

Geography Alive: Bushfire hazards in Australia (Lesson 3)

Lesson 3: Bushfire attack and fire danger ratings		
<p>Content focus:</p> <p>In this lesson students consider the nature of the threat bushfires pose to life and property. Students focus on the impacts of the fire-front, ember attack, radiant heat and wind in determining the severity of bushfires.</p>	<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worksheet 3a: Bushfire attack • Worksheet 3b: Fire Danger Ratings • Internet access: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youtube video: <i>Bush Fire Fact - Fire danger. Know the signs.</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCCJHm2QKuQ&index=3&list=PLjkg8HSLuoVxIQNrmdhsjOYSsEBHy_WJ • Fire Danger Ratings – http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans?a=1421 	
<p>Key inquiry questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What elements of a bushfire are a threat to life and property? • What role does ember attack play in the progress of a bushfire? • Why does radiant heat represent such a threat to life and property? • How do you respond when the Bushfire Danger Rating is 'severe' or 'catastrophic'? 	<p>Outcomes:</p> <p><i>A student:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrates a knowledge and understanding of the ways in which the fire-front, ember attack, radiant heat and wind impact on the severity of bushfires. • recognises the Bushfire Danger Rating indicator signs and demonstrates an understanding of how to respond in the case of 'severe' and 'catastrophic' ratings. 	<p>Lesson sequence:</p> <p>Step 1: Students study the text and illustrations on Worksheet 3a, <i>Bushfire Attack</i>. Discuss with the students the concepts of 'running crown fire', ember attack, latent heat and the role of wind in fuelling bushfires. Students complete Activities 1–4.</p> <p>Step 2: Show students the Youtube video: <i>Bush Fire Fact - Fire danger. Know the signs</i>. Ask them if they have seen a Fire Danger Rating sign in the local area or one of their family outings.</p> <p>Step 3: Students study the 'What should you do' listings on Worksheet 3a and note the advice for each level of the rating. Students complete Activities 1–3.</p> <p>Step 4: Show the students a selection of the following Youtube clips and, as a class, discuss the issues addressed in each presentation.</p> <p>Other relevant Rural Fire Service short Youtube clips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bush Fire Fact - Don't give fire a chance • Bush Fire Fact - Total Fire Ban • Bush Fire Fact - Stay informed • Bush Fire Fact - Don't give fire an opening