



Yass River-Nanima Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

NEWSLETTER

December 2020

Message from the Captain and President

What a difference a year makes! This year we have had good spring rain. As the long grass dries as summer progresses the risk of fast-moving grass fires is very high this year. Please be sure to remove fuel load from around your house and farm assets, including keeping the grass short.

If you see a fire please call 000 as soon as possible so that the RFS brigades have the best chance to stop the fire spreading. There is information below about an updated Emergency app and the new Warning levels being introduced nationwide.

If you have any queries for the Yass River brigade our number is 02 6100 6252 and our website is at www.yassriverbfb.org .

We are very proud that thirty-four members of our brigade are to receive a Premier's Citation for their efforts fighting the bushfires last summer. The awards will be presented at a ceremony in December. Congratulations to all our hard-working brigade members.

We hope that everyone has their fire plans and their properties prepared for the Bush Fire Danger Period. There is a wealth of useful information to assist you, and our brigade website is a good place to start: <https://yassriverbfb.org/preparing-a-fireplan/>.

Stuart Burrows, Captain, and Peter Clark, President

December fire-fighting training

Fire-fighting training will be held at 6.30pm on December 8 at the brigade's fire-shed. Training will be on "moving water" using trucks, portable pumps and the quickfill trailer. Full PPE is recommended if you have it. Further information is available on our website at <https://yassriverbfb.org/event/december-fire-fighting-training/> .

Due to COVID-19 restrictions everyone will need to register when they arrive, practice distancing and appropriate hygiene practices and remain home if feeling unwell. Unfortunately, there will be no post-training BBQ. If you can't scan the QR code on our fire-shed door on your phone when you arrive then you will need to manually enter your details using <https://form.jotform.com/NSWRFS/covidcheckin/>

Subject to further outbreaks of COVID-19 we plan to have training on the second Tuesday of each month during the Bushfire Danger Period. Information about future training sessions will be provided before each session.

Kylie Eggins, Training Officer

New emergency app now available to help provide location details

Our region is predicted to experience increased fire danger risk this year due to higher grass fuel loads that can make fires hotter, more dangerous, and harder to put out.

In these conditions, being able to alert emergency services promptly is important. The Emergency+ app is a free app developed by Australia's emergency services and their Government and industry partners. The app uses GPS functionality built into smart phones to help a 000 caller provide critical location details required to mobilise emergency services. It can be downloaded from <https://emergencyapp.triplezero.gov.au>.

It is also important to reduce the fuel load around your house and other farm assets, including keeping the grass short.

Stuart Burrows, Captain

New emergency warning system

The Australian Warning System is a new national approach to information and warnings during emergencies and natural disasters like bush fire, flood, storm, extreme heat and severe weather. The System uses a nationally consistent set of icons to show incidents on website and apps.

As part of a new Australian Warning System, the way the NSW RFS display incidents on their website and app is changing.

From early December, the icons shown on Fires Near Me and the RFS website will be as follows.



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 start taking action now to protect you and your family.



Emergency Warning

An Emergency Warning is the highest level of Bush Fire Alert. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

When these incidents are shown, there may be detailed information about what to do to protect you and your family.

More information is available at

<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/general-news/australian-warnings-system>

Neville McMartin, Equipment Officer

Message for active brigade members

We would like to record which active brigade members have first aid qualifications that are up to date. Please email Kylie (training@yassriverbfb.org) if you have current first aid qualifications through your workplace and when they are due to be refreshed.

We request that all active members check regularly that their fire-fighting PPE is still current and fit for purpose, especially items like boots and helmets. If you detect any issues with your PPE please bring the item to a training session to be checked.

We also request that members check that they are not using the old 'deputyx@...' email addresses. These are no longer monitored and were replaced by Neville last year by addresses of the form `firstname.deputy@` format (eg neville.deputy@yassri..). Please use the new format email addresses when emailing brigade deputies.

Stuart Burrows, Captain