

Bushfire Model

An engaging way to learn and practise

The Bushfire Model is a portable, tactile training tool used by firefighters for scenario-based learning and operational exercises.

It is used within established training programs by agencies, trainers and brigades across Australia to:

- Build practical skills
- Strengthen decision-making
- Improve confidence at all experience levels

The model creates a practical, hands-on environment that supports engagement and consistent training outcomes.

The model has a flexible landscape that can be shaped into different topographic features. Together with elements such as appliances, aircraft, fire shapes and assets, it supports a wide range of scenarios, including:

- Bushfire (incl. Rural–Urban Interface)
- Structure fires
- HAZMAT
- Road crash rescue
- Land search
- Severe weather events



What it's used for

Training and exercises

- Trainer-led demonstrations
- Student activities
- Tactical Exercises Without Troops (TEWTs)
- Formal courses and station-based delivery

The model also supports training-based debriefs, incident discussion and broader community engagement activities.

Further training applications and use cases are available at bushfiremodel.com.au.

Why it's used

- Supports mentoring and knowledge sharing between experienced and new firefighters
- Supports learners with varied language, literacy and numeracy levels
- Turns complex situations into clear, visual understanding
- Strengthens situational awareness, decision-making and teamwork
- Provides a safe environment to practise decisions without operational risk
- Reinforces and consolidates learning through practical application



Why it works

- Portable and quick to set up
- Scenarios can be modified in seconds
- Scales from small sessions to large multi-agency exercises
- Standard design supports consistent delivery across trainers and locations
- Supports alignment with structured training programs and frameworks

The model creates a shared learning experience that strengthens operational capability across brigades and agencies.

Trainer insights

- **Active participation**
Encourages discussion and collaborative learning in a supportive environment.
- **Understanding complex situations**
Presents scenarios clearly, helping learners understand complex situations.
- **Visible reasoning and feedback**
As learners demonstrate decisions and explain their choices, their reasoning becomes visible, allowing trainers to identify learning gaps and provide timely feedback.
- **Safe decision-making practice**
Allows ideas to be tested and refined without operational consequences.
- **Mentoring & reflection**
Encourages discussion, shared experience, and mentoring between crews.