



## **BRAG Update**

*Burning, Firebreaks and Preparing for Summer.*

### **IN CASE OF FIRE CALL 000**

**Burning Restrictions Apply  
1 October 2006 to 30 November 2006.**

**Firebreaks are a legal requirement  
and must be installed by  
2 November 2006**

As I am sure you are all aware this winter has been quite mild and dry and although crops and paddocks have not experienced normal growth the loads of dry fuels are already high and will only increase as the warmer weather approaches.

Now is the time each resident and landowner should be active in ensuring their property is prepared for summer. Much of this preparation could be consider general tidying up of gardens and areas around the house that are overgrown, trees with fallen branches or where leaf litter has accumulated. When you are planning your clean up remember that the recommended safe distance around your home and other buildings is 20 meters so as well as cutting the lawns and trimming weeds cast a wider eye to ensure this area is also well prepared.

Burning restrictions have already commenced however should you have a need to burn as part of your summer preparations please contact your local volunteer brigade to discuss your plans and obtain a permit.

#### **East Gidgegannup**

Permits issued Saturday Mornings 8.30 to 10.30 at the Fire Station. 9574 6000

#### **West Gidgegannup**

Permit enquiries call 9574 6536

**Did you know?**

**The fastest way to get your local volunteers to attend a Fire in Gidgegannup is to call 000.**

Response to fire emergencies in Gidgegannup is provided by the volunteers of East and West Gidgegannup Brigades. Volunteer Brigades are supported by the City of Swan and FESA.

FESA's communications centre, which handles all emergency fire calls for Western Australia, direct all 000 calls to the rostered volunteers by both pager and SMS. As the brigade members are volunteers pagers and SMS allow for normal activities to be undertaken until they are needed.

During the Spring, Summer and Autumn months crews are rostered at weekends to ensure rapid response and during the week standby teams are made up of volunteers who work in the area or are at home and available.

When you call 000 FESA Communications will activate pagers/SMS for the Brigade and the designated crews will turnout to investigate and attend to the emergency. If needed more crews can be called from neighbouring brigades in the City of Swan and, for larger incidents, neighbouring Shires.

**New to the area or would like some assistance with summer preparations?**

BRAG is a program is being presented by Volunteers from East and West Gidgegannup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades and whether you are a long term resident/landowner or new to Gidgegannup this program can help you with the things you need to know including the How, Why and When of Bushfires and your preparedness for the Bushfire season.

For more information please contact:

To receive information updates by email please send your contact details to [david.cole@focused.com.au](mailto:david.cole@focused.com.au)

To find out more about BRAG please contact your local BRAG Coordinator listed below.

#### **East Gidgegannup**

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#### **West Gidgegannup**

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## **What is BRAG?**

The Bushfire Ready Action Group (BRAG) program is about local residents working together to prepare their properties and street for bush fires. Through BRAG you and your neighbours can learn about the fire risks in your area and what you can do to reduce those risks, either individually or as a group.

The aim of the BRAG program is to:

- Raise awareness of bush fire hazards.
- Provide information on bush fire behaviour and preparedness strategies.
- Reduce fire risks around the home, streets and immediate surrounding bushland.
- Give a realistic expectation of what the emergency services are capable of during a bush fire.

Groups are supported by the local Fire Services personnel (including Gidgegannup Volunteers) and are coordinated by a trained volunteer BRAG facilitator.

BRAG is flexible and community driven. Each BRAG group is unique and self governed with members deciding when, where and how often they meet and what components of the program they wish to use.

There are many benefits of forming or joining a BRAG group. Some of the more obvious ones include:

- Learning how to prepare and protect your family and property from bush fire and prepare your very own survival plan.
- Providing opportunities to meet neighbours and develop support networks.
- Reducing the cost bush fire has on life, property and the environment.

## **What is covered by BRAG?**

Some or all of the following components can be covered by BRAG:

- Bush fire awareness and preparedness training.
- Making plans to care for the elderly, disabled or other less able-bodied people in the event of fire.
- Nominating a safe house in the street for others to shelter in.
- Developing phone trees to improve the chances of receiving adequate warning of fire.
- Organising street walks so that neighbours become familiar with each others firefighting equipment and how to use it.
- Developing and undertaking passive and active fire prevention strategies to protect life and property from bush fire.
- Bush fire survival training in the event you are trapped in your home, in a car or on foot during a bush fire incident.

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