

## 2017/18 FIRE SEASON PREPAREDNESS

On the last weekend in November, Chewton Bushlands residents were briefed on fire season preparedness by volunteer CFA Chewton Captain, Jo Willen.

Thanks to Bushlander Antoinette Birkenbeil for organising this briefing.

### FIRE DANGER PERIOD

We are currently in the **Fire Danger Period**. You cannot light a fire in open air unless you have a permit or comply with certain requirements. If you don't obtain a permit, you will be breaking the law and may be prosecuted. Penalties include a fine of up to \$18,000 and/or 12 months imprisonment.



For details on what you can and cannot do checkout the *Can I, Can't I* brochure.

[http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/fm\\_files/attachments/warnings\\_and\\_restrictions/Can\\_I\\_or\\_Cant\\_I\\_brochure\\_nov\\_2016.pdf](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/fm_files/attachments/warnings_and_restrictions/Can_I_or_Cant_I_brochure_nov_2016.pdf)

#### **Most common human-ignited fires come from:**

- Machinery use – grinders, lawnmowers, slashers & other spark-creating equipment
- Petrol-powered pumps on uncleared and unshaded ground
- Cigarettes, burn-offs, and camp fires
- Arsonists

#### **Fire season preparedness for Chewton Bushlands residents**

- **JOIN** the Chewton Bushlands Fireguard (details below)
- **VISIT** the CFA website and read the information about preparing yourself and your property for the fire season
- **PREPARE** fire evacuation kit for yourself and animals
- **SHARE** your fire plans with your neighbours

#### **On Fire Danger days**

- **REFRAIN** from high fire risk activities
- **TUNE** in to local ABC station (91.10)
- **MONITOR** VicEmergency App for fire activity
- **INFORM** neighbours of your 'stay or go' plans
- **CHECK** your fire plan, evacuation packs and plans
- **PROVIDE** shaded water sources for wildlife

#### **In case of fire**

- **RING** 000
- **CALL** your neighbours
- **ASSIST** CFA by having someone stand at the driveway entry to your property
- If water is taken from a dam, it will be replenished.

**The Chewton CFA will not necessarily enter the Bushlands if it is under threat from a big fire.**

**Our nearest Fire Evacuation Point is the Western Oval (opposite Castlemaine Maxi IGA)**

## CHEWTON CFA

### **How Chewton Bushlands residents can assist Chewton CFA**

- Make your property road number signage clear
- Remember that fire trucks require large turning circles, and that low hanging branches can prevent a truck accessing your property
- Chewton Bushlands Association will be providing a map to CFA Chewton that identifies houses, access driveways and dams. Please contact the Association if you have other specific information on your property that should be added to this document:  
contact@chewtonbushlandsassociation.org.au
- Donate at the Chewton Post Office
- Volunteer as a fire fighters, maintenance work, community outreach and more....
- Keep up to date by following the CFA Chewton Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/chewtonfirebrigade/>



### **How Chewton CFA can assist Chewton Bushlands residents**

- Providing property “fire preparedness” assessments
- Enabling one-off controlled burn-offs. Individuals must maintain subsequent fuel loads. Contact CFA Captain Jo Willen on 0408 552 488... checking local fire activity prior to calling and do **not** call during an active fire.

## CHEWTON BUSHLANDS COMMUNITY FIREGUARD

The Bushlands Community Fireguard is the group of residents who share phone numbers so that they can communicate with each other on fire danger days. A Fireguard notice with advice and an annotated map of Bushlands properties showing road names, Lot numbers, road numbers and driveway entry points will be lodged with the Chewton CFA and posted on our Facebook Page and our website. For circulation to Fireguard members only, the notice will include property owner names and phone numbers. If you wish to be a member of the Community Fireguard please ring Antoinette on 0414 802 738.

The Chewton Bushlands Association doesn't offer central co-ordination of information sharing in real-time on fire danger days. The most effective way to access real time information is to use the VicEmergency app. Bushlanders are individually responsible for keeping informed of fire conditions and for their own fire plans.

We encourage those residents with a smart phone to get the Vic Emergency app (see above) which alerts users to all “next day” fire conditions and real-time alerts. Those residents with only a landline phone are encouraged to join the Fireguard.

We encourage you to check in with your neighbours about their fire plans, to keep them informed about yours, and to let each other know when you are going to be absent from your property. Make yourself aware of the needs of elderly neighbours and those who may need additional assistance. It is up to each of us to be personally vigilant.

Please send us your suggestions of any further ways to improve our fire season preparedness.

## USEFUL RESOURCES

### **VicEmergency App**

If you have a smart phone and you haven't already done so, download the VicEmergency App from the App Store to your mobile phone (Google "VicEmergency App")

- Set "watch zones" that cover the fire activity area to which you want to be alerted. A larger watch zone alerts you to fires approaching from a greater distance, allowing you more time to enact fire plans.
- You will be alerted automatically for the following fire dangers: Severe, Extreme, Code Red, Advice (an incident is occurring in the area), Watch and act (an emergency is heading toward you), Emergency (you are in imminent danger), All clear, Prepare to evacuate, and Evacuate now

### **Fire briefing notes**

Antoinette Birkenbeil's 2016 fire briefing notes are still relevant.

<http://chewtonbushlandsassociation.org.au/events/cfa-bushlands-fire-briefing-december-20166/>

### **Country Fire Authority**

- Warnings & Restrictions, Plan & Prepare, Planned burns (<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/> )
- Twitter @CFA\_Updates
- Facebook [facebook.com/cfavic](https://www.facebook.com/cfavic)
- Plan & Prepare guides (<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-and-during-a-fire/> )
  - Your Guide To Survival
  - Leave Early
  - Your Bushfire Plan
  - Fire Ready Kit
  - Pets & Bushfire
  - Back Up Plans
  - Defending Your Property
  - Link to understanding and surviving grass fires.

**VicEmergency:** 1800 226 226

**DELWP:** [www.ffm.vic.gov.au/warnings-bushfires-and-incidents](http://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/warnings-bushfires-and-incidents)

**Vicfire Burnoff Notification:** 1800 668 511

**All Emergencies:** 000

## Stay Safe