

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.
Community meeting
Wednesday 17 March 2010 at 7.00pm
Gidgegannup Fire Station

Things may have eased off a bit on the fire front but the need to be prepared remains. This time last year we were impacted by the severity of fires in Victoria. Since November the threat became real on our own doorstep with fires in Gidgegannup and for our closest neighbours in Toodyay and Brigadoon; these have not been the only incidents.

Even small incidents can have a serious impact on the community, its residents and their properties. Being appropriately prepared is the most effective way that we can minimise this risk. Your preparations need to be in place now.

Will you prepare to actively defend or will you leave for a safer place? When is it best to leave? What if your plan is to actively defend but you can't return home to implement the plan? What if you plan to leave but it is no longer safe to leave? How do you even know if there is a fire that puts your property at risk?

Working together in small groups and as a community will ensure that any fire emergencies can be dealt with swiftly and without serious loss of lives or property.

A number of residents in Gidgegannup have formed Bushfire Ready Groups and are working together on plans for their streets and immediate neighbours. Both the East and West Gidgegannup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades have trained and experienced facilitators willing to assist groups of residents in their preparations and to:

- Ø Raise awareness of bush fire hazards
- Ø Provide information on bush fire behaviour and available preparedness strategies
- Ø Reduce the fire risks around the home, streets and surrounding area
- Ø Provide a realistic expectation on what emergency services are capable of during a bush fire
- Ø Provide an opportunity to meet neighbours and develop support networks
- Ø Reduce the cost of bush fire on life, property, the environment and emergency services

All residents are encouraged to discuss bush fire prevention within their household and with their neighbours. Groups, and individuals, can then contact the brigades (see details below) and have a facilitator work with the group providing support with risk assessment, planning and education for individual properties, streets and areas.

Our next community meeting will focus on more detailed issues relating to Bushfires and Bushfire Ready Action Groups. Topics to be covered in March include:

- **Early warning systems & staying informed**
- **Experiencing a Bushfire**
- **Bushfire behaviour**
- **How houses burn**

As in the past there will be plenty of time for questions.

We welcome everyone to attend this meeting to learn more about how best to be prepared and enjoy the hills lifestyle in safety.

As a minimum each family and property should obtain a copy of FESA's publication "**Prepare Act Survive**" and work through the information and planning checklists provided. The A4 booklet can be requested from our coordinators or as a download from www.fesa.wa.gov.au

For more information or to arrange a facilitator to address your Group please contact your local Bushfire Ready Group Coordinators:

East Gidgegannup	West Gidgegannup
David Cole	John Mangini
Phone: 0409 746 425	0427 770 003
Email: david.cole@focused.com.au	
Email: john.mangini@bigpond.com	

Help us spread the message - Please circulate this notice to everyone you know in Gidgegannup.

To be added to the Bushfire Ready Group mailing list please send an email request to david.cole@focused.com.au

(To be removed from the list please reply to this email with REMOVE in the subject line).

Be safe this season– **PREPARE ACT SURVIVE.**

David Cole
BRG Coordinator
Volunteer Fire Fighter

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

To report a fire Dial 000

For online alerts and RSS Feeds go to
<http://www.fesa.wa.gov.au/internet/Alerts/default.aspx>

For emergency updates call 1300 657 209

Tune your AM Radio to 720 for updates at 20 minutes past and 20 minutes to the hour, or more frequently for severe emergencies.