



"NEWSFLASH"



The occasional Newsletter of your 'PENROSE Rural Fire Brigade'

April 2020, End of the 'Statutory Fire Danger Period' Edition

The Brigade is still responding to incidents but currently is not meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic (you can still contact Mike with membership enquiries)

WOW what an intense period for the Village since the last "NEWSFLASH". From October 2019, when Capt. Mike deployed to Yarrowitch and Dept Capt. Dave deployed to Grafton, till the 'Mighty Morton' fire was declared out on 11th of February. Your Brigade put in 258 person-day deployments to the Northern NSW fires, Green Wattle Creek fire and the and 'Mighty Morton' fire. Plus, the normal local call-outs.

A **HUGE THANK-YOU** to all the members of the Village for your cooperation and support for the Brigade and more importantly for each other during the '**Mighty Morton**' fire. It shows how a little Village can work together in a time of crisis - like now 😞. So, let's all keep safe and keep an eye out for each other, particularly the elderly amongst us, **physical isolation is needed but social isolation is not.**

Autumn is here and Winter is looming so: -

Make sure your smoke alarms are working:

0300hrs Sunday the 5th of April 2020 is the end of Daylight saving in NSWs. When you change your clocks BACKWARDS it is the perfect time to check that your smoke alarms are working properly and replace the batteries. Some great advice from NSW Fire and Rescue 'Smoke alarm maintenance guide' <https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=444>

Pile-burns are allowed without a permit but follow the rules:

With the end of the 'Statutory Fire Danger Period' pile burns with-out a permit are allowed but the following rules need to be complied with: -

- 1) Check that you are able to burn piles on your property at the Wingecarribee Council site <https://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/services/environment/environmental-information/pollution-information/backyard-burning/backyard-burning-policy-map> or <https://tinyurl.com/tmuo7om>
- 2) Check that your pile complies with the Council's and RFS's rules on size and composition
Council: <https://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/services/environment/environmental-information/pollution-information/backyard-burning> or <https://tinyurl.com/uctyb74>
RFS: https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0012/13323/Standards-for-Pile-Burning.pdf
- 3) Inform you neighbours **AND** Penrose RFB (Capt. Mike Lawrence 0411 138 765 / mj_lawrence@iinet.net.au or Dept. Capt. Dave Frank 0427248934 / cdfrank@ozemail.com.au) **AND** Mittagong Fire Control Centre 48685500 **24hrs before** you plan to burn.
- 4) Check the weather forecast for the period of your burn, including wind speeds, and reschedule if necessary. Check if there are any burn restrictions on the day e.g. Environmental No-burn days, Fire Bans

5) When you light up.

- Before lighting the pile, ensure that you have suitable tools handy (rakes and shovels) to conduct the burn and control any possible spot fires.
- Accelerants (such as petrol) must never be used in the pile
- Ensure that there is a sufficient water supply to extinguish the burn and that you have a hose with appropriate water pressure that can reach around the pile.
- Ensure that you wear protective clothing such as heavy cotton pants, a long-sleeved shirt, leather work boots, work gloves and a wide-brimmed hat.
- Disturb piles immediately prior to lighting to scare away animals such as lizards and snakes which may be taking refuge within the pile.
- Supervise the burn constantly after lighting to ensure there are no flare ups in surrounding vegetation.
- Completely extinguish the pile immediately after the burn is finished. The spreading of burnt material after the burn also assists in allowing for smouldering material to be extinguished.

6) If things go pear shape and you lose the burn phone 000 immediately

If multiple piles are to be burnt, burn only one pile at a time unless adequate resources and operators are present at each pile.

Winter fire safety checklist from NSW Fire & Rescue:

- Never ever leave cooking unattended. “[Keep Looking When Cooking](#)”
- Have an adequate number of suitable smoke alarms installed throughout your home and make sure that you test them regularly.
- Make sure you and all your family know two safe ways out of every room in your home.
- Have a written home escape plan in case of fire and practice it regularly.
- If you have a fireplace in your home *make sure the chimney is clean, and properly ventilated.*
- If you have a fireplace always place a screen in front of it when in use.
- Check electric blankets for damage or frayed cords before placing on the bed.
- Take care to keep curtains, tablecloths and bedding away from portable heaters.
- Keep wet clothing at least 1 metre from heaters or fireplaces and never leave unattended.
- If you use a clothes dryer make sure you clean the lint filter each and every time
- Only use one appliance per power point and switch off when not in use, don't overload power boards.
- Always extinguish candles or any other open flames before going to bed.
- Always handle candles or any other open flame with care.
- Store matches or lighters in a secure place not accessible to young children.
- DO NOT use outdoor heating and cooking equipment inside your home. The use of this type of equipment indoors could lead to the build-up of Carbon Monoxide. Carbon Monoxide is odourless and if not detected can be fatal.

Follow us on Face Book: <https://www.facebook.com/PenroseRuralFireBrigade/>

Brigade Captain: Mike Lawrence 0411 138 765 or mj_lawrence@iinet.net.au
Mittagong Fire Control Centre 48685500 or southern.highlands@rfs.nsw.gov.au

Report unattended fires or emergencies to 000

Don't phone the Brigade it slows down the response