

Reducing risks for people and houses



Feedback Survey

Q11: What actions will you take as a result of this webinar to improve your bushfire safety?

Summary

Residents in Yarra Ranges communities are motivated to connect with the Bushfire and Fire Behaviour experts from BRI, aiming to gather vital information and resources for bushfire preparedness. Practical steps include reviewing house preparation, cleaning up debris, exploring water access, and removing flammable materials. The initiative to disseminate webinar access links to community groups enhances information sharing. Plans for practising fire drills, securing gas cylinders, and updating sprinkler systems are underway. Overall, the focus is on proactive planning, readiness, and community empowerment to maximize safety in potential bushfire events.

Detailed audience responses

- 1 I will be doing all I can to get as many residents in our Yarra Ranges communities connected and registered with BRI as I believe your community group have gathered the most informed Bushfire and Fire Behaviour experts and practitioners who provide highly informed, relevant, timely, accessible and practical information and resources that will help our residents and communities be more aware, knowledgeable, prepared, able and committed to planning, preparing and responding to potential bushfire (and actual) bushfire events. I believe BRI combined with local CFA Brigade info and knowledge and community engagement will work together to enable and empower our residents and communities to be more proactive and responsible for ensuring and maximizing their safety and readiness for bushfire events
- 2 Review preparation on the leeward side of the house. Spend some think time re the association of forest fire and relation to a grass fire.
- 3 Get grass and tree litter cleaned up. Explore water access to fire front and leeward side of the house.
- 4 Remove debris/mulch from around the house and out buildings. Replant with bushfire resilient trees
- 5 Start pruning the plants that will get away from me. Keep sending webinar access links to my Fireguard Group -it's such a big improvement in the disseminating of 'fire' information, rather than trying to get neighbours to attend mid week, early evening sessions (they get home late, have responsibilities to family, then not easy to find babysitters), it became an impossible situation! Many thanks to Malcolm Hackett- it is just the best initiative.
- 6 Keep clearing burnables away from close to the house. Also I won't put dry mulch on my garden beds. I've just spread old composted damp mulch on gardens to retain moisture. I'll need to provide water to garden beds to lessen the risk this summer.
- 7 Showing others in workshops this weekend and encouraging people to join your webinars and network. Sitting with my son & daughter-in-law and creating plan and doing preparations actions on their vulnerable property ASAP.
- 8 Practise car sheltering. Create an information sheet so all car users understand the recycle settings and not to use the air con settings.

- 9 It made me rethink the position of building my planned studio and replacing poly pipe with steel. It confirmed my trust in the type of sprinklers my husband has on the perimeter of where our bush meets our cleared areas. I now want a bigger firefighting dedicated water tank and we will look more into having sprinklers facing the house, as well as the ones already on the roof.
- 10 My house sprinkler system uses irrigation sprinklers mounted under gutters. The recommendation last night was for impact sprinklers. I will do a partial update to determine there is adequate water pressure for an update to impact sprinklers. Have sprinklers system under floor which will also be reviewed.
- 11 Clean up around house during September. Clear bark litter under trees. Rake up leaves. Ensure any tree branches close to house are pruned back. Maintain stocking rates in paddocks to keep grass short coming into summer. Continue to maintain clean spouting around house. Ensure fire safe packs are ready for use. i.e. clothing, footwear, wool blankets, water bottles etc. Ensure all hoses around house are connected ready to use. Mops & buckets are situated round house. Have car ready to leave if needed.
- 12 Tell others what was covered (I have Landcare workshops coming up) and share your webinar website and face book pages and get together with my son and daughter in law to plan our house and family plans.
- 13 Better planning around me house and using the information within the workplace.
- 14 I will secure gas bottles in an open space, with their vents positioned away from flammable material.
- 15 Ensure I've packed everything important or necessary to me for at least a few days, ensuring my medications and scripts are easily found. Keep listening and watching for any developing fires around the state, not just within 20km of our house. Book a hotel for the following night. Get up early on the trigger fire danger day, eat, close up the house and leave by 8am at least. House preparation and practising our fire plan will be done regularly up to these trigger days.
- 16 Plan and practise escape route. Prepare area and clear ground to park car at safe distance but reachable from house. Work on house exit strategies. Buy new powerful torch
- 17 We will watch it again and review aspects of our fire plan and we will put on all of our fire ready gear when we practise our plan.
- 18 Try to minimise wood chip mulch & garden beds too close to house. Also revised personal strategy to now leave in advance on days of catastrophic fire ratings.
- 19 Review plan, practise plan and talk to neighbours.
- 20 As a firefighter, have long been cognizant of the need to prepare etc. Think the webinar recordings will be good to present to Brigade members and the general public e.g. Get Ready Day coming up.
- 21 Finding a suitable spot and installing a star picket and chain for the gas bottle!
- 22 Reviewing household plan, identifying alternate places on property to shelter, reviewing PPE, purchasing and installing heavy droplet sprinklers for areas around house.
- 23 Discuss with partner plan for last minute escape options, chaining gas cylinders away from house in preparation period, sprinklers, fire retardant paint as interim measure.
- 24 Reassess danger of embers near my house and organize professional roof inspection to check on sealing of roof and gutters.
- 25 Looking into how to better safeguard our property and house; be better equipped with clothing etc prior to any emergency, have contingency plans in place and practise them.

- 26 Check CFA Plant Guide as to vegetation close to house & look at my gardens as to flammable mulching material. Talk to neighbours to have their trees pruned, practise the plan, have plan B and Plan C. Check building regulations AS 3959 to reduce risk.
- 27 Will be finding plugs for our downpipes and having a careful practice to fill them.
- 28 Make sure bushes are away from the house! Make sure under the house is free from clutter and leaves. Plan, Plan and Plan some more with family members who are new to living with me and have clear guidelines of what we as a group will do. And be reminded that the unexpected will most certainly happen! I'm going to have my fire boxes by the back door by the end of September at the latest. Last time I took way too long but I will pack my air purifier, meds, etc etc
- 29 Practise my escape plan a few times and do it blindfolded at least once.
- 30 I will be buying in water to maintain green grass around the house.
- 31 In any case my hubby and I intend to "leave early"! and hope our insurance will cover any loss should that occur.
- 32 I have been considering a 'Blaze Control type' mister system along the north of the home but now am considering impact sprinklers facing the house instead.
- 33 I live on a road which is basically one way in and one way out, so I would always evacuate if it was recommended but would try to saturate the ground around the house prior to leaving. My house is well sealed.
- 34 Use the information from this webinar and re-evaluate what we do going forward.
- 35 More sealing of areas outside. Practising our protection strategies and escape.
- 36 More mowing.
- 37 Using Fireshell on my deck and bricking it up underneath, using fireshell on timbers on my house, ember guards on gutters.
- 38 Devote more attention to removing possible sources of house ignition from my yard areas.
- 39 Practise our action plan.
- 40 Being mindful of residing in a bushfire prone area. Trying, to address and maintain the property on an ongoing basis.
- 41 Remain informed.
- 42 Keep the yard mowed and maintained, Nothing stored under the house. Use a large dropper consistent sprinkler system.
- 43 Review conditions of house for withstanding ember attack. Review garden layout around property. Review fire pump setup. Plan, plan, plan, and exercise plan.
- 44 Discussing bushfire plan with family.
- 45 Check out last year's webinars - as referred to by Justin.
- 46 Keep doing what I normally do to reduce the fire risk to my home.
- 47 Plug a few gaps.
- 48 More of the same. Another close check.
- 49 A lot of cleaning up. Reviewing the fire plan and bushfire box. Getting our generator fixed.

- 50 Changes to my action plan.
- 51 I will expand the area now under gravel and pebbles to include the entire surrounds of the house and the car parking area.
- 52 Assess items around the home and how they are stored.
- 53 Review, update and test my action plan in detail.
- 54 Ember protection- 2mm gaps will be identified and sealed, pruning 2m from house and windows.
- 55 Continue improving the household and personal resilience.
- 56 Set up irrigation sprinkler, assess ember entry points, memorize escape routes, reduce bush fuel.
- 57 I have done most of this stuff already. However, the personal info was good.
- 58 Add actions that we need to take to our bushfire plan.
- 59 Attempt to seal more openings in the house from ember attack.
- 60 Conduct trial exercises for important aspects of preparation (e.g. irrigating sprays pumps filling spouts) leaving in an emergency.
- 61 Do more work around our garden and outdoor area.
- 62 Review our plans and house/landscape.
- 63 Alter bushfire preparations in accordance with new information.
- 64 Get more involved in planning and CSC activities.
- 65 Look at tree appropriate for area. Discuss survival strategies with family.
- 66 Practise many of the suggestions and think about more scenarios.
- 67 Review if valves can be fitted to downpipes.
- 68 Watch the active defending webinar from 2021. Revisit our plan C D & E for what we will do if we can't leave early.
- 69 Will not take any additional action than what we usually do. We have lived in a bushfire area for over 50 years and have survived two Ash Wednesday fires.
- 70 Leave early.
- 72 It gives reminders to me and also assists in the work I do in assisting others to plan for the fire season.
- 73 Update the sprinkler system.
- 74 Discuss our plan with all in the house.
- 75 Start to look at ember entry points. Plan future constructions, retaining walls etc for lower flammability.
- 76 Checking my home and organizing a plan in case of fire.
- 77 Develop and practise a bushfire action plan.

