

Guidelines for Managing Road Closures during Bushfires

The closure of roads during an emergency, such as a bushfire, is designed to protect lives. The safety of emergency services and the public is the highest priority in the management of traffic during an emergency.

However, the ability for a local community member to recover from a disaster can be influenced by the ability to access their property in a timely manner. There may also be a need for family and friends to support a community member who has chosen to remain with their property through the provision of food and other support, including the provision of animal welfare.

A tiered system has been developed to assist the control agency of an emergency (SA Country Fire Service for bushfires) to determine who is able to cross road blocks at different stages of an incident.

| Access Tier | Risk Information | Access Control Agency may authorise access for specific access and impose restrictions | Identification or Authorisation |
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| <p style="text-align: center;">Tier 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Emergency Services Only</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated area/road likely to be impacted by fire Access/egress route blocked and/or danger of hazardous trees etc Risk Level = High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency Services Other services authorised by the Control Agency Any person authorised by the Control Agency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency Service vehicles Approved Farm Fire Units |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Tier 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Essential Services Assessment and restoration activities, Media with escort</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary hazard past/diminished Secondary hazards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> falling/fallen trees fallen power lines Identification of works required to mitigate risk(s) PPE required Risk Level = Significant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per Tier 1 Essential Services (includes Councils, DPTI, SA Power Networks, Biosecurity SA, PIRSA etc.) to conduct assessment and commence restoration activities Media with escort | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per Tier 1 Agency/organisation ID CFS Media accreditation ID plus appropriate PPE/PPC |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Tier 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Relief/Recovery Services</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bona Fide Residents, Media</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary hazards are being mitigated but still evident Caution required Risk Level = Moderate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bona Fide Resident and/or land owner returning to protect/defend property/stock Media Relief/Recovery services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bona Fide residents returning to protect/defend property/stock * CFS Media accreditation Relief/Recovery Services |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Tier 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Resident, Relief/Recovery Services, Media</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary hazards largely mitigated Mitigation actions continuing (mopping up) caution required Risk Level = Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents returning to home/property Relief/Recovery personnel Aid agencies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bona Fide residents evidence of residency - Relief/Recovery services ID |

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| <p>Tier 5</p> <p>Road Open</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control Agency satisfied that road related issues no longer pose a threat to road users Risk level = Insignificant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open to all | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable |
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* *Bona Fide Definition:* A bona fide resident, is a person who can produce evidence (e.g. driver's license or similar photo ID) that they live at an address within the area affected by the road closure.

However, in all circumstances, access through a road closure or restricted access area will be subject to authorisation by the control agency or their delegate and the observation of any conditions imposed in allowing that access.

What it means for residents and the public?

Driving in a fire affected area is a dangerous activity, therefore you must justify that you have a reason to enter a yellow or green tiered road.

Bona fide residents must prove they live in the area with identification and understand that they enter at their own risk. Some hazards may still exist and Emergency service agencies may not be aware of all the remaining hazards.

For more information see the Frequently Asked Questions on the [CFS website](#).