The following **FIRE PREVENTION TIPS** are all common-sense things but it always pays to double-check these basic things are in place.

* *Consider the placement of garden beds, trees and other flammable objects. You should aim to* ***keep the area around your house and other structures free of plants*** *that can easily catch fire and then ignite the buildings.*
* *Dense* ***shrubs should be kept away from a house****, especially windows. If these burn closely, they can cause windows to crack and embers can then enter the house. A hedge trimmer is useful for this task.*
* *Objects such as* ***timber patio furniture and plant boxes*** *burn quickly; store these* ***away from the house****.*
* *Many people believe that trees are the major threat during a bushfire; however, the fire front is carried by the undergrowth including grasses, leaf litter and shrubs. Make sure you* ***clear out accumulated debris*** *such as loose flaky bark, dead twigs, leaves or needles commonly found in* ***gutters and roof areas****, but also your* ***wider backyard****. Clear fallen leaves, grass trimmings and other debris around the property.*
* *Fine fuels that continue from the ground to the tree crown are known as ladder fuels because they help the fire climb up into the tree tops. To limit this happening,* ***take note of what is growing under the trees*** *and consider how easily fire might be able to climb upwards, and remove or chop back accordingly.*
* *Keep* ***grass mowed to less than 10cm*** *as fire can travel quickly through long grass. Regular mowing, weeding and raking are important to remove potential fuel.*
* *Use pebbles or rocks in your garden, not mulch, which is highly flammable.*
* *Keep* ***wood piles away from the house****, as embers can easily ignite these.*
* *Store* ***flammable liquids away from the house****. If possible, store in flame proof containers.*