***Bushfire***

***A Poem***

Scorching, scalding, searing,

The bushfire is nearing.

The kangaroos bound in fright,

Away from the smell and sight.

The red flames climb higher,

The trees are a mess of fire.

The smoke is thick and dark,

It all started with just one spark.

***Black Saturday***

***An Information Text***

The ‘Black Saturday’ bushfires were a series of bushfires that raged across the Australian state of Victoria on and around Saturday, February 7th,  2009. After a summer of little rain and a week of hot sun and blustery winds, around 400 individual fires were recorded over the days around ‘Black Saturday’. 173 people died and 414 were injured as a result of the fires. They were Australia's all-time worst bushfire disasters.

***Bushfire Plan***

***A Persuasive Text***

You don’t have to live in the country to be at risk of fire. If you live near areas that have significant bush, forest, long grass, or coastal scrub, then you need to plan ahead for the fire season.

Leaving early is the safest option to protect yourself and your family.  Leaving early means avoiding panic, being trapped, making the wrong choices and risking serious injury or death.   Consider the following:

Which Fire Danger Rating is your trigger to leave?

Where will you go?

What route will you take – and what is your alternative in the event that a fire is already in the area?

What will you take with you?

Talk to your family and friends about how you’ll know when to leave and where to go to stay safe. It’s up to you to decide on a suitable place to go when you leave early on a fire risk day. If you do not have friends or relatives in low-risk areas who you can visit, consider community facilities such as libraries, shopping centres, swimming pools or cinemas.

A written plan will take the pressure off you, and avoid arguments and delays. In Victoria the bushfire season is long, and a written plan will help reduce uncertainty and anxiety. Once you have prepared your plan, it is a good idea to share the details of your plan with family, friends and neighbours. Doing so will save them a lot of distress when there is a bushfire, as they will know that you are prepared and where to find you.

Remember, any bushfire plan – written or not – is better than no plan.

***Bushfire***

***A Narrative***

The worry and concern was written all over my Dad’s face when he thought we weren’t looking. He tried to put on a brave face for us, make lame jokes, but none of us knew what we’d find when we turned the last corner on the road to our house. It had been three days since the bushfire and for the first time, the roads were open again, allowing us to get back to our house – if it was still standing.

We evacuated early when the bushfire warnings came through. Packed up the car, loaded the over excited dog and the reluctant cat into the back seat and took off for safety at grandma’s. It was a tense few days watching the news, trying to get any information we could about the fate of our home, our neighbours and friends. Witnessing the bravery of the firefighters. Thankfully everyone we knew was safe. But would we have a home to return to?

Mum’s face was tight with tension and I saw my Dad take in a huge breath as we rounded the corner. And there is was. Our little red brick house – looking a little singed, but still standing. The worry and tension was replaced by relief and a deep sense of gratitude. The hard work done by firefighters – mostly volunteers – had saved our home.

***Emergency Help***

***A Procedure***

