## Horses and bushfire - what do we know



## Feedback Survey

## Q9 - Please provide details of the most informative parts of the webinar

- Information on links to share with my networks in emergency preparedness for animals/horses.
- 2 Excellent speakers all with very relevant first hand experiences, advice and recommendations for fire planning. Lots of ideas and websites to research for further planning. Very motivating (Kirrilly) Thank you all.
- 3 Kevin Tolhurst's info on property assessment was concise & informative. Kirrilly's personal experiences with fire were interesting and frequent.
- The need for a multi-faceted plan to deal with small and large scale fires, forecast extreme days and nearby fires starting with no 'warning' e.g. escaped burnoff.
- More general information as I don't own a horse. Although much of what was discussed was relevant to bushfires and humans.
- The personal stories led me in to think about the different fire scenarios that could occur and especially the issues of agisting animals.
- Factors to consider when choosing to leave horses on property or relocate. Having at least a few days supply of water and feed on hand. First aid items.
- 8 Hearing about peoples experiences and how flexible you need to be because every situation is different.
- 9 All of it but did not like the first section of having to watch previous bushfires. Could have done without watching those images. Also didn't really need to hear the stories of those fires.
- 10 Practical strategies to implementing a fire plan involving horses. Considerations to think of when planning.
- 11 First-hand experience to highlight important things to consider.
- 12 The particular issues for horse owners.
- Good to know what is best for horses as many neighbours own horses.
- 14 Reminder of what we all should PLAN.
- 15 Medication for burns.
- Hearing people's actual personal experiences and sharing how they felt / how they could have been better prepared.

- 17 Excellent research presentation & great panel discussion. The involvement of professionals like Andrew McLean & Chris Heislers was fantastic. And lots of additional resources to reflect on. Also appreciated the point about scenario planning as well as considering aerial view of my property.
- Unfortunately due to connection issues, I only got to take the first speaker and panel. I have had to evacuate my horses for the Black Summer fires and also once previously. I learnt from my previous experience and part if my plan is to have my float packed before Dec 1 and ready with feed, water, rugs etc. I have also learnt from reading and have a plan if we can't evacuate. I had not thought of micro chipping my retired horse but will do so before next fire season. I still don't know how I could have feed stored safely on the property if the property was to come under attack.
- For our own property looking at the topography from above for 5-10km, assessing & needing to develop more understanding about fire behaviour. From a Pony Club point of view we have a lot of families that agist locally in bush areas see the need to increase their awareness & look at what our club grounds could offer as a refuge area for horses.
- I do not have a horse, but learned a lot about the challenges horse owners face, about choices owner make, horse behavior & management decisions. I have lived through a couple of bushfires. It was a good reminder about readiness.
- 21 All was very well presented.
- I do not have horses but I found the content very informative. A lot of the information relates to everyone.
- To consider 5-10km radius of our property. The basic fact we need to have a clear plan and several evacuation options for our horses.
- 24 Review and regularly practise the emergency plan for the property.
- The presenters where great and on topic, very knowledgeable expressing experiences and areas of study. Would have been good to have one other subject matter expert to assist people during the Q&A and direct them to CFA, DELWP, EMV and LGA document links to the many emergency management plans available to assist individuals with their own fire response plans, Local Response Plans, Places of last resort etc. The new Fire Danger Rating (AFDRS).- Call to Action statement interpretation would be a good info resource that allow people to make informed decisions (and hopefully minimize response fatigue) based on pre-planned triggers for actions and to have a list of relief centre locals that can accommodate animals found in the LGA-LRP and Relief and Recovery Plans. Looking forward to the next session.
- 26 Revise plan and include away family.
- 27 Panel, Q & A.
- First aid treatment for burns on horses in the absence of being able to get a vet in site.
- Need to have a written plan & a back-up plan. Using Google maps to see where fire danger is most likely to come from. Basic vet supplies to have on hand.
- 30 The awareness it provokes.
- The webinar was comprehensive and covered the topic well.

- Though we don't have or spend time with a horse. Low level of awareness of safe destinations for horses locally e.g. showgrounds, race-courses etc. which might also apply to other 'family' animals. Often a short notice barrier to people leaving early. Source of more reliable, peer-reviewed information (Google Scholars). Horse owner's multiplicity of assessments for re-location options, i.e. the state of the fences and other features of the destination, the skills of volunteer driver, the quality of the float and towing vehicle. (Decisions, decisions).
- Hearing from Kirrilly practical experiences of not just the "I did this" but the things you don't think of at the time i.e. once you get one horse out you may not be able to get back in. In summer take your towing vehicle and keep it stocked with halters boots buckets etc. Try to find out where to take the animals.
- Kirrilly's experiences and all conversations, it was thought provoking and informative, thank you.
- All components were very informative. A lot of information was covered off, especially around the discussions of the plan, both evacuation and for the property. We have only been at this property for 8 months, have been discussing aspects how to and what should be in our plan. Last night was especially really helpful in relation to that due to the horse component.
- 36 Veterinarian advice.
- 37 The stories from the panel outlining the reality of fire impact on planning and reacting to the situation can be quite different.
- I was only able to stay for the first half as I had another meeting but it was very interesting. I don't have any horses but thought it would be good to join and learn about as part of my overall knowledge of fire. I will watch the rest when the recording is up.
- The lived experience of evacuating horses, and the priorities for veterinary care after the fire has passed.
- 40 Plan, know where is a safe place or several places in different directions. Collect horses early to a safe place. Store protein, food and water in a safe place. Never underestimate the speed and direction of fire.
- Not a horse owner but appreciated the repeated emphases on good planning to go, to stay if necessary, to have Plan A, B and C and to practise the plan.
- I am not a horse owner. I am broadening my knowledge as part of the Safer Together Program as I have the equine industry as one of my communities to work with to mitigate bushfire risk. I liked that there was a range of information including horse transport & welfare, human and horse relationships and having a plan.
- I think the discussion on the problems of agisted horses was stark. Good informed discussion on planning to leave and burn out. The lack of emergency sites is a worry there must be multiple options to allow for where the fire is coming from.
- 44 Method of transporting and the pre planning if you have a horse and practising your plan.
- 45 Personal experiences of fire coupled with relevant research.
- 46 Vet advice from Chris.

- Discussion around having multiple plans to try to deal with different circumstances and what you need to consider when planning evacuation with animals.
- Having a back up plan. Writing my plans down. Hearing in general from very informative professionals. Considering moving one of my three horses to a spelling agistment in lower risk area over the fire danger period.
- 49 All good. I liked the variety of knowledgeable people everything from the psychological to the practical, plus actual fire experiences. Plus, it is important for me to get into the bushfire mindset for next summer.
- Hearing from people who have had first-hand experience in various bushfire scenarios.
- Realizing that just because you have a plan that's not necessarily what's going to happen. Have a backup, be prepared and practise your plan.
- How horses behave during a bushfire. Allow for 7 days worth of food and water in case we can't get back to them.
- There was a lot of information given, most of which I already knew. Some of the information I felt was not sensible. Moving your horses EVERY day before a catastrophic fire day? That is totally impractical. You may as well say people in Australia should not keep horses in summer.
- Learning from the experience of people who have been in that situation. What to have ready to go in a 'grab bag' The importance of being prepared and having a plan.
- Andrew, Chris and Kevin got straight to the topic..
- This was very informative, and it did start me thinking about being prepared for any fire situation. I evacuated to the RACV club in Healesville on Black Saturday after helping friends to get their car packed and their pets to the evacuation location. That day was hell on earth I will never forget it. I had a horse before but currently do not have a one. I have considered getting a horse again as they are beautiful creatures, and this webinar has helped me very much indeed. It has opened my eyes to the reality of things I will need to include in my fire plan when I finally get another horse.
- Making sure I have clothes and proper safe shoes in my car at all times, making sure the key to my float lock is kept in a designated spot for family members to grab float and horses if I am unable to get to them. Discussing the property evacuation plan with other horse owners on my property and making sure we are all clear on our evacuation and the plan if we are unable to evacuate. Finding out where we are able to take our horse when we evacuate. The two property scenario information was very interesting, I learnt a lot from that. I found Dr Kirrilly had some great information.
- Topography affects on fire. The restricted, very practical, top considerations given by speakers in all aspects of their assigned topic. Bushfire readiness is a huge topic & having the principal issues hammered again & again was excellent.
- 59 Post-bushfire first aid.
- Having multiple fire plans, always have a plan B. Ensure you have a recovery plan for the days after.
- 61 Lived experience of the three presenters during bushfires.

- 62 Consistent messaging around preparation, early evacuations and staying, and need for more than one plan.
- 63 It was all very informative.
- 64 Horse covers.
- As a CFA Community Safety Presenter, it was good to see links to relevant documents being posted.
- The mix of presenters and their experiences shared.
- 67 All speakers were very knowledgeable and interesting to listen to.
- All speakers were informative Things that I have taken most note of are; having a tow vehicle available during danger times, preparing an evacuation pack, finding suitable places for evacuating horses and contacting council and researching suggested websites.
- It was all very good information, which can be applied to all pet/livestock ownership. The reactions discussed can also be related how people relate to fire. Although we do not have pets or horses it gave us valuable insights and awareness that a written and practised fire plan is paramount.
- First aid kit. Practising for the situation not in the situation, and where to go to find out more information.
- The saving of animals so I feel that the job of every good operations staff or officers should have a plan to save animals if able to.
- The talks were interesting, but as I do not own a horse, they were only slightly relevant to me.
- First-hand knowledge from the panel (Andrew & Kirrilly) with regard to dealing with a bushfire and horses. Veterinary insight for first 48hr medical attention. General awareness NOW not when the bushfire is upon us.
- First aid for horses, identification of horses by microchip/phone numbers. If you do evacuate working out how the evacuation centre will operate, feeding & water.
- Info about what to expect during a fire, the need to practise loading in the dark, what to have ready beforehand. All of it!!!
- I am not a horse owner but I thought the information provided in preparing to protect your horse was applicable to general property preparation.
- 177 It was all absolutely fantastic. Great speakers from great backgrounds. Very informative. Hearing life experiences was insightful.
- 78 Bushfire behavior considerations.
- 79 Removing horse blankets.
- 80 Veterinary advice for post fire care.
- 81 Practical advice and tips.
- Be prepared. Don't wait till it's too late.

83	Andrew McLean's experience that horses will live together under stress in a confined area for a significant period. Chris's details about where horses are most likely to get burnt. Make sure horses float in the dark. Evacuation of horses takes planning and is tiring There is nowhere to evacuate horse to that is satisfactory in Nillumbik.