



Newsletter

KALAMUNDA BUSHFIRE READY GROUPS



Hi Everybody,

Your volunteer bush firefighters have been working 24/7 at the massive fire to the North, fortunately the tropical low has arrived and much to the relief of all firefighters who have been putting in long hours. It's coming to an end but unfortunately the outcome wasn't good with so many homes lost, something all of us might face when living amongst the trees and under impact by fire: food for thought in not becoming complacent this time of the year.

Prior to this we had a number of fires to the south of Perth which some may have been deliberately lit. To help combat this in the City of Kalamunda we need to be more wary, especially if you are living close to state forests or a large tract of bush, any suspicious activity, especially with individuals you haven't seen before, just take a note of the type of vehicle they are in and better still a license number etc.

If it is obvious that they are in the business of lighting fires ring the Police alternate number 131444. If there is smoke and flames ring 000, don't hesitate as with the prevailing conditions any suspected fire needs to be suppressed ASAP. Alert your group.

Total Fire Bans:

There have been a large number of these issued and as we mentioned in the last newsletter due to operational commitments you may not receive one from us on some days, however as mentioned if you go into **Emergency WA** Total Fire Bans will be in red and below an alphabetical list of areas that have total fire bans for the day, scroll down to see if Kalamunda is on the list, this is the preferred source, be aware of what you can't do on these days, this was also listed in the last newsletter.



My Bushfire Plan: new app and website launched to help West Aussies prepare for bushfire season.

DFES Commissioner Darren Klemm and Emergency Services Minister Francis Logan launch a new hard-hitting fire awareness campaign and new preparedness app called "My Bushfire Plan" ahead of the start of the bushfire season. Credit: Jackson Flindell/The Sunday Times.

A recent small fire in the foothills impacted on a number of houses with one suffering damage, most residents indicated that they didn't have a plan and it was unclear what they should do, so if all of the bush fire ready groups have their [My Bush Fire Plan](#) App up and running you are streets ahead of the others, try and convince those people in the street that are not in your group to join up, at least let us know and we can provide you with some material to help them cope in an emergency even if they don't want to join your group. Most group members do have a Fire Plan, is it a solid Plan? We will concentrate on making you aware of the importance of this and how to produce one quickly with the new My Bush Fire Plan App.

Living in the City of Kalamunda we have areas of very poor or no mobile reception, this should not deter you with utilising this app. A reminder that the new app has exactly the same information as in the five-minute fire chat pack, this, as you know consists of several small information forms and plans so if you are not computer/mobile app savvy then don't worry as this will give you the same information. The app is more portable. My Bush Fire Plan app can easily be downloaded its free and even if you are in an area of poor reception or no reception you can always download the app when in an area with a good signal maybe at the Dome having a coffee, it takes only 5-10 minutes to register and commence inputting the necessary information when prompted.



You can choose initially whether you will leave and leave early or stay and defend, the information following will depend on which one you have chosen. If you live in a dead-end street then we recommend you leave and leave early, if you have children, pets (including horses) then you would consider the first option and leave early.

As we have mentioned before if you intend to stay and defend you must have your own water supply, a petrol or diesel pump, and a home that is bush fire ready. If you think you can defend using scheme water and a lot of luck, then choose the first option.

If you have taken the time to talk to your family and have made a plan, then you will be well on the way to getting out reasonable safely with your plan.

Once you have inputted the required information on the My Bushfire Ready App then you are ready to go, make sure that the rest of the family has assisted with input and we would recommend that each mobile phone in the family be loaded up with the app and similar information inputted so you are all in the same box.

So now you have registered and have a mobile Fire Plan in your pocket, the beauty of it is that you do not have to be in Wi-Fi range to make any adjustments to your plan, this can be accessed immediately off line, if you receive an alert on your phone and if you are in range you have links on the app to go across to [Emergency WA](https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au) and receive updates and flick back and forwards to get the latest updates and at the same time access your plan.



Embers:

Does your yard look like this? For the past 2 months + the gum trees have been doing their annual thing and that's dropping leaves and in addition with the help of the strong easterly winds shedding their bark. This year it appears to be excessive so just a reminder that ground fuel coverage within the 20 metre building/asset protection zone shouldn't exceed 2 tonne/hectare. This basically



equates to one layer of leaves, the rest of your property shouldn't be more than 8 tonne/hectare which is roughly 15mm deep.

Bear in mind that it's this type of fuel cover, if left, will accumulate each day and if there is a fire nearby with strong winds, embers can rain down a long distance from the head of the fire dropping on to your fuel load where suddenly you have a spot fire. So, keep it down preferably below the recommended levels. Alternately, if your heap catches on fire and especially the bark is picked up by the strong winds then an ember/s is created and may cause a spot fire further down the street, so keep raking.

At the same time, the leaves are not just falling on the ground but also on the roof into the gutters and valleys on your roof, so cleaning out gutters this time of the year should take place more frequently. These actions taken could mean the difference in saving your home if the area comes under threat.



In- House dangers:

We concentrate on looking at ways to make your home bush fire ready however we may tend to overlook some in house dangers we take for granted, apart from the fascination for burning candles we have many electronic devices that are on charge regularly with a set up like the two photos, have a look at what you have at home and see if you can reduce the load on those power points, something to think about.



Click link > [DFES FireintheHome-Fire Safety in your Home.pdf](#)

Remember that although it's pleasant at the moment we are only midway through summer so temperatures as you can see are slowly forecast to rise again. So, take care and do access [Emergency WA](#) if smoke suddenly invades with no apparent fire in sight.

HELP CATCH BUSHFIRE ARSONISTS BEFORE THEY STRIKE.

If you observe any suspicious behaviour, call **Triple Zero (000)** immediately.

If you suspect someone of bushfire arson, call **Crime Stoppers** confidentially on **1800 333 000**.

If you are suspicious of a person or a vehicle, write down the following details:

For vehicles:

- registration
- make
- model
- colour
- any damage to vehicle

For individuals:

- age
- height
- hair colour
- build
- facial hair
- clothing
- ethnic appearance



Department of Environment and Conservation
Our environment, our future

Crime Stoppers WA supporters



HELP CATCH BUSHFIRE ARSONISTS BEFORE THEY STRIKE.



**Seen Something?
Know Something?
Say Something.**

Call Crime Stoppers
confidentially on **1800 333 000**

Call Triple Zero (000)
in an emergency



CRIME STOPPERS
1800 333 000 CRIMESTOPPERS.COM.AU

Take care and don't hesitate to call us if you have any queries or email us.
Have a safe February and until March stay cool, calm and collected.

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

