### All you need to know...





# Bushfire product guide

PRODUCT	BAL-LOW	BAL 12.5	BAL 19	BAL 29	BAL 40	BAL-FZ
ForceField®	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	√*
Protec	$\checkmark$	-	-	-	-	-
Guardian®	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	-
Diamond	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark^+$	$\checkmark^+$	√+	٧°	-
Heritage	$\checkmark$	√+	$\checkmark^+$	√+	√°	-
Insect	$\checkmark$	√+	√+	√+	√°	-

✓ Product meets AS 3959 | - Product does not meet AS 3959

\* Specific installation instructions | + Stainless steel or aluminium gauze | ° Stainless steel gauze

# Bushfire Attack Levels

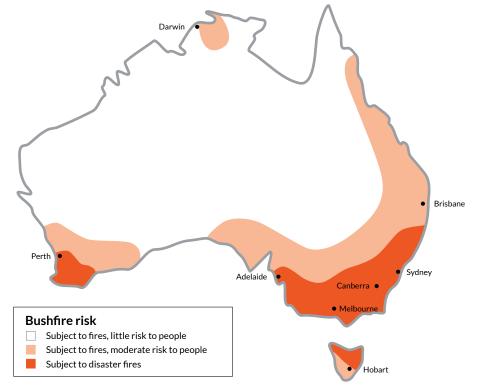
The Australian Standard 3959 (AS 3959) specifies six different bushfire intensity levels that a home may experience during a bushfire. These are referred to as Bushfire Attack Levels – or BAL's. Here's an overview...

### **BAL** levels at a glance

BAL LEVEL	HEAT FLUX EXPOSURE	RISK LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
Low	_	Very low	Insufficient risk to warrant specific bushfire construction requirements
12.5	Up to 12.5 kW/m²	Low	Risk of ember attack
19	Up to 19 kW/m²	Moderate	Increasing levels of ember attack and burning debris ignited by windborne embers together with increasing heat flux
29	Up to 29 kW/m²	High	Increasing levels of ember attack and burning debris ignited by windborne embers together with increasing heat flux
40	Up to 40 kW/m²	Very high	Increasing levels of ember attack and burning debris ignited by windborne embers together with increasing heat flux with the increased likelihood of exposure to flames
Flame Zone	Over 40 kW/m²	Extreme	Direct exposure to flames from fire front in addition to heat flux and ember attack

## Bushfire prone areas

A bushfire prone area is an area of land that can support a bushfire or is likely to be subject to bushfire attack. Large parts of Australia are considered to be bushfire prone...for regional information please contact your local council.



# Urban fire safety

Fires also break out in urban areas. Some buildings in high density residential areas have to be fire attenuation compliant. Such buildings have a Fire Safety Report (FSR) from a fire engineer or certifier. The FSR gives specific instructions for the installation of window furnishings and security screens must be installed as specified in the FSR.

Prowler Proof ForceField® security screens have been tested for radiant heat reduction performance by the CSIRO. The test report is very useful for fire engineers and certifiers...read about it on this page or download a copy on www.prowlerproof.com.au.



# ForceField<sup>®</sup> fire attenuation test

The test: Prowler Proof asked CSIRO to expose a ForceField<sup>®</sup> window screen to a radiant heat flux level of 60 kW/ m<sup>2</sup> for a minimum of 60 minutes. Most bushfires will create heat levels of around 40 kW/m<sup>2</sup> and will pass within a few minutes.

The result: After 91 minutes the window screen was still in position and it was decided to terminate the test. Throughout the test the heat level measured one metre behind the

unexposed face of the window screen was approximately 10% of the level measured at the exposed face of the window screen.

**Your benefit:** Even during a bushfire ForceField<sup>®</sup> will protect you. It will not only stay in place. Just one metre inside your home, the heat will be reduced by approximately 90% compared to the heat outside at the surface of the screen.



Fire attenuation test no. FS 4302/3572

Scan here to viev test report



All Prowler Proof products, except Protec, are suitable for bushfire prone areas. The Australian Standard for construction of homes in bushfire prone zones (AS 3959) simply states that openable windows must be screened with corrosion-resistant steel, bronze or aluminium mesh with an opening of less than 2 mm x 2 mm. Protec's openings are 2.5 mm.

Prowler Proof ForceField<sup>®</sup> is one of very few security screens that has been independently tested and is approved for any Bushfire Attack Level...even Flame Zone, which is the most extreme level. Guardian<sup>®</sup> with its stainless steel mesh and Diamond, Heritage or Insect screens fitted with a stainless steel mesh are approved up to Bushfire Attack Level 40. You can rely on Prowler Proof – even in a bushfire.



### Nice to know...

#### Annealed glass

The most basic glass product. It is the common glass that tends to break into large, jagged shards.

#### Aperture

The size of the hole or opening in the mesh.

#### BAL

Bushfire Attack Level.

#### Bushfire prone area

A bushfire prone area is an area of land that can support a bushfire or is likely to be subject to bushfire attack. Any areas coloured yellow, red or orange on a bushfire prone land map are considered to be bushfire prone.

#### **Bushfire shutters**

Hinged or roller shutters which are installed externally to openings and can be closed during a bushfire to protect the home from radiant heat and embers.

#### Certifier

Certifiers inspect construction and subdivision work and issue certificates to confirm the work meets legislative requirements and the Building Code of Australia.

#### CSIRO

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation is the federal government agency for scientific research in Australia. The CSIRO provide an extensive range of independent testing, assessment and consulting services.

#### **Fire attenuation**

Reduction of radiant heat and spread of flame.

#### Fire Danger Index (FDI)

Regional classification of fire danger based on climatological data. Used by fire agencies to determine Fire Danger Ratings and for tactical planning.

#### Fire Danger Ratings (FDR)

Fire Danger Ratings are based on predicted conditions such as temperature, humidity, wind and the dryness of the landscape. The higher the Fire Danger Rating, the more dangerous the conditions.

#### Fire engineering

Fire engineering is the application of science and engineering principles to protect people, property, and their environments from the harmful and destructive effects of fire and smoke.

#### Fire Resistance Level (FRL)

Australia to AS 1530 Part 4.

Refers to the time in minutes which a substance will resist - without failure - exposure to heat and

### Fire Safety Report (FSR)

A report which specifies the materials to be used on a bushfire prone building. A project which requires that screens meet fire attenuation requirements should have a Fire Safety Report (FSR) from a fire engineer or certifier.

flame. All Fire Resistance Levels are tested within

#### NATA

The National Association of Testing Authorities Australia provides assessment, accreditation and training services to laboratories and technical facilities throughout Australia and internationally.

#### Radiant heat flux

A measurement of the amount of heat energy sent from the heat source to a receiving object. Radiant heat flux is measured at the receiving surface to determine the heat transfer at that surface.

#### Radiant heat source

A direct source of heat energy. Examples include the sun, a lamp or a fire.

#### **Radiation test**

A test conducted to measure radiant heat flux.

### Australian standards

AS 1288-2006 Glass in buildings.

**AS 1530.4-2005** Methods for fire tests on building materials, components and structures – Fire resistance test of elements of construction.

AS 1530.8.1-2007 Methods for fire tests on building materials, components and structures – Tests on elements of construction for buildings exposed to simulated bushfire attack - Radiant heat and small flaming sources.

AS 1530.8.2-2007 Methods for fire tests on building materials, components and structures – Tests on elements of construction for buildings exposed to simulated bushfire attack – Large flaming sources.

AS 2047-2014 Windows and external glazed doors in buildings.

**AS 3959-2009** Construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas.

**AS/NZS 3837** Method of test for heat and smoke release rates for materials and products.



122 Buchanan Road, Banyo Brisbane QLD 4014 T 07 3363 0666 E info@prowlerproof.com.au

### www.prowlerproof.com.au

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