



People Help as Bushfires Burn in Australia

What are bushfires?

- Bushfires are wildfires which take place in bushland areas.
- They are more likely to occur during hot and dry weather.

Bushfires have caused a lot of damage in parts of Australia and two states have declared a state of **emergency**. Many people and charities are working to help those affected.

This week, over 100 fires have been burning in parts of eastern Australia. Some of the fires have been near Sydney, one of Australia's largest cities.

The fires have destroyed up to 200 homes as well as large areas of bush and farmland. Thousands of people have had to leave their homes and move to a safer area.

On Monday, two states declared a state of emergency. This means that firefighters will have extra powers to tackle the bushfires.

They have also given the fires a very high danger level and asked people to leave the area.

Australia is heading into its summer season. Temperatures have been very high and there hasn't been much rain.

Around 1300 firefighters are tackling the fires. They are using helicopters to drop water on the area. They have also dropped a special pink powder on to the areas nearby. This will help stop the fire from spreading.

Firefighters from across Australia and even from New Zealand have come to help put out the fire. The Prime Minister of Australia, Scott Morrison, has also said that the **military** could be called to help.

Charities, such as the Red Cross and The



Photo: A plane dropping powder on a fire to stop it from spreading.

Salvation Army, are also working hard to help those affected by the fires.

They have created centres for people who have had to be **evacuated**. Here, they give support, food, water and **shelter** to those affected by the fires.

Wildlife charities are also working to look after animals whose homes and habitats have been damaged by the fire.

Across the world, people are raising money to help support the fire services and charities who are working in the area.

Glossary

emergency	A serious situation which often needs people to take action quickly.
military	The armed forces of a country, including its soldiers.
evacuated	Removed from a place of danger to a safer space.
shelter	Places that give protection from bad weather or danger.