



HUFF STUFF  
Newsletter  
Issue 11  
November 2016

Greetings everyone,

Thank you for all your welcome back messages. It was certainly an epic journey through the north of Spain! I managed to complete the whole walk (minus a train trip for 50km). I met so many people and made some lovely friends and am 5 kg lighter!

You will have seen the footage of the fires burning around NSW and experienced the fire weather conditions over the last few days – low humidity, north westerly winds and high temperatures. Now is the time to look at your property and remove anything that could be a fire hazard.

I was watching some footage on ABC News and there was a good example of how embers can cause house fires. A firefighter was putting out a fire that had taken hold in a gutter by a large ember. There was also some spotting from embers landing in the garden. Remember that ember attack causes the majority of damage so clean your gutters, rake away dead leaves and sticks, keep grass mown and prune any overhanging branches. It is also a good idea on High Fire Danger days to close all of your windows and bring any flammable items inside when you are going to be away from the house for any length of time. We all know that a fire can start anywhere at any time whether by natural or deliberate means.

Last week there was an 18 hectare hazard reduction (HR) in Megalong Valley. However, with weather conditions becoming more risky further HR's may be put off (again!). Remember to check on *Fires Near Me* on the RFS website or on your phone to stay in touch with what is going on.

I have included the information re Hazard Reductions from the RFS website to help you manage any adverse conditions that may occur during a HR.

## Hazard Reductions

Hazard reduction is just one way of preparing for bush fires – it doesn't remove the threat of fire, and it doesn't remove the need for you and your family to be prepared.

There are different types of hazard reduction including controlled burning, mechanical clearing like slashing undergrowth, or even reducing the ground fuel by hand.

You can see a list of planned hazard reduction burns below. This list may change at short notice depending on the weather at the time.

If there is a hazard reduction burn planned for your area, take the following steps:

- Keep doors and windows closed to prevent smoke entering homes
- Keep outdoor furniture under cover to prevent ember burns
- Retract pool covers to prevent ember damage
- Remove washing from clotheslines
- Ensure pets have a protected area
- Vehicles must slow down, keep windows up, turn headlights on
- Sightseers must keep away from burns for their own safety
- If you have asthma or a lung condition, reduce outdoor activities if smoke levels are high and if shortness of breath or coughing develops, take your reliever medicine or seek medical advice

For health information relating to smoke from bush fires and hazard reduction burning, [visit the NSW Health website](#) or [the Asthma Foundation](#).

*(From NSW Rural Fire Service website)*

The RFS also post proposed HRs on their website.

Last Saturday our brigade had a callout to 'an unknown fire' in Evans Lookout Rd. It turned out to be two campfires in the National Park. One had been left unattended and the other had people in attendance. Both fires had to be extinguished due to the windy conditions. The unattended fire had the potential to turn into something bigger so well done to whoever reported them. Do not hesitate to call 000 if you see a fire or smell smoke.

You are also encouraged to report people who toss cigarette butts out of their car windows. Details on how to do this can be found on the RFS website in a drop box under 'Fire Information'.

If you see anything suspicious, call Crimestoppers on 1300 888 000. The vigilance of community members resulted in people being arrested last week at the Llandilo fire.



Bush fire arson is a crime.

[https://youtu.be/KU8BM\\_sE-uM](https://youtu.be/KU8BM_sE-uM)

This link, from the RFS website will give you some ideas to help protect your home. I have included a checklist also found on the website.

Please look out for any neighbours who may need assistance preparing their properties. A working bee is a great way to build a connected street. Our brigade members are happy to do property assessments and assist with preparing a plan, and don't forget AIDER for those who you think may qualify.

## Prepare your home

A well prepared home is more likely to survive a bush fire.

Even if your plan is to leave early, the more you prepare your home, the more likely it will survive a bush fire or ember attack. A well prepared home can also be easier for you or firefighters to defend, and is less likely to put your neighbours' homes at risk. A well prepared home will also give you more protection if a fire threatens suddenly and you cannot leave.

Here are some basic maintenance tips to prepare your property:

- Clean your gutters of leaves and twigs
- Install metal gutter guards
- Repair damaged or missing tiles on the roof
- Install fine metal mesh screens on windows and doors
- Fit seals around doors and windows to eliminate gaps
- Enclose the areas under the house
- Repair or cover gaps in external walls
- Attach a fire sprinkler system to gutters
- Keep lawns short and gardens well maintained
- Cut back trees and shrubs overhanging buildings
- Clean up fallen leaves, twigs and debris around the property
- Have hoses long enough to reach around your house
- If you have a pool, tank or dam, put a Static Water Supply (SWS) sign on your property entrance, so firefighters know where they can get water
- Check and maintain adequate levels of home and contents insurance. Ensure it is up to date.  
*(from NSW RFS website)*

### From Simon at Cyber Shed

**“Learn to scan precious documents to keep them safe; learn mobile emergency alert apps; prepare a survival plan with My Fire Plan app on your Apple or Android phone”.**  
[See details next page.](#)

Stay safe and well.

Regards,  
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### KIDS

Arduino/coding classes \$10 per session  
Saturday mornings

Coming soon – phone for details

### WORKERS

smart desk hire \$25/day on Monday & Tuesday &  
Friday 9AM-3PM

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