

# South Australian COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE



# Communications & Engagement Unit

Megan Hurrell







#### What we aim to do:

- Help the community to be aware of bushfire behaviour and that a truck probably wont be on their front lawn
- Provide the community with information so they can make decisions that will suit them
- Encourage Community Interaction







# 7 Keys to Survival





















# Understanding Bushfire Behaviour



- What makes a high risk area - weather, fuel, topography
- Weather influences that affect fire behaviour – temperature, humidity, wind speed & direction, curing







#### Recognising Fire Danger Days



Explanation of Fire Danger Index and the ability to comprehend the Fire Danger Ratings and the need to link in personal survival plans to the rating







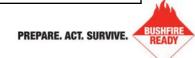
# Fire Danger Ratings

**LOW - MODERATE** 

Fires can threaten suddenly and without warning  • Know the Fire Danger Rating in your area and be aware of local conditions  • Watch for signs of fire, especially smoke and flames  • Have your Bushfire Survival Plan and Emergency Kit ready  • Call 000 to report a fire	Fire Danger Rating	Recommended Action
	CATASTROPHIC Total Fire Ban	YOU NEED TO ACT NOW  Leaving a bushfire prone area the night before or early in the day is the best option for your survival
	EXTREME Total Fire Ban	YOU NEED TO GET READY TO ACT Leaving early is the safest option for your survival. Only stay if you and your property are prepared to the highest level.
	SEVERE Total Fire Ban	YOU NEED TO BE AWARE Leaving early is the safest option for your survival. Only stay if you your home is well prepared and you can actively defend it.
	VERY HIGH	YOU NEED TO BE PREPARED Check your bushfire survival plan,
	HIGH	know where to go for more information, and monitor the situation for any changes.









# Preparing Your Home & Property



Three ways that houses ignite;

Radiant Heat
Direct Flame Contact
Ember Attack

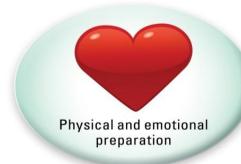
 Significant focus on methods to ember proof house and property preparation







# Physical & Emotional Preparation



- Describe the 'toll' it will take, both physically & emotionally and the need to identify the capabilities of each family member when considering a plan
- Our brains ability to retain information and what changes take place when under stress







#### **Emergency Kits**



#### Example of Survival Kit

- Protective Clothing
- Battery powered radio
- Gutter bungs & Torches
- Hoses & Connections
- Supply of food & water
- First aid kit
- Various tools to put out spot fires







#### **Emergency Kits**



- Car Kits
- Relocation Kits
- Recovery Kits
- Pet kits







# Acting On Fire Danger Days



- Various ways of seeking information
- Emergency Warnings
- Emergency Alert
- Safer Places & Last Resort Refuges







#### Bushfire Survival Plans



- Why there is the need to have 2 plans
- Leave early &
- Stay & actively defend







#### What if's

- Where will I go?
- How will I get there
- What is my back up plan?
- What will I take?
- What if I plan to leave, but its too late and I cant?
- What if I plan to stay but I'm out and cant get home?







### **Community Engagement Programs**

Conduct various community engagement programs including;

- ✓ Bushfire Blitz
- ✓ Bushfire Ready
- ✓ Community Fire Safe
- ✓ Firey Women
- ✓ How to Write a Survival Plan Workshop
- ✓ Field Days and Static Displays







#### **Bushfire Blitz**

- Short and Sweet overview only
- Local area's bushfire risk
- Bushfire Behaviour
- How to protect your house and property
- Personal safety
- Bushfire survival planning
- Actively promote Community Fire Safe







### **Bushfire Ready**

- A power point presentation is provided at a community meeting
- Brief outline of the 7 Keys to Survival
- Object is to provide information in a limited period of time to give the community some basic information on being *Bushfire Ready*
- Actively promote Community Fire Safe







# How to Write a Bushfire Survival Plan

- New 3 hour workshop being rolled out this year
- It is not enough time to go through in detail the 7 Keys to Survival
- Participants walk away with the makings of a written plan
- Try to direct those who attended a Bushfire Ready to sign up for a scheduled 'Write a Plan' workshop.







### **Community Group Presentations**

- Ability to create presentations to suit individual groups, for example;
- Camping Information
- Travelling in Bushfire Prone Areas
- Horses and Pet Information
- Service Groups
- Clubs







### **Community Fire Safe**

- It is about small groups of people living in high risk areas, taking responsibility for their own safety and working together.
- 3 meetings where the 7 Keys to Survival are addressed in a lot more depth
- Local brigade members are sometimes approached to assist with a property walk around









## **Firey Women**

- Originated from the Wangary Fire on Eyre Peninsula in 2005
- Women are often alone (with children) during a fire because partners are at work or on the back of trucks or farm fire units assisting with the fire
- Run during winter months
- 2 full days or 4 weekly meetings







### What I ask of you:

- If this presentation has raised questions you would like answered, contact me, we can look at what session may suit your needs
- If you know someone or a group of people that may benefit from one of the Community Engagement Sessions, contact me or pass my details on
- Look at the CFS website fact sheets







## **Upcoming Sessions**

KEITH

Write a Plan Workshop – Monday 22 October 6:30pm – 9:30pm at Keith Institute

BORDERTOWN

Write a Plan Workshop – Thursday 25 October 6:30pm – 9:30pm at Council Chambers Conference Room







#### **Contact Details**

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