



# **SA Country Basketball Emergency Response Plan – Bush Fires**

January 2020

This plan is activated when a BUSH FIRE is declared and the level of risk to personal safety, property or environment is an immediate risk with the potential to escalate. This plan relates to the response of staff, players and officials to a critical incident and supports the Emergency Management Plan attached (EMP) of SA Country Basketball.

SA Country Associations, associated tournaments and events are often located in regional country areas. In recent years extended dry spells and extreme weather conditions have seen high curing<sup>1</sup> rates which can exacerbate fire danger potential as represented by frequently High Fire Danger Index (FDI)<sup>2</sup>.

## **IMMEDIATE ACTIONS:**

### **ALERT PHASE**

During a bush fire, ALERT levels are used to give people an indication of the level of threat from a fire.

During the BUSH FIRE season all staff, volunteers and officials should remain alert for the potential for BUSH FIRE impacting upon SA Country Associations, the location of associated tournaments, events and/or surrounding community.

Remember – don't wait for a warning. Some fires start and spread quickly there may not be time for a warning. If you receive a BUSH FIRE ALERT, you must take it seriously. Failure to act can result in death or injury to you or others.

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<sup>1</sup> Curing is the process in which grasses die or become dormant and dry out. Curing is measured as the percentage of dead material in a grassland.

<sup>2</sup> A fire danger index of between 12 and 25 on the index is generally considered a "high" degree of danger, while a day having a danger index of over 50 is considered a "severe" fire danger rating.

## ALERTS

Generally across states there are three levels of BUSH FIRE ALERTS



### Advice

A fire has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.



### Watch and Act

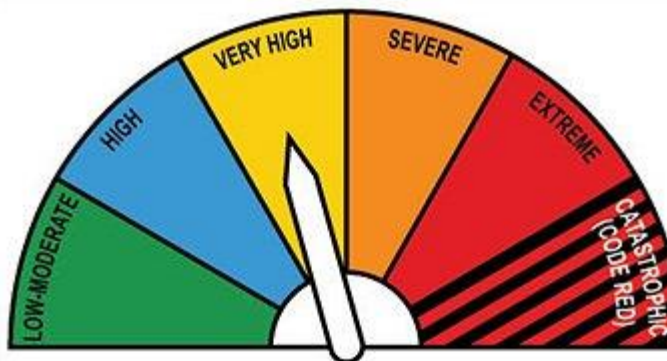
There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to act now to protect you and others.



### Emergency Warning

An Emergency Warning is the highest level of BUSH FIRE ALERT. You may be in danger and need to act immediately. Any delay now puts yours and others lives at risk.

FIRE DANGER RATINGS are rated as low as LOW-MODERATE, HIGH, VERY HIGH, EXTREME or CATASTROPHIC for the area potential of BUSH FIRE within the area.



## EVACUATION OR STAY

BUSH FIRE conditions can create a danger to life and/or property, this may from direct heat or from by products such as smoke and poor air quality.

Following consultation with the relevant agencies (Country/Metro Fire Service (CFS/MFS), State Emergency Services (SES) and Police) the level of response may be escalated to Evacuation by the Chief Warden (or appropriate authority).

BUSH FIRE activity may be such that it is more dangerous to evacuate than stay. If the facility/location is under immediate threat, follow directions from the Chief Fire Warden (or appropriate authority) and relevant agencies.

## EVACUATION

The decision to evacuate a facility/location will be made in direct consultation with the Chief Warden (or appropriate authority) and the relevant agencies (CFS, MFS, SES and Police).

There will be **many factors that will influence the decision to evacuate**, they include the following:

- Location of the BUSH FIRE in relation to our location
- Road access and road closures (actual or potential)
  - SA [www.traffic.sa.gov.au](http://www.traffic.sa.gov.au)
  - NSW [www.livetraffic.com](http://www.livetraffic.com)
  - VIC [www.traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au)
- FIRE DANGER RATING
- Predicted weather conditions [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)
- Current BUSH FIRE ALERT
- Availability of transport
- Availability and reliability of essential services (water and power supply)
- Advice of emergency services (CFS, MFS, SES and Police) through the media

### Information sources include:

- SA Country Fire Service (CFS) including FIRE DANGER RATINGS [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)
- SA State Emergency Services [www.ses.sa.gov.au](http://www.ses.sa.gov.au)
- SA Police (SAPOL) [www.police.sa.gov.au](http://www.police.sa.gov.au)
- NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) including FIRE DANGER RATINGS [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)
- NSW State Emergency Services [www.ses.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au)
- NSW Police [www.police.nsw.gov.au](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au)
- VIC Country Fire Authority (CFA) including FIRE DANGER RATINGS [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)
- VIC State Emergency Services [www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au)
- VIC Police [www.police.vic.gov.au](http://www.police.vic.gov.au)
- Radio, local ABC/Emergency broadcaster frequency, TV, newspapers
- Social media Facebook, Twitter etc.

NOTE: The order to evacuate may come direct from the Local or District Operations Emergency Controller (LEOCON/DEOCON).

Each area or location may have a **different threat level** depending on the surrounding environment, for example;

### **Areas surrounded by bush**

What to expect:

Fires in dense bush land can be very hot, intense and fast moving. Embers may be blown from the bush, landing on property and starting spot fires or setting fire to a property. Embers may lay and burn for many hours, even after the main fire front has passed. Smoke and fire may affect roads, making it difficult to leave. The radiant heat from the fire nearby may set fire to buildings or surrounds.

### **Grassland or paddocks**

What to expect:

Grass fires can start easily and spread quickly, not only destroying buildings but crops and endangering livestock. Grass fires are very hot and can produce huge amounts of heat which can kill anyone out in the open. As grass dries out and cures, it can catch fire more easily. Fires in tall grass have tall flames that may burn across trails, roads or fire breaks. Grass fires can move much faster than a BUSH FIRE, catching people unaware.

### **Where bush or grass land meets built up areas**

What to expect:

Fires can spread quickly from parks and reserves, threatening buildings, fences or gardens. Thick smoke from the fire might make it difficult to see or breathe. Even if you are located some distance from the bush, you are at risk from ember attack.

### **Neighbourhood safer places (NSP)**



NSP's are a place of last resort during a BUSH FIRE emergency. They are to be used when all other options in your BUSH FIRE survival plan can't be implemented safely.

You should be aware of any NSP's in your area. You should know how to get there, as well as alternate routes in case the road is blocked or too dangerous to drive on.

Not all areas have an NPS. If there is no NPS in your area, you should identify other safe locations you can go to as a last resort. This might include a nearby building which is well prepared, or an oval away from the bush.

An NPS is designed as a place of last resort in BUSH FIRE emergencies only. Please note travelling to or sheltering at an NPS does not guarantee you safety.

### **PROTECT THE LIFE OF OTHERS**

Ring '000'

Alert others in your immediate area/location to the danger, and act together for the benefit of everyone. Try to identify the safest escape route.

### **STAND DOWN**

Once the threat to people and property is no longer deemed high risk, and following consultation with the appropriate agencies (refer to above list), the Chief Fire Warden will decide to return the facility. In the event the facility or surrounding area has been affected by BUSH FIRE it may be necessary to have a full site evaluation completed prior to returning to the area. This may include consultation with the relevant agencies.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN – BUSH FIRE

Give directions in accordance with alert level



### Advice

A fire has started, there is no immediate danger, remain where you are, Managers to keep you up to date with developments.



### Watch and act

There is a potential threat to us in the immediate area, the fire is approaching, conditions are changing, we need to act now to protect ourselves – prepare (review bush fire survival plan) leave early on advice of the Manager.



### Emergency warning

The fire is burning out of control under very high catastrophic weather conditions, we are in danger, we need to act immediately, we will be impacted by fire, we may receive an emergency message on our mobile phones, evacuate on advice of the Manager.

### Evacuation

Direction given by the Manager to meet at the designated evacuation location (the nearest NSP).

Ensure you are aware of road closures before departing, take the most direct route to the designated evacuation location.

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## Bushfire Information Hotline

- **SA 1800 362 361**
- **NSW 1800 679 737**
- **VIC 1800 226 226**

**The frequency of our local ABC and /or other radio station broadcasting emergency warnings and information:**

**Other ways we will stay informed:** AM or FM radio if no mobile or internet coverage

**Our nearest NSP:**

## Albury LGA Neighbourhood Safer Places

| Title                               | Type       | Location                                    | LGA    |
|-------------------------------------|------------|---|--------|
| Queen Elizabeth II Square           | Open Space | Dean Street, Albury                         | Albury |
| Alexandra Park                      | Open Space | Cnr Keene Street and North Street, Albury   | Albury |
| Bunton Park                         | Open Space | Alemein Avenue, North Albury                | Albury |
| Urana Road Oval                     | Open Space | Urana Road, Lavington                       | Albury |
| Springdale Heights Baseball Diamond | Open Space | Cardo Drive, Springdale Heights             | Albury |
| Table Top NSW RFS Station           | Building   | Burma Road, Table Top                       | Albury |
| Ernest Grant Park                   | Open Space | Cnr Bogong Street & Thurgoona Drive, Albury | Albury |
| Lavington Oval                      | Open Space | Cnr Hanna Road and Centaur Road, Lavington  | Albury |
| Splitters Creek Community Centre    | Building   | Splitters Creek Road, Splitters Creek       | Albury |
| Hume Dam                            | Open Space | Murray Street, Lake Hume Village            | Albury |



# Pre-bush fire checklists

Before the bushfire, it's important to prepare ourselves.

## Preparing our kits

### General Items - location of kit:

#### CFS Recommends:

- ☐ Battery powered AM/FM radio plus spare batteries
- ☐ Waterproof torch
- ☐ Blankets
- ☐ Clothing to protect you during a bushfire (see below)
- ☒ First aid kit (provided by SACBCI)

- ☒ Emergency contact numbers (provided by SACBCI)

#### We will also add

- ☐
- ☐

### Before we leave, we will add:

#### CFS Recommends:

- ☒ Money, key cards and credit cards
- ☒ Medications (critical), toiletries and sanitary supplies
- ☒ Special requirements for injured, or those with a medical condition
- ☒ Important documents (e.g. some form of ID) and valuables
- ☒ Drinking water (three litres per person per

day) and food for at least 72 hours

- ☐ A change of clothes
- ☒ Mobile phone & charger
- ☐ Blankets

#### We will also add

- ☐
- ☐

### Clothing - located:

#### CFS Recommends everyone has /wears:

- ☒ Natural fabrics such as cotton, denim or wool (synthetics can melt or burn).
- ☒ A long-sleeved shirt to prevent burns to the upper body and arms.
- ☐ A pair of heavy cotton pants or overalls to shield your legs.
- ☐ Sturdy leather boots and a pair of wool socks to prevent burns to the feet.
- ☐ A wide brimmed hat to stop embers from dropping on your head or down your back.
- ☐ Work gloves to protect your hands.
- ☐ A pair of goggles to safeguard your eyes against smoke, embers and debris in the air.
- ☒ A smoke mask or moist cloth to cover your nose and mouth to protect you from inhaling smoke and embers

Please note the air quality can be affected by smoke from bush fires please refer to the Environment Protection Agency (APA) for air quality levels:

- [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)
- P2 Face masks are recommended for protection from hazardous air quality as a result of bush fire smoke if fitted correctly.

# Leaving Early Plan

**It is recommended that we leave early if:**

- ☒ There is a **Catastrophic** Fire Danger Rating.
- ☒ There is an **Extreme** Fire Danger Rating

## We will follow this plan when:

The declared Fire Danger Rating is ☐ Very High ☐ Severe *(Total Fire Ban)* ☒ Extreme *(Total Fire Ban)*  
☒ Catastrophic *(Total Fire Ban)*

**Other triggers** Loss of water or power and the ability to leave safely

## When to go

Plan to leave early enough to avoid being caught in smoke, the fire or on congested roads. E.g. the night before or morning of a fire danger day, a fire in the area, the smell of smoke.

On advice of the Manager.

## Where we will go and how we will get there:

NSP's or equivalent places. Plan several routes in case of road closures, **please populate route.**

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>Location 1:</b> Queen Elizabeth II Square | <b>Route:</b> |
| <b>Location 2:</b> Alexandra Park            | <b>Route:</b> |
| <b>Location 3:</b> Bunton Park               | <b>Route:</b> |

## We will take:

Each person to prepare your emergency kit as well as anything else you might need such as medications or essential items.

## We will tell: (Before and after)

When to evacuate, the designated NSP, assist with direct route, ensure you have everyone in your team and officials with you.

On arrival at the NSP the Manager discuss the next phase of our evacuation.

## We will come back when:

The Manager will advise when the area is declared safe, when a lower Fire Danger Rating is released.

## Back-up plan if we don't get out before a fire:

The Manager will advise where we can go to shelter from the bush fire.

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN – BUSH FIRE

### Other notes:

Please listen to your Manager and follow their directions during an emergency they are best people that can assist you to remain safe.

The Communication Response Plan below flows both ways.

### COMMUNICATION RESPONSE PLAN

