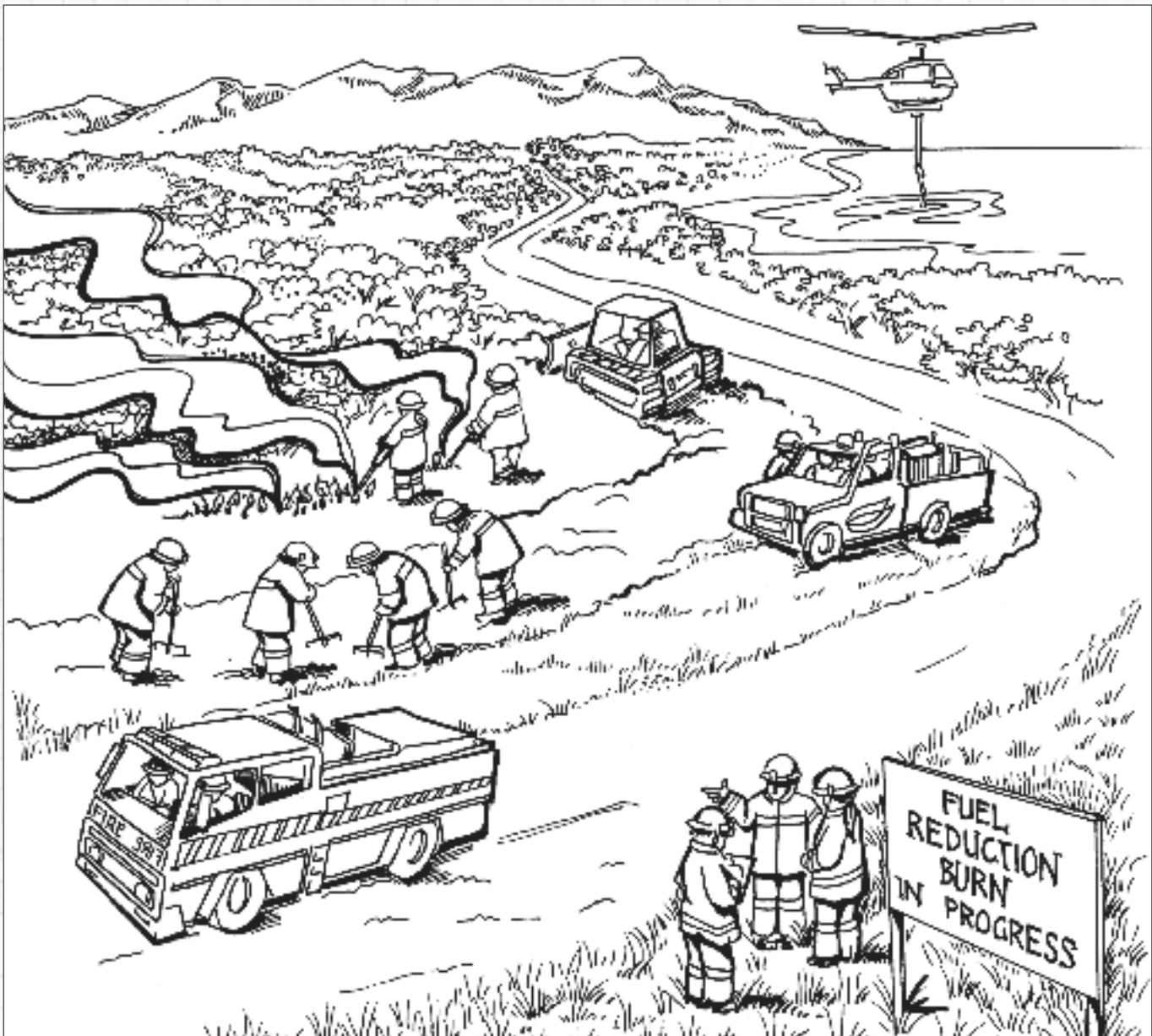
ANSWERS





# FIGHTING FIRES TOGETHER

Forest Fire Management Victoria is a group responsible for managing fire in parks and forests. They work alongside Country Fire Authority and Metropolitan Fire Brigade and other emergency services to deliver the best approaches to bushfire management.



Spot the work done that makes the job of managing fire easier.

Number the drawing with the actions you can see.

## ACTIONS:

- 1 Clearing vegetation to create a fuelbreak which provides a safe place for firefighters to access and fight a fire
- 2 Providing water access points for trucks and helicopters to refill
- 3 Conducting planned burns to remove fuel



# FIND THE FIREFIGHTING TOOLS IN THE WORD SEARCH BELOW

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | R | A | L | Z | N | H | Q | O | H | J | H | H | G | S |
| U | C | U | K | J | B | M | B | I | M | E | C | D | Z | B |
| D | N | F | J | K | N | P | M | G | R | X | R | L | D | D |
| R | E | T | P | O | C | I | L | E | H | D | O | K | R | R |
| H | J | T | R | N | J | U | Z | Z | O | U | T | G | Q | V |
| C | E | C | H | R | I | O | R | D | Z | M | P | R | C | I |
| W | N | L | U | V | D | X | A | T | V | K | I | N | R | V |
| Z | F | E | M | L | Q | V | D | Q | E | B | R | L | A | Y |
| L | K | W | L | E | K | B | W | R | O | R | D | E | V | D |
| N | T | U | E | B | T | B | H | I | U | P | I | U | Y | W |
| T | B | F | Z | Z | V | Z | Z | G | W | X | L | F | M | N |
| C | T | D | V | K | E | C | M | Z | A | Z | A | E | F | L |
| S | K | D | A | D | R | A | K | E | H | O | E | T | N | C |
| Q | H | T | Y | P | D | L | J | Y | J | D | H | G | K | J |
| T | T | Q | W | B | T | D | C | I | H | W | D | B | A | X |



## DID YOU KNOW?



Water sprayed from the back of a fire tanker can reach 25 metres into the air. That's 5 storeys high!

There are over 800km of fuelbreaks around Melbourne.

Fire travels faster uphill than downhill. In extreme conditions, the top speed of a fire has been recorded at 25km per hour.



FIRE TRUCK

HELICOPTER

DRIP TORCH

RAKE HOE

BULLDOZER

HELMET





# BE SAFE BE PREPARED

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO



Check the weather  
before you go to  
a park

→ [bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.au)

Check the fire danger  
rating for the day  
and see if there is a  
Total Fire Ban

→ [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au)

Check for fires or  
other emergencies  
in the area you are  
planning to visit

→ [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au)

## FIRE DANGER RATING

Fire danger ratings are based on the weather forecast and help us understand how dangerous a fire would be if it started.

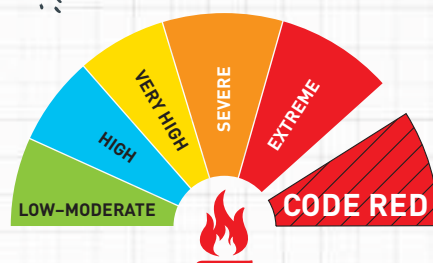
Hot, dry, windy days will have a high fire danger compared with cold, rainy, calm days.

Fire danger ratings are usually signposted on major roads and are shown as a semi-circle scale. An arrow or light will indicate the fire danger rating for the day.

Think about the type of weather you experience in different seasons. On the rating scales below, mark the fire danger rating you might expect in each season.



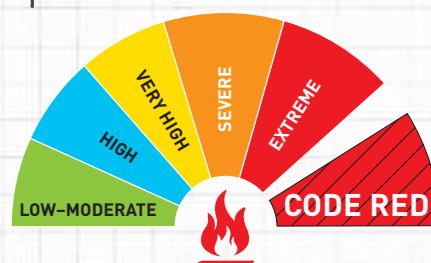
### WINTER



**FIRE DANGER RATING**



### SPRING



**FIRE DANGER RATING**

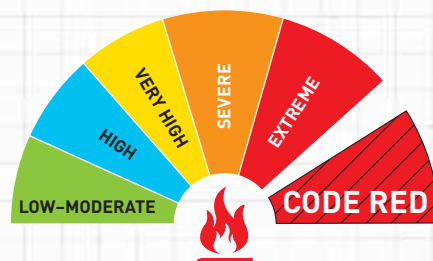
## DID YOU KNOW?

Macpac is the Principal Partner of our Junior Rangers program – supporting the next generation of nature lovers.

Visit [macpac.com.au](http://macpac.com.au) for family outdoor adventure inspiration



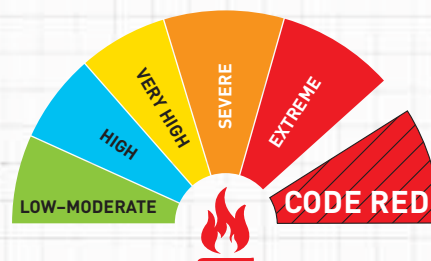
### SUMMER



**FIRE DANGER RATING**



### AUTUMN



**FIRE DANGER RATING**

# WHAT IS A TOTAL FIRE BAN?

A Total Fire Ban means you can't light a fire in the open. No campfires, wood or heat bead BBQs or portable BBQs may be lit. On days of Total Fire Ban, fires are likely to spread very quickly and can be difficult to control.

Park signs come in all shapes and sizes. They help keep us safe when visiting the park. Can you match the signs to the descriptions?

|    |   |    |  |
|----|---|----|--|
| S1 |    | D1 | <p>Usually on gates, this sign indicates to keep the area clear (e.g. no parking) in case firefighters need emergency access</p> |
| S2 |   | D2 | <p>Cautioning visitors that there are currently work being done to prepare the park for the fire season</p>                      |
| S3 |  | D3 | <p>Danger sign to tell visitors to stay out of the park while a planned burn is being conducted</p>                              |
| S4 |  | D4 | <p>Symbols letting park visitors know campfires or heat bead BBQs are not allowed</p>  |
| S5 |  | D5 | <p>This portable sign is displayed on days of Total Fire Bans often near park entry points or BBQ shelters</p>                   |
| S6 |  | D6 | <p>Entry sign to warn park visitors the park is closed because it's not safe to enter due to fire risk</p>                       |

ANSWERS  
S1 → D4, S2 → D6, S3 → D1, S4 → D5, S5 → D3, S6 → D2



# BEFORE AND AFTER A BUSHFIRE

BEFORE



AFTER



Can you spot the difference in the bush before and after a bushfire?

Colour the scenery and write a list of changes you can see.

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