



# Summer Property Preparation 2020

## Covid-19 impacts on private property preparedness

### FROM WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER:

#### Can I travel to prepare my property for fires, floods or storms?

- If you live in regional Victoria you can travel to a second property, holiday home or business in regional Victoria to prepare it for an emergency.
- If you live in metropolitan Melbourne and own property in regional Victoria, travel to your second property for emergency preparedness should be a last resort. You are strongly encouraged to use local contractors and businesses to prepare your second property to avoid travelling.
- If you are unable to use contractors to prepare your property on your behalf, you can only travel if:
  - you have been issued a Fire Prevention Notice legally requiring you to undertake fire preparedness activities for that property, or
  - you have applied for and been granted a letter of support from your local council.
- When travelling you must remember that all restrictions travel with you. This means that if you live in metropolitan Melbourne and your property is in regional Victoria then the Second Step restrictions travel with you.
- You must also comply with any additional restrictions of your local council in your letter of support.

#### I have been issued with a Fire Prevention Notice. Can I travel to my property?

- Yes.
- When you travel to your property the restrictions travel with you. This means that if you live in metropolitan Melbourne and your property is in regional Victoria then you cannot eat in at a restaurant, stay in accommodation, or access personal care services.
- You should ensure that your stay at your property is limited to undertaking the necessary work to respond to the Fire Prevention Notice and you should remain at your property unless you need to leave it to remove waste or collect pre-purchased materials. Removing waste includes depositing debris at the tip.
- When you leave home, you should wear a face mask unless you have a lawful exemption for not doing so and observe all other public health recommendations including social distancing and hand hygiene.



**Do I need documents to show police I am travelling to prepare my property for emergencies?**

**How do I apply for a letter of support from Falls Creek Resort Management?**

- You will need to contact the resort to make an application. (Phone: 5758 1200).

**How will Falls Creek Resort Management assess applications to travel for emergency preparedness activities?**

- A range of factors are used in assessing applications such as whether the property is within a bushfire prone area, flood overlay or other hazard overlay; and the time and number of people requested under the application.

**How long will it take to approve my permit?**

- The RMB is expected to start receiving applications this week and will be providing letters to applicants to travel as soon as possible. We understand that people will be keen to ensure that their properties are prepared for the emergency season and councils will prioritise these letters so that owners can attend their property.

**Can I take my partner/family/friend with me to help prepare my property?**

- When you apply to seek approval for travel, you will also need to request approval for any individuals who need to accompany you to prepare your property. If your request is endorsed, your letter of support will confirm the names and details of those individuals.

**Can I travel to help family/friends prepare their property for emergencies?**

- If you live in metropolitan Melbourne, you cannot travel to help family members or friends prepare their properties, unless they have a particular need, for example because they are elderly.
- We encourage people to engage local contractors and businesses to help undertake critical preparedness works.

**Can I stay at my second property once I finish preparing it for emergencies?**

- No. Your letter of support will specify a timeframe that the works must be completed within and you must return to your primary place of residence within these timeframes. This may include an overnight stay depending on where your property is located and the nature of the works required to be undertaken.
- If you do not complete the required works within this time, you are required to return to your primary place of residence and reapply for a second permit.

**Can I travel to my property to check if it has been damaged by an emergency?**

- If you live in metropolitan Melbourne and your property is in regional Victoria, wherever you should request your neighbours or friends to check on your property and advise you of any damage.

**My property has been damaged by an emergency, can I travel to undertake repairs?**

- Yes, you can travel to your second property, holiday home or business to repair damage caused by an emergency. However, we encourage you to use local contractors whenever possible.



- You should carry with you evidence of property ownership and of damage (i.e. photos, insurance claim etc).
- You should ensure that your stay at your property is limited to undertaking the necessary work to respond to the emergency repairs and you should remain at your property unless you need to leave it to remove waste or collect pre-purchased materials.

#### **Can I travel to the tip to deposit debris as part of preparing my property?**

- Yes, if you live in metropolitan Melbourne or your property is in metropolitan Melbourne then tips are open for some services including to allow people to dispose of garden or green waste or other bushfire preparedness materials.
- In regional Victoria tips are open for all customers.
- Check your local council website to find out if local tips are open for the purposes of preparing properties for an emergency.