

29 Dec 2024

SUMMARY FOR FLINDERS CFA PUBLIC MEETING

Establish how to receive local fire warnings & if things deteriorate check very regularly to monitor conditions, updates & warnings.

If a fire starts near you, **take action immediately** to protect your family.

GET PREPARED

Rehearse your plan with anyone in your home and agree your evacuation trigger.

Apart from preparing your property, prepare an Emergency Survival Kit that includes:

- torch
- radio
- spare batteries and portable power bank
- drinking water
- woollen blanket (keep it dry if sheltering under it), and
- first aid kit.

Be ready to quickly add medications, toiletries, phone with charger, wallet, special dietary & other needs, valuables, important documents, photos & your pets. **A checklist is valuable in case things get chaotic and scary.**

BE READY TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY WHEN YOU REACH THE PRE-AGREED EVACUATION TRIGGER POINT

STAY INFORMED AND GET READY

Keep your radio/TV/phone on at all times, and keep in touch with neighbours/locals & share information. If it looks possible that you may need to evacuate :

- Make sure your batteries and energy pack are fully charged.
- Have your car checked and loaded and pointing out of the driveway.
- Ensure your pets can be loaded quickly and calmly
- **Download the VicEmergency app** now so you know how it works. Set up tailored watch zones for your home.
- Use multiple sources to monitor warnings; ABC local radio, commercial TV, the VicEmergency App. emergency.vic.gov.au and VicEmergency on 1800 226 226.
- Flinders CFA will also try to keep you updated on (very) local dangers by email and text as well as triggering an "Emergency Warning" to your mobile.

Do not wait for a warning!

Conditions may well get chaotic and really scary - very, very quickly. You may only have a few minutes to exit your property, and the public roads will likely quickly turn very dangerous, with heavy traffic in dense smoke ie **LEAVE EARLY**

WHEN LEAVING REMEMBER TO :

* tell people what you are doing and where you are going

- * Turn off any gas cylinders & keep them upright. It is really important to also rotate the cylinder so the nozzle is pointing away from the house (if a fire hits your house the cylinder will heat up and likely vent, and you certainly don't want the blazing gas stream pointing at your property)
- * turn on your (lawn) sprinklers nearest the fire front, and leave them on
- * Take spare clothes – you could be away for some time
- * Wear proper clothes and leather shoes, **not** shorts, t-shirts & thongs. Do not wear synthetics as they can melt on your skin.

Tell people what your plans are.

Things to think about: what will you do **if your car won't start, roads are blocked, the phones don't work, the wind changes direction**, someone is **hurt** or people aren't where you expect them to be? Plan for all eventualities.

We will do our best, but **you cannot rely on a fire truck turning up.**

Staying and defending your block

You will need:

- a non-electric pump and long (preferably) canvas hoses.
- At least two fit adults
- over 10,000 litres of water
- proper equipment and clothing that covers most of you.

Let the local CFA and neighbors know your plans. Prepare to lose all communications, electricity and town water.

You must not rely on a fire truck turning up.

- Finish all preparations, and test your equipment & water supply.
- Deeply soak your lawns and garden beds.
- Put mats, outdoor furniture etc inside.
- Check your car works (and have it pointing towards the exit), and load up your emergency travel kit & valuables.
- Ensure your animals are organised & nearby.

IF YOU DELAY IT TOO LONG

- If living in or near the village & believe you are in imminent danger, and are unable to go to your planned destination, remember to "GO TWO STREETS BACK". If that is not possible, **only then** go immediately to the **Bushfire Neighbourhood Safer Place**.
- This is in **Cook Street**, outside Flinders General Store.
- Do **not** go the beach unless you have no other option.
- Wherever you go, **let people know where you are.**
- **If you live on a bush block**, it is most unlikely you will be able to get to the village when the fire is about to hit.
- If caught on your property, go to a **downstairs** room on the opposite side of the house to the approaching fire front.
- Ideally it should have **small windows & at least two exits**. Never the bathroom.
- Make sure you are appropriately dressed with leather shoes, have masks and woollen blankets - but **never** wet them - and buckets of water.
- Ensure your emergency kit is with you.

Tell as many people as possible about your situation.

If any questions or concerns, or if you need us to assist in your preparation, please **text** me on 0416 178 547 or email to davidm869@gmail.com or contact **Odilia Ross** on 0419 546 436

All the best
David Marshall
2nd Lt. & CSO
Flinders CFA

If you no longer wish to receive this email, simply reply "unsubscribe". If you know of anybody who would like to receive these CFA updates, just ask them to email or text me.