

# PREDICTING FIRESTORMS

Bushfires or wildfires can produce firestorms if the conditions are suitable.

*Your barometer and thermometer are powerful instruments for predicting firestorm conditions.*

## Firestorm Conditions

Firestorm conditions occur when a fire exists and a pressure fall of 10 mb or more has occurred during the last 3 hours provided that:

- low pressure is sustained below 1000 mb,
- the temperature is sustained above 40°C, and
- the relative humidity is 10% or less

## Firestorm Early Warning

Early warning of firestorm conditions is when a fire exists and the **pressure starts falling at over 1.5 mb / hour** while

- the temperature is sustained above 40°C,
- low pressure is sustained below 1000 mb, and
- the relative humidity is 10% or less

The relative humidity before the onset of a fire thunderstorm will plunge to 10% or less whereas the relative humidity for a normal thunderstorm needs to be above 80%.