

## TRAVELLING DURING BUSHFIRE SEASON



### Facilitator Activity Information Sheet

#### Key Messages

- Check with if the Local Government has declared a Total Fire Ban or a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban for the area;
- Be prepared to change your travel plans on hot, dry and windy days Find out the local ABC radio frequency so you can receive up to date information during a major emergency.
- Find out the most up to date Fire Danger Rating (DFES or BOM website)
- If you are travelling during bushfire season, to a high risk area it's important that you prepare ahead, in case a bushfire occurs;
- Make sure you have a map of the area you are travelling and are aware of the surroundings; and
- Pack a bushfire survival kit containing essential items in case of a bushfire

#### Research on Topic

The DFES (1) 'Travellers Checklist' publication advises that it is important that people travelling during bushfire season, prepare ahead, in case a bushfire occurs. This includes having a map of the area they are travelling to and being aware of the surroundings.

The AFAC (2) 'Guidelines for People in Cars during brushfires' (2008) advises that 'People should reconsider journeys into areas where the fire danger is high to extreme. They should pay attention to fire danger warnings, postponing journeys or finding alternative safe routes if necessary'. It also recommends that people carry a supply of water on journeys and keep woollen blankets in their car.

#### Activity Ideas

##### 1. 'Pack your Bushfire Survival Kit'

It is important that travellers pack a bushfire survival kit in case they are caught in a bushfire. This should include containing essential items such as an AM/FM portable radio, spare batteries, a first aid kit, drinking water and protective clothing.in case of a bushfire.



**Activity:** Have a number of items spread out over a table (at least 15). Encourage people to select 10 items they would need for their Travelling Bushfire Survival Kit (i.e. Maps, radio, water, blankets). Ask if there is anything else not included that they may need. Have a discussion about how these items could be useful while travelling.

It is important that people find out the most up to date Fire Danger Rating so they can decide if they need to change their travel plans to avoid being affected by a potential bushfire.

**Activity:** If you have access to a laptop with the internet, ask people to find the FDR from the DFES website. Discuss FDRs with people, what they mean and how they affect their travel plans. Provide relevant publications and discuss steps people should take before they travel. Have local maps and information available on local conditions.



### Community Engagement Support Materials

- Bushfire Travellers Checklist V2 – September 2013
- Prepare Act Survive A4 Booklet Version 4 (Information on Fire Danger Ratings)
- Fire Danger Rating A4 Poster
- Prepare Act Survive Pull Up / Vinyl Banner
- Bushfire Ready Pull Up Banner

### Other Equipment that may be required

- Banners / signage
- Tables (to display information)
- Box and items (for Bushfire Survival Kit Activity)
- Laptop with Internet connection (for Check the Fire Danger Rating Activity)
- Local Information (i.e. maps, information on local conditions)<sup>1</sup>

### Other Partners to consider working with

- Local Tourist centre (provide maps and information on local conditions etc.)
- Local Government (information on Total Fire bans, local bushfire safety plans etc.)

#### Resources:

<sup>1</sup> Department of Fire and Emergency Services (2012) *Travellers Checklist*, Western Australia

<sup>2</sup> Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council Limited (2008) *AFAC Guidelines for people in cars during bushfires*, Victoria



For more information please contact  
DFES Community Engagement on  
9395 9816 or  
[communitysafetyresources@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:communitysafetyresources@dfes.wa.gov.au)