



Newsletter

KALAMUNDA BUSHFIRE READY GROUPS



Hi Everybody,

As you are all aware, if not, the burning season has finished, which means no fires of any type running or 1x1x1 piles, permits will not be issued until next year, the unseasonal weather has not really made much of a difference in the outlook for the bush fire season.

So now it's a matter of mulching as much as you can, take that flammable material to the transfer station or order in a free bin, some of you may have already had a visit from the City Fire Inspectors and maybe issued with a work order, so hopefully that hasn't been the case for the BFR groups.

Unfortunately, with the gum trees dropping their leaves for the next 2 or 3 months raking and gutter/roof cleaning needs to continue to keep the fuel load levels down to the minimum required in particularly the 20 metre Asset Protection Zone around your home/granny flat.

BURNING PROHIBITED: 1 December - 31 March

NO Burning allowed

This includes the 1 x1 x 1 metre pile

Report all signs of smoke to 000

During our travels and meeting with groups there was quite a bit of activity with some residents making their properties more Bush Fire Ready with sprinkler systems being installed and pumps being purchased, remember if you intend staying and defending which we don't recommend however some members have spent a lot of money in upgrading their defenses.

Remember you need to have your own water supply for a start and a 3 or 5,000 litre tank is not enough, don't rely on scheme water as this may fluctuate from good pressure to a dribble, if one of the FRS red trucks connect up to a hydrant then you can only expect very low pressure or a trickle.

Even with a swimming pool you need a good sturdy pump either petrol or diesel and the necessary plumbing to get the water to the hoses.
 Best to follow the checklist for staying and defending and you shall find that there is fair bit of infrastructure required, if you can't meet those requirements then leave and leave early. The listing of these requirements is in the stay and defend plan either in the 5-minute fire chat pack 2bD Firefighting Equipment Checklist or in the new My bushfire plan app.



FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT



FIGHTING A FIRE CAN QUICKLY TURN INTO A VERY DANGEROUS, LIFE THREATENING SITUATION. There is a very good chance you will be on your own as firefighters may be too busy fighting fires on the frontline to help defend your property, and it is highly likely that the water and electricity to your property will be shut off. The heat will be intense. **Think about it; is your life, or the lives of your family worth risking?**



EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO BE COMPLETELY PREPARED TO STAY AND DEFEND:

You can better prepare for a bushfire by filling out the checklist below to ensure you are completely prepared to stay and defend your home against a fire.

- ☐ An independent water supply of at least 20,000 litres – the mains are likely to be shut off.
- ☐ A generator (>1.5kVA) and sufficient fuel to power a pump – the electricity is likely to be shut off.
- ☐ A firefighting or pressure pump that can operate up to 400lpm and is shielded from high temperature.
- ☐ At least two hoses with metal hose fittings (so they won't melt) that are long enough to reach all parts of your house.
- ☐ Bury plastic water pipes where possible, so they won't melt.
- ☐ Ladders for inside and outside the house.
- ☐ Metal rakes and shovels to break up burning materials.
- ☐ Knapsack or garden backpack spray to help put out spot fires.
- ☐ Cotton mops to put out embers.
- ☐ Metal buckets that you can carry.



For more information visit
dfes.wa.gov.au/bushfire
 or contact DFES Community Preparedness:
Community.Preparedness@dfes.wa.gov.au
 or 9395 9816

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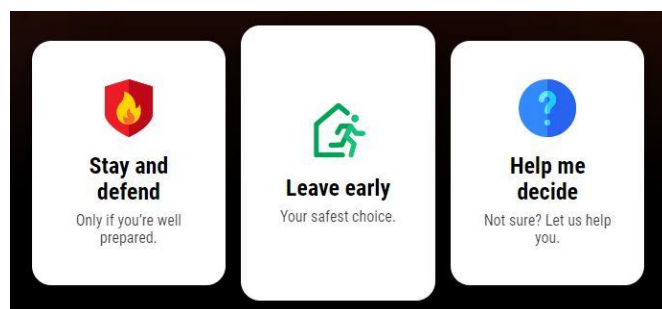
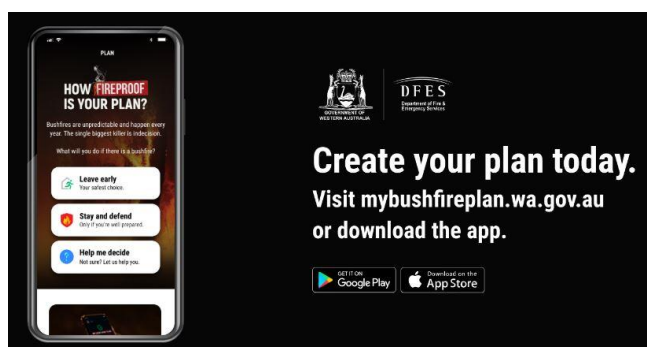


HOW FIREPROOF IS YOUR PLAN?

September 2019/01/16

HOW FIREPROOF IS YOUR PLAN?

Find out in 5 minutes at mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au



As you have probably seen or heard on the Media, DFES have launched a new concept in preparing for the bushfire season. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) have launched My Bushfire Plan, an intuitive platform to help Western Australians create robust bushfire plans.

Watch this [short video](#) to see how My Bushfire Plan works, there is a great deal of useful information on planning and hopefully for leaving and leaving early, the short video ad says it all and we urge you to have a look at this website, better still download the app. To get into the site type in mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au. or click on this link.

Unlike the 5-minute fire chat, putting a plan together may take you up to 15 minutes, however all the questions lead you into what to take and wear etc. rather than handling all those small check lists in the 5-minute Fire Chat Pack.

The advantage of this new resource is you can keep it offline and make any adjustments, if you have the app on your phone then you have access to it wherever you may be, so there are a lot of advantages. So, take the time to access the site and have a look, for those of you that do not have a computer or are not familiar with web sites and apps, then there is still no problem using the 5-minute fire chat pack



For those of you that have been receiving the newsletter since the beginning, we did have a monthly theme, and this was provided by DFES Community Services so now we have the topics back for a while and this month's topic for December is:

TRAVELLING DURING BUSHFIRE SEASON & CAMPFIRE SAFETY.

Every year, people are killed or seriously injured by bushfires. If you're travelling or staying near bushland, fire is a real risk for you.

If you plan to travel in bushfire season it is essential, you know what to do if you encounter a bushfire.

DFES' [Travelling During Bushfire Season](#) webpage and [Bushfire Travellers Checklist](#) publication provides information that can help you to:

- Understand what to do if you encounter a bushfire while travelling or staying near bushland
- Know the current fire danger rating for the area you are travelling
- Find out if there is a total fire ban in the area you are travelling
- Know how to stay up to date with the latest bushfire information; and
- additional steps for travelling with a caravan.

An open campfire is part of camping. But campfires can easily cause a bushfire if you do not build or extinguish them correctly.

DFES' [Campfire Safety](#) webpage provides simple tips to stay safe when camping including:

- What to do before you light a fire
- Looking after your campfire; and
- For further bushfire information please visit dfes.wa.gov.au

Also remember if you are travelling through an area that is being impacted by a bush fire then you should also receive an emergency alert on your mobile phone.



BUSHFIRES CAN START WITHOUT WARNING. People have been killed or seriously injured during bushfires. If you are travelling or staying near bushland, fire is a real risk to you. **Pack an emergency kit including important items such as woolen blankets, drinking water and protective clothing.**

IF THERE IS A LOT OF SMOKE

- Slow down as there could be people, vehicles and livestock on the road.
- Turn your car headlights and hazard lights on.
- Close the windows and outside vents.
- If you can't see clearly, pull over and wait until the smoke clears.

IF YOU BECOME TRAPPED BY A FIRE

- **Sheltering inside a vehicle is a very high risk strategy. It is unlikely that a person will survive in all but the mildest circumstances.**
- Park the vehicle off the roadway where there is little vegetation, with the vehicle facing towards the oncoming fire front.
- Turn the engine off.
- Close the car doors, windows and outside vents, **and call 000.**
- Stay in the car until the fire front has passed. Stay as close to the floor as possible and cover your mouth with a damp cloth to avoid inhalation of smoke.
- Stay covered in woolen blankets, continue to drink water and wait for assistance.
- Once the front has passed and the temperature has dropped, cautiously exit the vehicle.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Find the local ABC radio frequency in the area you are travelling through. In a major emergency, when lives and property are at risk, ABC radio will issue broadcast warnings at a quarter to and a quarter past the hour.
- Main Roads provides updated information on road closures throughout WA. Call 138 138 or www.mainroads.wa.gov.au
- Check the weather forecast and current fire restrictions. Be aware of the Fire Danger Rating for the area you are travelling to and be prepared to reassess your plans.
- Download the Bushfire Traveller's Checklist at www.dfes.wa.gov.au

For more information visit dfes.wa.gov.au/bushfire or contact DFES Community Preparedness: Community.Preparedness@dfes.wa.gov.au or 9395 9816



DURING A BUSHFIRE, EMERGENCY SERVICES WILL PROVIDE YOU AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE THROUGH A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT METHODS. Your surroundings could be your best information source. Stay alert to what is happening around you. **If you believe you may be in danger, act immediately to stay safe.**

There are four levels of warning. These change to reflect the increasing risk to your life or property, and the decreasing amount of time you have until the fire arrives.

ADVICE	WATCH AND ACT	EMERGENCY WARNING	ALL CLEAR
A fire has started but there is no immediate threat to lives or homes. Be aware and keep up to date.	There is a possible threat to lives or homes. You need to leave or get ready to defend – do not wait and see.	There is a threat to lives or homes. You are in danger and need to take immediate action to survive.	The danger has passed and the fire is under control. Take care and remain vigilant in case the situation changes.



FIRE DANGER RATINGS

Use this tool daily during bushfire season to monitor conditions in your area.

CATASTROPHIC
Homes are not built to withstand a fire in these conditions. The safest place to be is away from high risk bushfire areas. Do not stay and defend your property if the fire danger rating is catastrophic.

EXTREME SEVERE VERY HIGH
Seek out information and be ready to leave or stay and actively defend your property if a fire starts. Only stay if you are 100% prepared.

HIGH LOW-MODERATE
Be vigilant. Check your fire plan and continue to monitor conditions as they can change quickly.

WHERE TO FIND ALERTS AND WARNINGS?

Emergency WA emergency.wa.gov.au
DFES Public Information 13 DFES (13 3337)
ABC Radio or 6PR Your local radio frequency

For more information visit dfes.wa.gov.au/bushfire or contact DFES Community Preparedness: Community.Preparedness@dfes.wa.gov.au or 9395 9816



COMING EVENTS:

DFES Fire and Rescue street meet

Date & Time: Saturday 19th December – 10:00 am to noon.

Location: **Brae road, Forrestfield**

To the residents of Brae/Brand road, Forrestfield we shall be setting up in Brae Road as before supporting the DFES Fire and Rescue crews from Welshpool Station. Please come and say hello and pick-up information on keeping your home bush fire ready.



happy holidays

So, by now you should have a Fire Plan in place and discussed it with all the family including any new strategies that might help you to evacuate your area if the time ever comes and the key word: **leave early**. Communication trees should by now have been updated and given a test run.

Finally, Eddie and I would like to wish all the street coordinators and their group members as well as readers of the Newsletter a very happy and safe festive season and see you in 2021.

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