



# PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY FROM BUSH FIRES THIS DRY SEASON



**OFFICE OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND MANAGEMENT**  
A DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY  
**TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

In collaboration with  
The Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service  
and the  
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries  
- Forestry Division



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# PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY FROM BUSH FIRES

## HERE ARE 13 ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE TODAY!



### 1 PRACTISE

- Practise your fire evacuation plan with your family and community.
- Have and update your emergency kit with enough supplies to last 3 days.
- Learn how to use a fire extinguisher and always keep one handy.
- Memorise the 990 hotline number to call the Fire Service, if you notice a fire.

### 2 CREATE FIRE SAFETY ZONE 1

- Keep an area of 0 - 10 metres around your property clear of combustible materials such as dead plants, grass, dry leaves etc. These have the potential to fuel a bush/forest fire.
- Trim trees near to your property.

### 3 MAINTAIN ZONE 2

- Maintain an area of 10 - 30 metres around your home.
- Regularly clear this area of combustible materials such as dead plants, grass, dry clear leaves, etc. These can potentially fuel a bush/forest fire.

**4 Create a fire trace/break around your property no less than 5 metres around the fence** - This is essential if your property is close to foothills or on a mountain. The fire trace can be done by ploughing or hoeing the area, keeping it free from combustible materials. While fire tracing is a preventative measure against bush fires, you should always consider how a fire trace may affect the soil stability around your property during heavy rainfall.

**5 Be your Neighbour's Keeper** - In some cases, your fire safety zone may overlap with that of a neighbour's. Talk to your neighbours about the possibility of bush/forest fires in your community. Uncontrolled fires do not pay attention to property lines! Always look out for each other. If a tree that does not directly threaten your property poses a risk to your neighbour, you should trim the tree and remove dry vegetation and other combustible debris.

**6 Trim trees near to your home within your property** - Ensure that branches are kept away from your property. Remove lower tree branches at least 2 metres from the ground.

**7 Keep roof and gutters clear of dead leaves and debris.**

**8 Remove surface fuels** - Regularly clean up fallen branches, dry grass and other combustible debris from the ground.

**9 Maintain an emergency water supply** - Keep a filled water tank to assist with the initial fire. Fill any pools and large covered containers with water.

**10 Keep a garden hose and extra buckets to assist with community bucket brigade efforts.**

**11 Before leaving the house, ensure all windows are closed and carry all combustible items indoors.** Fire spores from a distant fire can ignite items, such as curtains, clothing, patio cushion covers, outdoor tents, etc.

**12 Keep driveways and roadways accessible to fire trucks.**

**13 Establish a muster point for your household or community in the event of a bush/forest fire.**



**You and your neighbours can reduce the potential of uncontrolled fires by following these simple preventative measures.**

