



Newsletter

KALAMUNDA BUSHFIRE READY GROUPS



Hi Everybody,

The weather so far has not been to suitable for burning and the following damp conditions may take some time to dry out, the Restricted Burning period started on the 1st of October. This means any running fire planned from the 1st of October must have a burning permit obtainable from the City of Kalamunda Offices. This means that the only burning without a permit is the 1mx1mx1m pile which can only be lit after 6 pm and fully extinguished by midnight. Standard requirements for this type of burn must be complied with, which includes the pile to be in an open cleared area, a good water supply available, and someone in attendance at all times.

For those members who intend burning a section of their property under a permit must follow the parameters laid down in the permit and also if you haven't conducted a burn before then we recommend reading the new Burn SMART manual.

If you follow the guidance in the manual your burn should run reasonably smoothly.

Our brigades burning program is suffering the same problems with damp conditions due to the intermittent rain, some of you have requested information on having our brigade conduct a burn on your property, unfortunately it appears this year we are fully booked and it would be best to request a booking for the following season, like you the wet conditions have restricted the burns our brigade can conduct so we have a backlog.

We would like to thank all of those residents who came to our first Street Meet which was held on Schipp Road Piesse Brook. It was a great day with our vehicle set up right alongside the Brook. This is the first time we were able to utilise the dedicated vehicle for Bush Fire Ready activities.

It was an opportunity for those that attended to talk to Mike Ward our Community Safety Manager DFES /Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and Jamie Hunter Senior Fire and Emergency Management Officer City of Kalamunda plus Eddie and myself.

Thanks also to Bob from Roleystone Bush Fire Ready who came along and gave us support. There will be a second street meet which will be held on Saturday 10th October the details are listed below in the EVENTS.





TO LEAVE OR NOT TO LEAVE:

As the Bush Fire Season is rapidly approaching, we have been providing everyone in the last couple of Newsletters with advice on making your homes bush fire ready. The 1st of November is not far away and if you have been keeping on top of it you should be ready for the new season.

From previous meetings with groups it is apparent that the majority have made the decision to leave and leave early, there are many individual residents who have their own water source, sprinkler systems and pumps etc and have made the decision to stay and defend, if you are in a new group or just joined an existing group or just a reader of the Newsletter this is something you need to seriously consider, we are all living in bush fire prone locations some in highly prone areas and in many cases in dead end streets, if you have children or pets that are part of your family this may be enough to help you make the decision to leave and leave early.

As Community Resilience is the key phrase where the individual resident needs to take responsibility for their own safety when your residence is coming under threat, do not expect a firefighter, police or emergency services to come knocking on your door to advise you that there is a fire at your back door, there are several resources in place which you can access to find out information usually well in advance of your area coming under threat, you need to know these and watch for signs such as sudden smoke, light ash, reduced visibility. To utilise these resources and put your mind at ease or act quickly as the case may be there is a list below that may aid you in appraising the situation in your area. Make sure your Fire Plan is also at hand.

Emergency WA: this can be easily accessed on your computer at home or via your mobile and in most cases will help you in determining whether there is a fire close by or the smoke has come from somewhere else as it has before from our south.

To access this you need to go into the DFES web site www.emergency.wa.gov.au

Emergency WA

Communications Tree: If you are a member of a Bush Fire Ready Group you will have a communications tree to communicate with all the other members, this type of communication can possibly give you some additional information (Note: it's this time of the year that all groups should consider testing their communication tree). If the fire has started on your property ring 000 and let the rest of your group know the situation.

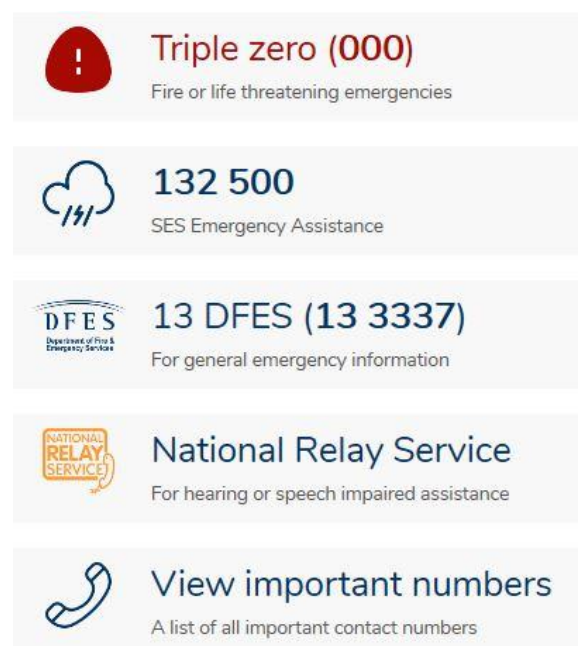
DFES Emergency Line: If the computer is down ring the DFES emergency information line on: **13 DFES (13 33 37)**.

Emergency Alert: This will be sent to your land and mobile phone if your area is under threat, be aware in the hills communications especially mobile cannot be relied upon 100% so don't rely on sitting back and acting on receiving this alert alone.

ABC Radio: Using your emergency portable radio tune into 720 ABC which is also an emergency radio communication, during a fire they will broadcast updates and advice a quarter after and a quarter before the hour, note at home you may also have your larger radio and don't forget the car either way keep tuned to the ABC. Note if the fire is escalating and people's lives are in danger the ABC may cease transmitting their normal program and provide you with ongoing updates and advice.

TV ABC 24: Turn to ABC 24 and updates will appear across the bottom of the screen similar to the advice on the radio.

Whatever communication or combination you may use if the advice is to leave and leave now your life is in danger then put your Fire Plan into action, so do you have a fire plan? For the benefit of newer members and subscribers to the Newsletter you need a Plan.



BURNING:

As you know we have been trying for a number of years to organise a demonstration Winter Burn, this year DFES has introduced a guide for homeowners known as Burn SMART plus a video has also been developed to aid landowners in preparing and conducting an effective burn on their properties so if you have land up to 2 hectares in size this Burn SMART manual is recommended. Access the web www.dfes.wa.gov.au/plannedburning.





A successful Burn Smart event was undertaken last weekend after a great deal of time and resources was spent in organizing it, we had fingers crossed but the weather beat us to it, however with some tarpaulins before the rain some ground was kept dry to help with the demonstration burn, Grass Tree preparation and burning was also demonstrated as well as determining the fuel loading on the site, a 1x1x1 m pile was burnt to give people an idea what a pile that size looks like

those people that braved the weather and attended indicated that they found it very informative and were able to pick up a copy of the Burn SMART Guide, so this will happen again next season. Thanks to the City of Kalamunda Mitigation Team, our own brigade members and the City's Volunteer Fire and Rescue crews that came along to show support.



COMING EVENTS:

Street Meet #2

Date & Time: Saturday 10th October – between 09:30 and 11:30

Location: **Pickering Brook Primary School carpark**

This time we shall have the Toyota BBQ trailer and be able to offer you a sausage sizzle, although this is aimed at the residents in and around Pickering Brook everyone is most welcome to take a drive out into the countryside and sample a sausage and pick up a Burn SMART manual and other resource material while you are there.



Bushfire Ready Group STREET MEET Pickering Brook Primary School Carpark

Dear Resident,

We're taking it to the streets! Bushfire Street Meets are the new initiative that have taken off around the State! Street meets are essentially informal neighbourhood meetings that allow firefighters to talk to residents in a direct and personal manner about fire safety in their direct surroundings.

This area has been earmarked as a location for high bushfire risk and as such we'll be delivering a street meeting within your area. This will be lead by the Kalamunda Bushfire Ready Group and supported by the City's Fire and Emergency team.

We hope to see you there! Enjoy a FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE!

Additionally, we've included a survey with this letter, that will help us better understand how our community is prepared for bushfire emergencies. Should you prefer to complete this online you can visit:

engage.kalamunda.wa.gov.au/bushfire



Saturday, 10 October 2020



Pickering Brook Primary School Carpark



9.30 - 11.30am

Regards,
The Community Engagement Team
City of Kalamunda

www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au

For more information contact:

Phone: (08) 9257 9999 **Email** enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au

Post PO Box 42, Kalamunda WA 6926 **In Person** 2 Railway Road Kalamunda WA 6076

Thank you for your input!

engage.kalamunda.wa.gov.au

Please return this sketch to the City of Kalamunda:

PO Box 42, KALAMUNDA WA 6926

T 9257 9999 F 9293 2745 E enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au



Fire and Rescue street meet

Date & Time: Saturday 17th October – between 10:00 and 12:00

Location: 67 Brae road, High Wycombe

You are encouraged to come down and bring the kids to meet the career firefighters and check out their Red Firetrucks and equipment. We will also be there providing information on making your home bush fire ready.

Property Walkthrough

Date & Time: Saturday 31st October – between 10:30 and 12:30

Location: 64 Pomeroy road, Walliston

This is an ideal opportunity to walk through with us and identify how best to prepare a property for the coming season, there will be copies of a checklist that you can use to either make your own assessment or keep and apply to your own residence.

So, until November stay safe and remember we are here to assist if you have any queries. Our property walk throughs are available free of charge, just give either of us a ring.
Until then stay safe

Chris Grubba Kalamunda BFRG Facilitator 0427 454 633
Eddie van Rijnswood Kalamunda BFRG Facilitator 9293 3494

