

“NEWSFLASH”

The occasional Newsletter of your ‘PENROSE Rural Fire Brigade’

March/April 2021

A quiet period for the Brigade since the last “NEWSFLASH”; from October last year the Brigade has only been called out 9 times plus 1 out of area to Moree for flood clean-up. That does not mean that the Brigade has not been active. With the easing of COVID restrictions training has been going ahead at a rapid rate both at the Brigade level, for our new members and not so new members, and at the District level with members upgrading their qualifications.

As COVID stopped training at a District level last winter the next few months will be a busy time for Brigade members upgrading qualifications or maintaining current qualifications.

New Brigade Phone Number- 0493115660

Please update the Brigade ph. no. in your devices. This phone won't always be manned so you can leave a message or contact our Capt. or Dept on the e-mails listed below.

This phone is used to text emergency messages to the Village, if you are not certain whether you are listed (and wish to be so) or your details have changed please leave a message.

IN AN EMERGENCY PHONE 000, this allows a rapid and appropriate response by the RFS

While we have got through another summer the colder weather brings new challenges.

Fire Safety around the House

I can't put it better than our Fire and Rescue colleagues

<https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/gallery/files/pdf/community/Get%20Ready%20For%20Winter%20Checklist.pdf>

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.

Smoke alarms

Smoke alarms save lives but only when they are working. The end of daylight saving, 4th of April, is a great reminder to test your smoke alarms and change the batteries.

Smoke alarms only have a lifespan of 10 years so make sure they are in date.

A quick vacuum while testing will get rid of dust and insects

Fire Safety around your property

The Bush Fire Danger Period ends after the 31st of March so permits to burn will not be required after this date. However, burns must still be done in an appropriate manner.

- Inform the RFS

<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/BFDP/burn-notifications>

- Inform all your neighbours 24hrs before lighting up
- Inform the Brigade, a quick e-mail to Mike will suffice
- Make sure your burn is compliant

https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/13323/Standards-for-Pile-Burning.pdf

- Fires must NOT be left unattended
- If you lose the fire outside it's perimeter **PHONE 000**

Penrose Rural Fire Brigade 0493115660

Brigade Captain: Mike Lawrence mj_lawrence@iinet.net.au

Brigade Deputy: Dave Frank cdfrank@ozemail.com.au

Mittagong Fire Control Centre 48685500
or southern.highlands@rfs.nsw.gov.au

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.

New members, including juniors, are always welcome to join. You can be trained for one of the numerous roles in the Brigade. These don't all involve being in the call-out crew.

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

REPORT UNATTENDED FIRES or
EMERGENCIES TO 000

Don't phone the Brigade it slows down the
response