



COMMUNITY SAFETY NEWSLETTER

BARWON/CORANGAMITE AREA

SUMMER EDITION
2009/2010

MESSAGE FROM CFA COMMUNITY SAFETY MANAGER - JOHN MEALIA

The shock of the devastating Black Saturday bushfires has triggered a surge of concern and interest from residents in this region fearful about bushfire risk in their area and what if it happened to them.

Some of the disturbing stories from those fires are the number of people who said they had a fire plan to leave early on bad days. Despite repeated warnings of a worst day scenario and knowledge that there was fire in their area, they remained at home hoping the fire wouldn't come their way. Then when confronted with fire they made a deadly decision to dash at the last moment.

This region is one of the most bush fire prone areas in Victoria and for many communities along the Great Ocean Road there is only one road in and one road out. Large numbers of people trying to leave at the last moment is a deadly scenario - smoke, falling trees, road accidents, and

people trapped with no where to go.

That makes it essential that every person in a bushfire prone area has a written Bushfire Survival Plan and rehearses that plan with families or neighbours so they know what to do, and where to go.

A Bushfire Survival Fire Plan can be as simple as deciding to leave home early on days of severe and above fire danger rating but it needs to be thoroughly planned so people know where they will go and what they will take with them. This includes planning for pets or livestock, making sure their household insurance is up to date and important items and documents housed safely elsewhere. This should be done in advance to avoid running around at the last moment.

Those who plan to Stay and Defend their property need to be physically and

psychologically prepared. There are reports from people in the February fires who had planned to stay and defend but when confronted with real fire, panicked and tried to leave. This is a deadly decision and highlights the importance of being mentally prepared for the smoke, the heat, the noise, and the fear associated with bushfire.

Being physically prepared is also paramount because of embers that will arrive ahead of the fire front and once the main front has passed there maybe several hours of defence work needed to hose spot fires and embers.

Equipment needs to be checked before the day and plans well thought through. Recent fires highlighted the importance of not basing plans on the assumption that there will be electricity or mains water to draw upon.

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Bushfire safety is everyone's responsibility. It is a partnership between emergency services, you and your community.

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Power blackouts are common during bushfire and water pumps may not operate unless you have an alternative power supply. Plastic water tanks, pipes and hoses can also melt and fail during intense heat.

It is critical that people recognise that a house can provide effective protection during bushfire, however one of the key lessons from Black Saturday is fires burning under Catastrophic (Code Red) bushfire conditions is that many houses were undefendable. The lesson we must learn from this is that under **Catastrophic Fire Danger Ratings**, leaving early is probably your only safe option or you may be severely injured or die.

Research however shows that under **Extreme and below Fire Danger Ratings**, a property that is well prepared, that has fuel cleared away from the home, doors and windows closed or protected with shutters, and roof and floor spaces blocked to prevent embers getting in, and any other openings within the structure such as roof evaporative coolers and sun lights that are properly protected, has a better capacity to withstand a bushfire event under these conditions.

Houses under these Fire Danger ratings are rarely destroyed in the short time it takes for the fire to pass.

Spot fires, fires from nearby outhouses or sheds, and embers from the bushfire are more likely to contribute to a house burning down if left unattended.

There are concerns that reports of houses exploding may create a fear in people that staying inside a house during a fire front is not safe when in reality houses offer effective protection from deadly radiant heat.

One of the keys to Bush fire survival is knowledge. If people have an understanding of the risks that they face in their area, and know how to mitigate those risks, they are in a stronger position to Prepare, Act and Survive.

If a fire starts in your area do not assume that you will be given a personal warning. The advice is to listen to your local ABC radio or other local Emergency Broadcaster's, monitor CFA and DSE websites, contact the Bushfire Information Line, keep in contact with neighbours and watch for smoke. Educating yourself and keeping informed could save your life.

Fire management is a shared community problem that requires a shared community solution. Individuals CAN make a difference and if a line of individuals get together in a neighbourhood or

community and plan together the defence grows stronger. CFA's Community Fire Guard program provides an excellent opportunity for neighbours to come together and plan for the threat of bush fire and how they can assist and support each other during the prevention, preparedness and response to fire.

Once again CFA will be conducting meetings and workshops in neighbourhoods across the Region this summer to reach as many people as possible.

This newsletter is an important guide in assisting you to better understand the bushfire risks our region is facing this summer and how to **Prepare, Act and Survive**.

Bushfires are frightening. There will be incredible noise, smoke, embers, flame and poor visibility.



KNOW YOUR TOTAL FIRE BAN DISTRICTS

Total Fire Bans (TFB) are declared on days when the danger of fires occurring is high, when fire would spread rapidly and be difficult to control. For more information on what you can and can't do on a day of total fire ban go to www.cfa.vic.gov.au/restrictions/can.htm

Know Your Total Fire Ban District



HORSES AND BUSHFIRES

CFA encourages all people who live near bush, grassland or coastal areas to develop a Bushfire Survival Plan. For many people this will include planning for the safety and survival of their horses.

Whether the horses are at home or on agistment you will

need to plan and prepare for their safety.

If you plan to move your horses to another location remember that you will need to move them well in advance of fire threatening your property. It is unlikely you will be able to safely move your horses once a fire has started.

Once a fire starts it can travel quickly making it dangerous for you and your horses to be on the road.

Visibility will be poor due to smoke and roads will be dangerous due to spot fires, falling trees, and emergency vehicles on the roads. Roads may be closed making it impossible to reach your horses or to remove the horses from the property.

CFA has developed a quick reference guide for horse owners—visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au for a copy.

FIRE DANGER RATINGS

A Fire Danger Rating is a prediction of fire behaviour, including how hard it would be to put out a fire once it starts. It provides information on:

- the type of threat bushfires may pose to life and property on any day given the forecast weather conditions.
- the sort of bushfire behaviour that could be experienced on that day.

The new Fire Danger Rating Barometer will alert you to danger so you can take action. Fire Danger Ratings will be a feature of weather forecasts and alert you to the actions you should take in preparation for and on the day. It will be in newspapers, broadcast on radio, TV and on websites.

Victoria has adopted the new nationally agreed Fire Danger Rating scale to help communities understand information about fire danger. This new scale recognises the significant increase in severe bushfire conditions over the past

decade and the subsequent greater level of danger to the community, and potential loss of life, as experienced by Victorians on Saturday 7 February 2009.

Fire Danger

Every day during the fire season the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) forecasts an outlook of the fire danger index (FDI) by considering the

predicted weather including: temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and dryness of vegetation. The Fire Danger Rating for each weather district is determined by the BoM in consultation with the fire agencies. Each of the Fire Danger Ratings has recommended actions you should follow. These actions are shown in the table below.

Fire Danger Rating	Recommended Action
CODE RED (CATASTROPHIC)	If you live in a bushfire prone area the safest option is to leave the night before, or early in the morning.
EXTREME	The safest option is to leave early in the day if you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave. Only stay if your home is well prepared, well constructed and you can actively defend it.
SEVERE	The safest option is to leave early in the day if you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave. Only stay if your home is well prepared and you can actively defend it.
VERY HIGH	If you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave, the safest option is to leave at the beginning of the day.
HIGH	Check your Bushfire Survival Plan.
LOW – MODERATE	Check your Bushfire Survival Plan.

HOUSEHOLD BUSHFIRE SELF ASSESSMENT TOOL



In October 2009 the CFA launched a household bushfire self assessment tool.

The tool takes residents through a number of steps to assess the 'defendability' of their home. It primarily considers the physical aspects of the property, namely vegetation and slope and provides an evaluation of the defensible space around their home. The second

element of the tool will consider the availability of key resources to defend their home such as a dedicated water supply and will explore the physical and psychological capacity of the household.

If you still require further assistance to assess your property you can contact CFA Regional offices in Geelong or Colac and request a site assessment

by a qualified Officer.

For more information visit: www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Severe, extreme and Catastrophic (Code Red) fire conditions will make it harder or even impossible to defend a house.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION — SUMMER PROGRAMS

The CFA, with support from various government and non government agencies will be holding a series of community meetings, workshops and sessions throughout the region. These include:

Fire Ready Victoria (FRV) Preparedness Meetings and Community Meetings:

Interactive community meetings held on street corners or in local halls and fire stations that focus on basic bushfire behaviour, personal safety, house survival and recognition of local risk.

Bushfire Planning Workshops:

Facilitated workshops are run in local communities to assist residents in developing a bushfire survival plan. In the Barwon/Corangamite Area we combine a FRV session with the workshops. They are run generally between 11:00 – 2:30 with lunch included.

Community Fireguard:

Specially trained facilitators assist community groups to develop bushfire survival strategies that suit their lifestyle, environment and values.

Place Based Community Engagement Activities

The aim of this initiative is to be actively visible within communities to allow increased access to CFA and education material. The sessions will be held in identified community hubs such as local shopping centres at peak times. This initiative is designed specifically to maximise CFA interaction with communities.

It is the first point of contact for residents and tourists to access information and promote CFA education programs. It encourages a greater level of participation in

community education programs.

FRV – Brigade Families

Brigades will be provided with a variety of tools to assist them to engage with their local community members who seek information regarding bushfire preparedness. The meetings will be inclusive of a BBQ and fun activities for families.

To learn more about community meetings in your area go to www.communityprograms.cfa.vic.gov.au/

WHAT ARE NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES? (PLACES OF LAST RESORT)

What are Neighbourhood Safer Places?

• **Neighbourhood Safer Places** are a place of last resort to be at during the passage of the fire front, if a person's personal Bushfire Survival Plan cannot be implemented or has failed. Not all towns will have Neighbourhood Safer Places.

• People using Neighbourhood Safer Places need to be self sufficient.

• Amenities such as food and water are not provided. There will be no facilities

for pets and animals.

• **People should not expect that emergency services including fire services will be present.**

• They may not provide shelter from the elements, particularly flying embers.

• A Neighbourhood Safer Place is an area that provides a level of protection from the immediate life threatening effects of a bushfire (direct flame contact and radiant heat).

• It is important to understand that Neighbourhood Safer

Places must not to be confused with Fire Refuges, Relief Centres, Recovery Centres, Assembly Centres, or Informal Places of Shelter each has a different and specific purpose.

• To find out if your town has a NSP visit the CFA Website.

Assessment of Neighbourhood Safer Places is one of many initiatives underway to assist everyone in Victoria to **PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.** this fire season. Go to www.cfa.vic.gov.au/index.htm

A Neighbourhood Safer Place and travelling there is a high risk option and therefore should only be considered when all else fails.

PREPARE, ACT, SURVIVE FIRE READY KIT

CFA has produced bushfire and survival the FireReady Kit to help you understand your bushfire risk, prepare your property and develop a Bushfire Survival Plan based on your decision to leave early or to actively defend your property.

The Fire Ready Kit can be downloaded from www.cfa.vic.gov.au/residents/summer/firereadykit.htm or you can get a hard copy by calling 1800 240 667

The Kit includes five linking publications plus some smaller brochures. The five linking publications have been designed to work together in a sequence.

Not all homes can be defended from

The Fire Ready Kit can be downloaded from

www.cfa.vic.gov.au/residents/summer/firereadykit.htm or

you can get a hard copy by calling 1800 240 667

CFA advice and publications provide guidance on house preparation and actions if you choose to stay and actively defend.

Get your
FireReady Kit

1800 240 667
www.cfa.vic.gov.au

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.
FireReady



Lorne CH COMMUNITY BUILDING INITIATIVE UPDATE

Barwon Corangamite Area CFA is the fund manager of the Lorne Community Building Initiative, *LorneCH*. The vision of *LorneCH* is “to build an inclusive, cohesive, robust, sustainable community.” *LorneCH* supports capacity building to enable meaningful participation of individuals through volunteerism to strengthen community networks and resilience. These community development principles are shared by CFA.

CFA News

A Community Fireguard is developing in George

Street Lorne.

LorneCH has forged an exciting partnership with the Lorne-Aireys Inlet P-12 School and the CFA. This promises to be a great learning opportunity for the students, and a community capacity building process. A submission has been put in for funding through “Schools First” to develop the partnership next year.

Fig Tree Community House has put in an EOI to be part of “Illuminated by Fire”, a state-wide community cultural development project.

A number of Fire Safety

Information sessions are scheduled at Fig Tree Community House— visit www.communityprograms.cfa.vic.gov.au to find out more.

Pier and Point Grey masterplan For more information contact the team on pointgreyproject@gmail.com

LAP—\$200,000 going swimmingly!

\$200,000 funding has been secured through Seasonal Pools Funding, DPCD.

Renew: Eco-Living!

As a result of the \$88,000 Eco-Living funding, a

position of Eco-Living Officer has been filled.

Men’s Shed – a barn raising early 2010

The Men’s Shed infrastructure has been funded and it will be built near the Leisure Centre early next year – watch out!

Affordable Housing - Surf Coast Shire Commits funding to taking action.

For more information or to become involved in *LorneCH* Projects, please contact:

Genevieve Roberts *LorneCH* Facilitator
0437 127 404
g.roberts@cfa.vic.gov.au

VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE INFORMATION LINE (VBIL) 1800 240 667

CFA in partnership with Department of Sustainability & Environment [DSE](#) has established a bushfire information line to provide the community with a wide range of information about bushfires.

The Victorian Bushfire Information Line aims to:

- Provide timely information to the community during significant incidents
- Assist the community to prepare for wildfire risk.
- Provide information regarding fire restrictions, Total Fire Bans and DSE prescribed burns.

- The line offers personal advice from operators as well as a range of useful recorded information. The number for the Victorian Bushfire Information Line is **1800 240 667**.

Bushfire Information for the Hearing Impaired

Callers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech or **communication impairment**, and who have access to a TTY (teletext) machine, can call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line during business hours on **TTY 1800 122 969** (note - you cannot contact this number from a mobile phone or an ordinary phone).

Callers can also email the Victorian Bushfire Information Line during business hours at vbil.info@dse.vic.gov.au

For TTY machine users only, to report a new fire, access the Emergency Services emergency number TTY 106.

TTY 106 is a dedicated text-based emergency relay service with direct access to fire, police and ambulance services. It can only be contacted through a TTY machine, not from a mobile phone or ordinary phone.

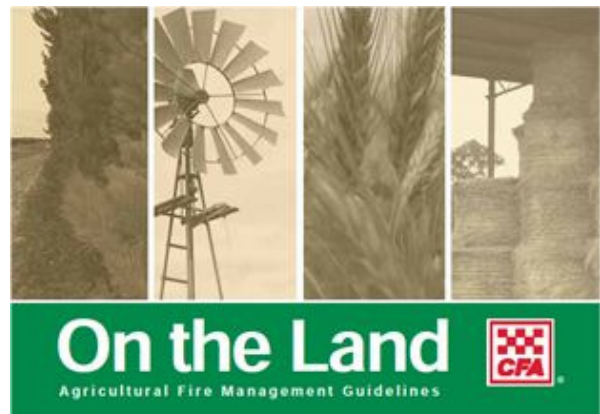
For further information see the National Relay Service website: www.relayservice.com.au/topics/2065.html

Survival must be your main priority.



AGRICULTURAL FIRE MANAGEMENT

CFA has developed fire management guidelines titled 'On the Land' (CFA May 2007, reprinted with minor updates December 2007). These guidelines provide an overview of fire management on rural properties and will be particularly useful for those that are new to farming and rural living, undertaking farm planning or trying new enterprises. The guidelines can be viewed or downloaded from www.cfa.vic.gov.au/business/farms/on_the_land.htm



COMMUNITY FIREGUARD

Community Fireguard (CFG) is a Community Development program designed by CFA to help reduce the loss of lives and homes in bushfires. It assists community groups to develop bushfire survival strategies that suit their level of risk, lifestyle, environment and values.

Community Fireguard Groups are made up of neighbours or residents living in a shared bushfire risk environment. The program is suitable for all residents in bushfire risk areas, whether they are planning to leave early or stay to actively defend. It is for new residents or for those who have lived in the area for a number of years.

Neighbours are often the first, and sometimes the only, assistance that residents can count on during a major bushfire. CFA cannot

guarantee every person and home with individual assistance during a major bushfire and recognises that many people may have to face a fire without the support of CFA. Groups make decisions about the best way to protect themselves that fits their bushfire risk, lifestyle and environment.

The Community Fireguard program has four core sessions.

Most groups will cover the core information (Introduction and fire behaviour, personal survival, house survival and bushfire survival plans) in four to five meetings over 12 months. However, groups vary in experience and understanding so meetings are planned to meet the needs of the group. Involvement in the program is voluntary but participants are

encouraged to make an on-going commitment and attend all meetings. New residents are welcome to join an established Community Fireguard group.

Benefits of participating

Research conducted after Black Saturday 2009 shows those residents who were regular members of CFG groups and actively participated were more likely to reduce their losses and have better emotional recovery following a bushfire.

Community Fireguard in Barwon-Corangamite

There are over 100 CFG groups throughout the Barwon-Corangamite Area with more

forming each week. The program is supported by 14 CFG Facilitators this season, and community and brigade relationships are being established and strengthened from Geelong to Port Campbell and Dereel. All existing CFG groups are being encouraged to meet at least once this season to update their plans and familiarise themselves with the new information that is now available.

For more information about the Community Fireguard Program in your locality or to find out how to establish a CFG group, phone 03 5240 2700 or email bc.cfg@cfa.vic.gov.au



EMERGENCY RECOVERY—DHS

Bushfires have the potential to severely impact on the health and wellbeing of your family, your community and yourself. It is important to look after yourself before, during and after the fire season.

DHS has developed a Summer Preparedness Kit which offers ways of coping with stress, looking after your general health and provides details on what financial assistance is available.

For more information visit www.dhs.vic.gov.au/emergency/preparedness/bushfire or www.health.vic.gov.au/bushfire/



BARWON CORANGAMITE TO LEAD THE STATE IN TOURISM ENGAGEMENT

The award winning Barwon Corangamite Area Wildfire Tourism Engagement Program is providing a model for rollout to a state-wide project targeting safety of visitors in regional Victoria.

People who are holidaying and relaxing tend to switch off from the cares and worries of everyday life and are not mindful of bushfire risks that are part and parcel of our highly visited natural attractions in the summer period. Not only international and interstate visitors, but domestic visitors do not generally consider CFA's broader message applies to them.

Yet it is important that visitors plan their activities and travels carefully, taking into account

the Fire Danger Ratings which warn that it is safest to be out of bushfire prone areas on day of Extreme, Severe and Catastrophic weather. Undertaking alternative fun activities such as shopping, visiting the cinema, indoor pools, dining out or attending beaches in other areas are recommended. Visitors should also carry good maps of the area, plenty of water and be constantly alert to both the local environment and to local radio station for bushfire updates.

This partnership project with Tourism Victoria will work in two key ways:

Firstly with tourism operators and staff to build capacity and understanding within the tourism sector, so that people

who come into primary contact with visitors understand their duty of care to their customers and guests and have confidence in the advice they are passing on. To achieve this, an initial series of educational briefings on a state-wide road show is being undertaken between mid Nov – mid Dec, and will be followed up with Emergency Management Planning workshops after the summer when operators are available.

Secondly, by developing a specific tourism preparedness message, carried on a range of products, eg brochures, door hangers and distributed through operators, real estate agents, vehicle hire companies, Visitor Information Centres to name but a few.

A particular challenge of this program is to link with visitors who don't come into contact with these points, for example, the thousands of holiday home owners and their families who visit over summer and additionally the many campers and hikers who holiday independently.

Further information available on the State wide project from Beth Davidson, Tourism Project Co-ordinator
Mobile 0400 795 749
b.davidson@cfa.vic.gov.au
or Kim Stanley Eyles
Wildfire Tourism Engagement Project
Co-ordinator, BCA
Mobile 0417 585 757
k.stanley.eyles@cfa.vic.gov.au

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND INCLUSION PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

The Community Safety and Inclusion Partnership Project, which ironically commenced just days prior to Black Saturday, was premised on the conclusion that the issue of community safety is a mutual responsibility shared by the community and the government.

Focused on the specific needs of vulnerable populations, the aim of the project is to develop a Partnership of key agencies committed to engaging with communities to address issues of fire vulnerability and enhancing community safety and inclusion. While each participating agency has long had a relationship with the participating communities, the project

remains innovative in that it adopts a community engagement approach, built upon the principle of working with community and not for community. Such an approach recognises existing strengths and strategies, and aims to build resilient communities that are equipped from within to manage challenges such as fire.

To achieve this, the Project has spent its nine months of implementation focused on raising awareness of the proposed approach amongst key stakeholders, provided training to key staff on principles of inclusion and their relevance to emergency management, and developed materials responsive to the need of

target communities.

These efforts have collectively been effective in building a platform from which the Project can launch into its most important task—dealing with the specific issues posed by specific communities.

Key strategies include improving access and inclusion to existing community education sessions - with Community Fireguard Groups being considered as the only effective method for vulnerable people to develop informed individual fire plans. Assisting other agencies such as disability service providers to incorporate emergency management planning into practice and policy also provides a key conduit to

Children, the elderly and vulnerable should leave at the beginning of a day with a declared fire danger rating of severe or extreme, and the day before when conditions are declared Catastrophic (Code Red).

accessing these communities. For more information or to contribute any thoughts on this project contact Birgitte Hutchens, Community Safety and Inclusion Officer on b.hutchens@cfa.vic.gov.au

CFA CONNECT

Visit the CFA's news, multimedia and information sharing site. All the latest news, video, pictures and blogs from CFA members. This site is accessible to the community, not just CFA members. Go to www.cfa.vic.gov.au/links.htm and follow the link to register.

CFA Connect is the official publication, which aims to provide volunteers, staff and interested parties with up to date information on projects and advice to the community. In order to maintain the integrity of information and messages many of the details in this publication will be obtained directly from CFA Connect. Please visit CFA Connect for regular updates. www.cfaconnect.net.au

TOWNSHIP PROTECTION PLANS

Township protection planning forms part of CFA's planning for community and brigade bushfire preparedness. The aim is to plan for prevention, preparedness and response required for the level of bushfire risk for individual townships. The current TPP's are a first version which has been developed for this fire season. They will be reviewed each year prior to the fire season and will involve greater levels of community consultation to ensure they meet community and brigades needs into the future.

A Township Protection Plan (TPP) will assist the emergency services and a town's community by incorporating three key components:

- A mapping component that identifies and details demography and topography of a township and surrounding areas. This includes the

identification of assets, heritage areas, critical infrastructure and community gathering locations.

- A consultation process to explore local knowledge, history, culture and people's needs for safety and protection during an emergency incident and detail the actions to be taken by members of the community when fire threatens a town including neighbourhood safer places — if one exists for that township.

While Township Protection Plans are already in place or under development for several locations around the Area, the format of the plan varies greatly. As part of the Bushfire Preparedness Program, CFA is committed to developing Township Protection Plans in 52 towns in some high bushfire risk locations for this fire season, with a view to

extending it to other communities in the future.

Township plans have been completed for: Aireys Inlet (including Fairhaven and Moggs Creek), Anglesea, Barongarook, Barwon Downs, Breamlea, Carlisle River, Deans Marsh (including Bamba and Pennyroyal), Dereel, Forrest, Jan Juc, Kawarren, Lavers Hill, Lorne (including Big Hill), Marengo, Steiglitz, Wye River (including Separation Creek and Kennett River).



VICTORIA'S COMMERCIAL RADIO STATIONS SIGN ON TO BE OFFICIAL EMERGENCY BROADCASTERS

A new agreement for the broadcast of emergency warnings between commercial radio stations and the Victorian Government will provide Victorians with greater access to information and warnings during bushfires and other emergencies.

Recently Premier John Brumby announced a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government and Commercial Radio Australia for nearly 30 commercial radio stations across Victoria to become official emergency broadcasters for the upcoming fire season.

Mr Brumby said the agreement was the first of its kind between the State and commercial radio

stations and would mean for the first time that Victorians could listen to commercial radio in Victoria for the broadcast of emergency warnings during bushfires and other emergencies.

Under the new agreement commercial radio broadcasters will broadcast emergency warnings, as requested by emergency services, to notify commercial radio listeners of an emergency, such as a bushfire in their area. This includes interrupting programming and going to continuous coverage where necessary.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Bob Cameron said the MoU built on arrangements the Government had in place with ABC and Sky News for emergency broadcasting.

A list of the local commercial radio stations participating in the agreement include:

<u>Station</u>	<u>Location</u>
3CS 1134 AM	Colac
Mix 106.3 FM	Colac
95.9 FM	Colac
92.7 FM	Colac
K-Rock FM 95.5 FM	Geelong
Bay FM 93.9 FM	Geelong

Visitors and tourists travelling in forests, bush, grassland and coastal areas need to have high awareness of their surrounds and know how to protect themselves.

BUSHFIRE WARNINGS AND INFORMATION

Fire agencies will provide you with as much information as possible when there is a bushfire. It is important to understand that bushfires can spread quickly and threaten lives and property within minutes. If a fire starts nearby you may not receive an official warning.

You need to remain alert, monitor the outside environment for signs of fire and actively seek information. Tune into your emergency broadcasters:

ABC and commercial radio stations, and SKY News TV, for fire updates and warnings during the fire season. All alerts and warnings will be posted on the CFA and Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) websites at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or www.dse.vic.gov.au. You can also phone the Victorian Bushfire Information Line (VBIL) on 1800 240 667 (TTY 1800 122 969).

CFA has developed an information sheet on Bushfire Warnings, What to expect and Where to find information. Visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au to download your copy.



IMPORTANT CONTACTS FOR THIS FIRE SEASON

- ⇒ For Bushfire Preparation information visit: www.cfa.vic.gov.au
- ⇒ Victorian Bushfire Information Line on: 1800 240 667
- ⇒ Department Sustainability Environment (DSE): 136 186 or www.dse.vic.gov.au
- ⇒ Department of Human Services (DHS) visit: www.dhs.vic.gov.au/operations/regional/bsw/emergency-management (Principal recovery planning and management agency under the State Emergency Recovery Plan).
- ⇒ Borough of Queenscliffe: 5258 1377
- ⇒ City of Greater Geelong: 5272 5272
- ⇒ Colac Otway Shire: 5232 9400
- ⇒ Corangamite Shire: 5593 7100
- ⇒ Golden Plains Shire: 5220 7111
- ⇒ Surf Coast Shire: 5261 0600
- ⇒ In the event of an emergency listen to ABC 774 or selected commercial stations. See page 11 of this newsletter for more details.

CFA'S NEW ON-LINE MEETING TOOL

Prepare for the next fire season!

Attend a CFA community meeting to learn about the wildfire risk in your area and how you and your community can turn this awareness into action.

Log on through

www.communityprograms.cfa.vic.gov.au

or via the [CFA website](#).

You can then register your attendance at meetings, express interest in starting a Community Fireguard Group or request extra information on a range of programs and services in interactions with communities.



**Fires can threaten lives
and property within
minutes of starting so you
may not get an official
warning.**

CFA makes this information available on the understanding that you use skill and care when using it. If you have any uncertainty about the application of the information to your particular circumstances, you should obtain further professional advice. CFA does not accept responsibility for how you apply, interpret or rely on the information in this brochure. CFA accepts no liability for any loss or damage resulting from the use of this brochure, whether due to unintended inaccuracy, error or mission or any other cause.

