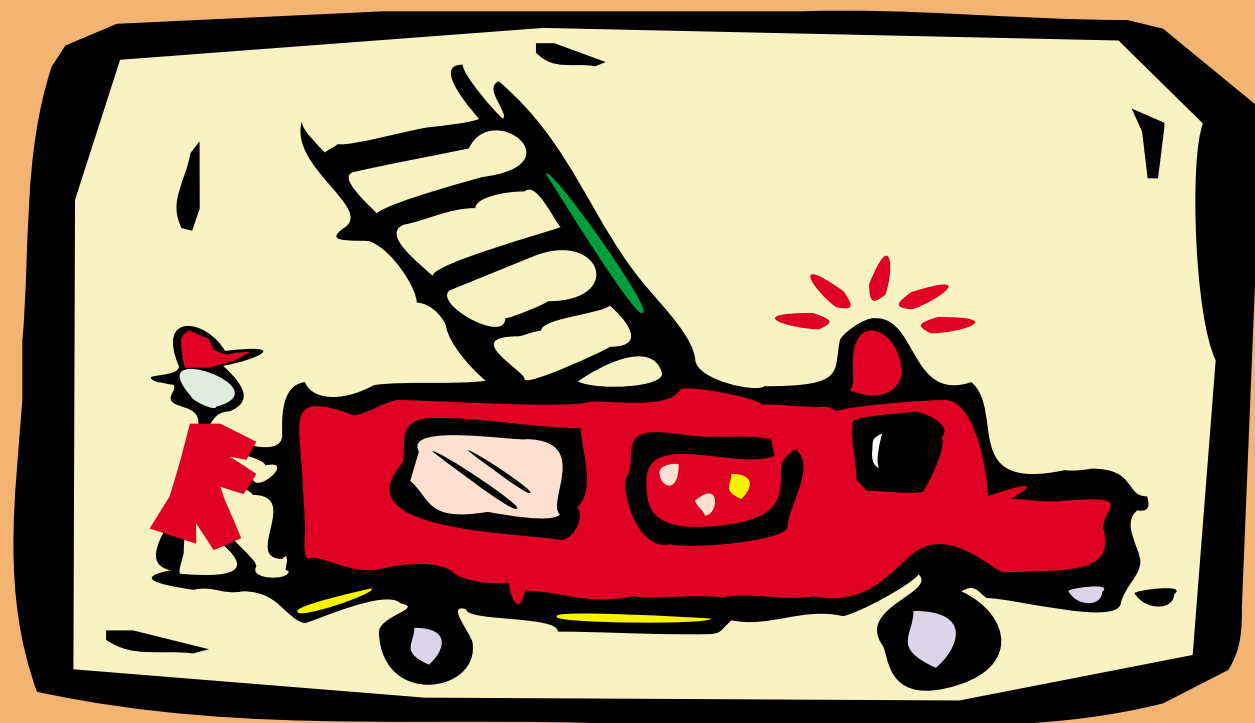




Fire Survival Checklist



As summer approaches, we all need to take extra care to protect ourselves and our homes from the threat of fire. Your home and family have a much better chance of surviving a bushfire if you know what precautions and actions to take. I hope you find this special information newsletter useful.

Prepare yourself and save yourself

Hang this list in an obvious place so your family can constantly check that your property is prepared for the bushfire season.

Get ready (before the bushfire season)

- Fit fly wire screens to windows and doors.
- Box in open eaves or cover with fine wire mesh
- Board up the area below floors and remove wood or flammable material
- Repair loose tiles or roofing sheets
- Ensure that external house timbers have a sound coat of paint
- Remove or reduce fire fuels: dry grasses, weeds, overhanging trees
- Clear leaves from gutterings, roof and roof gulleys and around the house
- Locate woodheaps, bark chips, wood chips etc. safely away from the house
- Point L.P. Gas safety valves away from the house
- Store flammable liquids in proper containers in safe sensible places
- Maintain lawns and gardens, if possible keep watered

Check water supplies

- Where there is not town water supply, keep tanks full and check that pumps etc. are in working order
- Ensure that water points can be easily found by fire fighters
- Standard threaded taps should service all outlets with enough hose connected to reach around the house
- Be sure hoses can be joined and are kept in shade

Your fire equipment

- You need at least a knapsack-spray, drums, metal-buckets and any other water containers available; rake, wet bags, fire extinguishers and a first-aid kit, all in working order
- You should be checking your property one month before the earliest recorded start of bushfire danger in your area

During the bushfire season

- Watch and listen for bush fire danger in your area (T.V., Radio)
- Keep a battery radio and flashlight at hand
- Check regularly that your property is hazard free

If fire approaches

- Store all verandah furniture, bedding, blinds within the house
- Close all windows and doors and block any other openings and gaps between doors and floor
- Turn off the main electricity supply
- Have buckets of water in the ceiling with a ladder at the manhole
- Inspect inside the ceiling every 10 minutes for 2 hours after fire has passed

Water tactics

- Connect hoses to taps, block downpipes and fill the gutters with water
- Fill water containers and place them around the house, soak blankets and bags for use if required as fire beaters
- Wet down eaves, walls and sills on the side of the house facing the flame
- Park your car in a completely clear open space such as a green lawn. Close windows and doors and shelter below the window level.

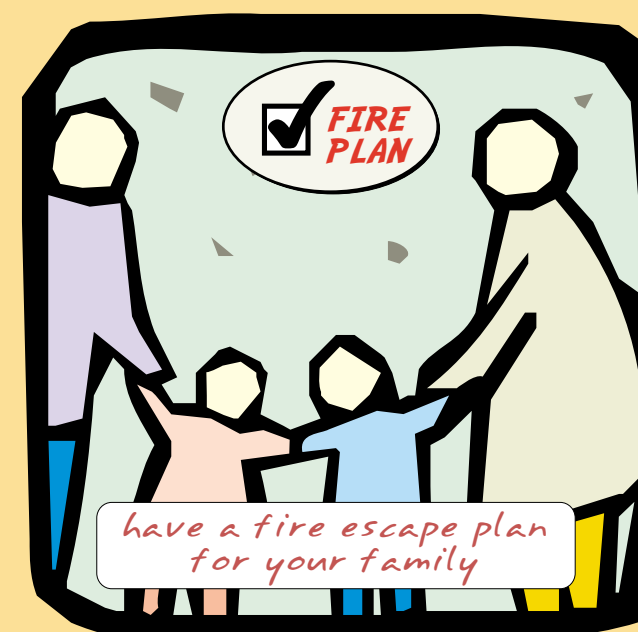
Preparing yourself

- You must try to stay calm. Avoid panic
- Wear woollen garments. Avoid synthetics
- Wear protective clothing before going outside
- Preparing smoke masks from wet handkerchiefs or clothes
- Keep a watch for spot fires on the roof as well as the rest of the house
- Shelter inside the house near a door on the opposite side to the approaching flames
- If forced to leave the house, keep to areas with sparsest fire fuel (vegetation)
- Move downhill, as fire travels faster uphill
- Creeks or water holes could be safe places, not water tanks as they could boil
- A fire escape plan to a safe fire free area should be established and each member of the family should know what to do and where to go
- Think about the situation as it arises and act accordingly
- Clear thinking and common sense could save your life



Greg Hunt at the new Somerville Fire Station

INSIDE: Fire Survival Checklist



OUR LOCAL HEROES

A big thankyou to all our local firefighters, especially those volunteers who make up our many rural fire brigades.

We can help make their job easier by taking extra care, especially during the bushfire season.

Remember to report any fire you see and be on the lookout for any suspicious behaviour as most fires are deliberately lit.

By working together as a community we can all play a part in reducing fire danger in our local area.



A community service newsletter with the compliments of

GREG HUNT MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS
"Working for our community"

** special thanks to the Rural Fire Service for providing this important information **