

NSW GOVERNMENT CLAIMS CERTAINTY IN BUSHFIRE PLANNING

The recent NSW bushfire emergency has focused attention again on the risks posed to life and property by fires.

NSW government in press releases stated that NSW already has the toughest building standards for fire in Australia and the new planning system will further strengthen our approach to this important issue.

The Government's Planning for Bush Fire Protection guidelines make certain that bushfire safety is a major consideration, be it for housing areas or even individual properties.

The new planning system will help strengthen the way that we manage and reduce the threat posed by bushfires, when planning new development through:

- A new and dedicated NSW Planning Policy on natural hazards, including bushfire hazards
- Continuing the key role of the Rural Fire Service in strategic planning in bushfire areas
- Identifying appropriate protections for use in local plans, including restricting development in areas that are unsuitable because of bushfire risks
- Retaining the requirement for new development to be carried out consistently with the 'Planning for Bushfire Protection' Guidelines – these protect persons, property, community, infrastructure and the environment
- Special safeguards being included in the Bill to ensure the advice of the RFS on DAs is followed
- Including the management of natural hazards (such as bushfire hazards) as an object of the Planning Bill 2013
- Promoting health and safety in the design, construction and performance of buildings

NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CODE BUSHFIRE REGULATIONS

The current regulations require that every new home build or renovation in Australia after 1st May 2010 must undergo a Bushfire Attack Level assessment as part of the application for a building permit under 2009 Standard AS 3959 *Construction in bushfire-prone areas*.

The new regulations greatly affect the garage door industry in the design and construction of garage doors in bushfire prone areas throughout Australia. Determining a bushfire-

prone area throughout Australia is a relatively complex process. Like high wind situations, each site has to be identified and assessed individually for

- Fire danger index (FDI),
- Classified vegetation type,
 - Forest
 - Woodland
 - Shrubland Scrub
 - Mallee/mulga
 - Rainforest
 - Grassland
- Distance from classified vegetation type,
- Effective slope of the ground

to determine a Bushfire Attack Level (BAL, the numbers being heat flux expressed in kW/m²). There are certain mandatory design and construction requirements depending on the BAL specified in determining risk of bushfire attack and corresponding construction response to address that risk..



A HOUSE COMPLETELY DESTROYED AFTER A DEVASTATING BUSHFIRE AT WINMALEE IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS. NOTE WHAT IS LEFT OF THE GARAGE DOOR EITHER SIDE OF THE VEHICLE

BUSHFIRE ATTACK LEVEL (BAL)

BAL-LOW	<u>Very low risk</u> Insufficient risk to warrant any specific construction requirements but there is still some risk (generally very low risk is where vegetation is 100m or more from buildings [50m for grassland])
BAL-12.5	<u>Low Risk</u> of ember attack
BAL-19	<u>Moderate Risk</u> Risk of ember attack and burning debris ignited by wind borne embers and a likelihood of exposure to radiant heat.
BAL-29	<u>High Risk</u> being Increased risk of ember attack and burning debris ignited by wind borne embers and a likelihood of

BAL-40 exposure to an increased level of radiant heat. Very High Risk of ember attack and burning debris ignited by wind borne embers, a likelihood of exposure to a high level of radiant heat and some likelihood of direct exposure to flames from the fire front.

BAL-FZ (FLAME ZONE) Extreme Risk of ember attack and burning debris ignited by wind borne embers, a likelihood of exposure to an extreme level of radiant heat, and direct exposure to flames from the fire front.

CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS FOR GARAGE DOORS IN BUSHFIRE AREAS

The construction impact from the BAL risk assessment leads to the following requirements at present

BAL-LOW No construction requirements.

BAL-12.5 The lower portion of a garage door that is within 400mm of the ground when the door is closed, shall be made from:

- Non-combustible material; or
- Bushfire resisting timber; or
- Fibre-cement sheet, minimum of 6mm thickness; or
- Timber that is in solid, laminated or reconstituted form with a density of 750kg/m³ or greater at 12% moisture content; or
- a combination of any of the above

Panel lift, tilt doors or side hung doors shall be fitted with suitable weather strips etc, with a maximum gap no greater than 3mm.

Roller doors must have a guide track with a maximum gap of 3mm and be fitted with nylon brush that is in contact with the door.

Garage doors are not to include ventilation slots.

BAL-19 Same as BAL- 12.5

BAL-29 Same as BAL-19, except the entire garage door is to be made from:

- Non-combustible material, or
- Bushfire resisting timber, or
- Fibre cement sheet, minimum of 6mm thickness; or
- Timber that is in solid, laminated or reconstituted form with a density of 750kg/m³ or greater at 12% moisture content, or
- a combination of any of the above.

BAL-40 Same as BAL-29 except the entire garage door is to be non-combustible.

BAL-FZ -(Flame Zone) Same as BAL-40,

except the entire garage is to be made from non combustible materials.

The fires at Winmalee effectively made the homes destroyed in a flame zone and none of their construction would have complied with the FZ construction requirements.

The regulations of course are prepared based on reasonable risk factors to protect initially against ember attack and then provide occupants protection to escape when the conditions deteriorate, but sometimes this may not be feasible.

WORKPLACE EMERGENCY PLAN

Following the previous article on bushfires, the question arises: if a bushfire emergency or indeed any emergency arises at your workplace - DOES YOUR WORKPLACE HAVE AN EMERGENCY PLAN?

If **YES**, then give yourself a pat on the back and have a great day...

If **NOT**, then you may need to know that it is a requirement under the **Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011** that "a workplace must ensure that an emergency plan is prepared"

Note: Only required by law for **QLD, NT, ACT** and **NSW**. Still a crucial part of your Safety Management System if you reside in **SA, WA, VIC** or **TAS**.

Emergency Plans

An emergency plan is similar to an evacuation plan. It provides crucial information to your workers on what to do in an emergency.

What do I need to do?

As a small business owner you must ensure that an emergency plan is prepared, maintained and implemented for the workplace. The emergency plan needs to include:

- emergency procedures, including:
- an effective response to an emergency
- evacuation procedures
- notifying emergency service organisations at the earliest opportunity
- medical treatment and assistance
- effective communication between who you authorise to coordinate the emergency response and all persons in the workplace
- testing of the emergency procedures, including the frequency of testing
- information, training and instruction to relevant workers in relation to implementing the emergency procedures.

In addition the person conducting the business or undertaking (PCBU) must maintain the emergency plan for the workplace so that it remains effective.

The person conducting the business or undertaking (PCBU) must consider all relevant matters when preparing the plan, including:

- the nature of the work being carried out at the workplace
- the nature of the hazards at the workplace
- the size and location of the workplace
- the number and composition of the workers and other persons at the workplace.

The PCBU must implement the emergency plan for the workplace in the event of an emergency. There are sanctions for not doing so.

The following documents should be displayed in the workplace:

- Evacuation Plan or procedures
- Emergency Contacts

R+T: FROM 2014 WILL ALSO BE REPRESENTED ON THE FIFTH CONTINENT

LATEST NEWS



Leading world trade fair for roller shutters, doors/gates and sun protection systems will celebrate its première in Melbourne next year – High demand already before launch

The international R+T family continues to grow: In exactly one year R+T Australia will start in Melbourne. "We have already firmly established ourselves in Shanghai and Moscow and are registering increasing numbers of exhibitors and visitors each year. R+T Turkey, which will take place for the first time in November in Istanbul, promises to be a part of this success story. In 2014 we are venturing into completely new territory and will celebrate our première in Australia", announces Roland Bleinroth, Managing Director of Landesmesse Stuttgart GmbH. The trade fair takes place in the renowned Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from 21 to 23 August 2014.

Melbourne is considered the pulsating industry centre of the economically strong Australia and is producing positive growth figures year on year (GDP growth forecast of +3.3 percent in 2014 according to IMF).

Even before the sale of the stand positions in Melbourne officially started, the event organisers were inundated with requests. "Good news spreads fast in the trade fair world. The already approximately 200 expressions of interest we have received impressively show that the Australian market was waiting on a trade fair such as R+T", states Roland Bleinroth.

Almost 40 percent of the exhibition area, which will probably be 5,000 square metres in 2014 (gross), has been pre-booked. The demands from both Australian manufacturers and retailers is just as big as the demand from exhibitors from Europe, Asia and North America, who want to conquer the Australian market.

"The trade fair at the Australian location is also interesting for companies who want to conquer the market of South-East Asia", reveals Bleinroth. Landesmesse Stuttgart GmbH, who in 1965 started R+T, a unique leading world trade fair for roller shutters, doors/gates and sun protection systems, is on-board and has a competent industry expert in Australia with Thurain Aye, Managing Director of the event partner Link Exhibitions and official representative of Messe Stuttgart for Oceania. It will be the first industry meeting place in the southern hemisphere. Thurain Aye is convinced that the trade fair in Australia will become the most important industry meeting point in the southern hemisphere: "R+T will be the first trade fair of its kind in Australia. To date, there is no comparable event for the roller shutters, doors/gates, windows, glass and sun protection industry."



[Australian Garage Door Association joins R+T Australia to promote the industry](#)

NOW A TOUCH OF THE LIGHTER SIDE

How the garage door got bent...

To my darling husband. Before you return from your golf trip I just want to let you know about the small accident I had with the utility when I turned into the driveway. Fortunately, not too bad and I really didn't get hurt, so please don't worry too much about me.

I was coming home from K-Mart, and when I turned into the driveway I accidentally pushed down on the accelerator instead of the brake. The garage door is slightly bent but the ute fortunately came to a halt when it bumped into your car.

I am really sorry but I know with your kind hearted personality you will forgive me. You know how much I love you and care for you my sweet heart.

I cannot wait to hold you in my arms again.

Your loving wife



US DIY Instructions

So I was getting ready to install the new garage door opener, and I opened the box and pulled out the instructions. The first thing it said was "You need a screwdriver", and I thought, well, yeah, probably if I am going to do all this work, so I went in and fixed myself a screwdriver. I went back out to the garage and looked at the instructions again, and it said "You need a screwdriver", so, hey, why not. I had another screwdriver, but after the fourth or fifth time of reading these instructions, I didn't want to put in that dang garage door opener anymore. Now, what I want to know is this. Why do they make instructions like that??

UPCOMING INDUSTRY EVENTS

10th R+T Asian Door & Gate + Window shade, exhibition Monday 24th to Thursday 27th March 2014 at the Shanghai New International Expo Centre, Shanghai China.

An AGDA representative has been invited to be a speaker at an afternoon session of the Summit on 25th. For more information see: <http://www.rtasia.com.cn/em/website/rnt/index.php?forcelang=english>

IDAExpo™ Wednesday 23rd April to Saturday 26th April 2014 at Paris Las Vegas Hotel in Las Vegas USA.

An educational offering will cover financial management, sales, marketing, business succession, and personnel management. In addition, a variety of technical sessions will be presented.

The expo will show new products, the latest in services, and a number of fun events will be available: President's Awards Banquet, Opening Session, Golf Tournament and Motorcycle Poker Run. For more information see: <http://www.idaexpo.org/>

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