



“NewsFlash!”



The occasional Newsletter of the ‘Penrose Rural Fire Brigade’

OCTOBER, 2020

Your Brigade is prepared for the upcoming fire season, ARE YOU?

During winter, notwithstanding COVID-19, the Brigade has been training and preparing for the upcoming fire season. This has included training 10 new members as Bush Firefighters and preparing the juniors program.

Other activity has included the Victoria Road Hazard Reduction, mapping for access lines on the western side of the Village and attending 22 call-outs (not related to the Morton fire) since January - 1 false alarm, 11 fires, 1 hazardous condition, 5 motor vehicle accidents and 3 service calls (trees down etc).

The Brigade phone 0400910315

During the Green Wattle Creek and Morton fires the Brigade was donated a phone and plan by Lynora Brooke and John Smith, who have now sadly left the Village. This phone was used to send out local fire information to Penrose residents via texts and will now be paid for by the Brigade. If you were not receiving them and want to please contact Capt. Mike on the phone and your number will be added.

The group text will only be used in times of threats to the Village.

The Brigade landline is going to be discontinued so this phone will be our point of access, messages left on the Face Book page often get overlooked.

Permits required

The Statutory Bushfire Danger Period commenced on October the 1st.

Permits are now required for burning. Once you have a permit you must complete the online “**Intention to burn**” on the NSW RFS website.

For a PERMIT contact Captain Mike on the Brigade Ph 0400 910 315

Get Ready Weekend

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, it was not possible to run a GRW function so an information campaign was run on-line. The information is republished below.

If you have **any questions or need help** preparing your **Bush Fire Survival Plan** you are welcome to come down to the Station, 281 Kareela Road, on a Wednesday evening just after 7 pm.

Copies of the **Bush fire survival plan** are available at the Post Office, the Brigade shed or can be downloaded at <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/bush-fire-survival-plan>

GET READY WEEKEND TIPS

Emergency Survival Kit

The seven essential items to pack in your Survival Kit are; a portable battery-operated radio; a waterproof torch; spare batteries; a first aid kit with manual; woollen blankets; emergency contact numbers; drinking water. Add cash and credit cards; medications and toiletries; special requirements for children, the disabled or the elderly; a mobile phone and charger; important documents; and a change of clothes for everyone before you leave. Don't forget to prepare for your pets too.

Prepare your home

There are 5 simple steps to prepare a property for bush fires: 1. Trim overhanging trees and shrubs to stop the spread of fire. 2. Mow grass and remove the cuttings, have a cleared area around your home. 3. Remove material that can burn, like wood piles and furniture. 4. Clear debris from your gutters to stop embers causing a fire. 5. Prepare a sturdy hose or hoses that can reach around your home and make sure you've got a reliable source of water. Remember, you need to prepare well beforehand as leaving it to the last minute is too late.

Prepare your property

There are 5 actions you can take to prepare a rural property or farm for bush fires: 1. Clear/slash flammable materials around structures like homes or sheds. 2. If the conditions are right and you have the permits, approvals and skill, conduct a controlled burn. 3. Plough firebreaks around paddock boundaries to prevent the spread of fire. 4. Rotate stock across your property to ensure paddocks are well-grazed. 5. Prepare and maintain sturdy hoses and water pumps in case you need to defend your property. Remember, you need to prepare well beforehand as leaving it to the last minute is too late.

Know your risk

Burning embers can travel kilometres ahead of a bush fire. An 'ember attack' is the main cause of house loss in bush fires as they can occur before, during and after the fire front passes. Cleaning gutters and patching holes or gaps in your roof is an effective way to protect your home from ember attack.

Fire alert levels

Keep track of the alert level so you know what you should do.

ADVICE level means a fire has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.

WATCH AND ACT means there is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action to protect you and your family.

EMERGENCY WARNING is the highest level of Bush Fire Alert. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

MYTH-BUSTERS

Myth: Nothing left to burn

Fact: Only 6.9% of NSW was impacted by bush fire in the 2019/20 fire season. This means there is a significant bush fire risk for the coming 2020/21 fire season. It only takes 5 minutes to improve or make a plan that will give your property, your family and yourself the best chance of survival.

Myth: Grass fires

Fact: Grass fires can move three times as fast as a bush fire, they start easily and spread quickly. Grass fires will pose a risk in NSW this fire season so make sure you have a cleared area around your home.

Myth: So much rain

Fact: Lots of rain means lots of fuel for bush and grass fires. It only takes a few days of hot, dry and windy weather to cure grass and make it flammable. Make a bush fire survival plan so you know what you will do if there's a bush or grass fire near you.

Myth: A well prepared home

Fact: There will never be as many fire trucks as there are houses. Do not depend on a fire truck being available at your home. But if you and your home are well prepared, you stand a better chance of surviving a bush fire. There are simple things you can do around your home to prepare it for a bush fire, like keeping the grass low and having a cleared area around your home.

Myth: When to leave

Fact: Bush fires are unpredictable and in dangerous conditions, you may not get an Emergency Alert message in time. It's important that you stay up to date on conditions in your area and that you have made a bush fire survival plan. Leaving early is your safest option.

Myth: Leave early – your safest choice

Fact: Your safest option is to leave early. A bush- fire can be a terrifying situation, intense heat and flames will make you tire quickly, it will be difficult to see and breathe. You may become confused or disorientated. Powerlines and fallen trees can block roads and make driving dangerous. It's always better to leave early, before the fire arrives. Visit myfireplan.com.au and make a bush fire survival plan, it will help you make important decisions like when to leave or what you need to be prepared to stay.

The Brigade trains at 7.00 pm each Wednesday night. You are welcome to come down to the Shed, 281 Kareela Rd, to see what your Brigade does or to get questions about your *Bush-Fire Survival Plan* or other matters answered

FaceBook <https://www.facebook.com/PenroseRuralFireBrigade/>

Phone Number: 0400910315

REPORT UNATTENDED FIRES or EMERGENCIES TO 000