

Emergency Communications

Factsheet (update) – December 2016



Be Safe – Have a Plan, Be Aware, Stay in Touch...

Your safety is your responsibility. Have a Plan so you are familiar with what actions you're going to take. Be aware of your environment and possible risks. Stay in touch so you can make informed decisions.

There are many, many ways to receive information regarding current emergencies and alerts. It is recommended that you do not rely on one source. Remember, if you see smoke or flames, call 000.

Bush Fire Warning System

ADVICE

be aware and keep up-to-date.

WATCH AND ACT

put your preparations into action. Is your plan to STAY or GO?

EMERGENCY WARNING

take immediate action to survive, you will be impacted by the fire.

Remember if your plan is to GO evacuating might not always be an option.

ALL CLEAR

take care to avoid any dangers and keep up-to-date.

Information Resource List

Telephone

- ▲ **13 33 37** – Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) Public Information Line (recorded message).
- ▲ **9576 0219** – Chittering Harvest, Hot Works, Vehicle Movement Ban information line (recorded message).
- ▲ **1800 709 355** – Total Fire Ban information line (24/7, DFES call centre).
- ▲ **Emergency Alert** – this National system works by sending voice or text messages to phone numbers based on their service address and location. It is an automated system (no sign-up). If your phone is billed to your home address, and your home is within a DFES telephone warning area, you will receive alerts about incidents affecting that address, regardless of your location. If your phone is located within the DFES telephone warning area, it should receive an alert regardless of your billing address.
- ▲ **Harvest, Hot Works, Vehicle Movement Ban SMS Alert** – you can register with the Shire of Chittering to receive a text alert when a 'HHWVMB' is called by the Shire. Please call 9576 4600 for details.
- ▲ **Phone Tree** – a prearranged system for activating a group of people by telephone. The phone tree system spreads a brief message quickly and efficiently to a large number of people, for example, everyone in your street or sub-division (perfect for **Bush Fire Ready Groups**). Phone tree members prearrange amongst themselves for one person to call two people, who each call two more people, and so on.

Smartphone Apps

- ▲ **Bushfire Ready Map** – a standardised assessment of hazard and risk management for your home.
- ▲ **Emergency AUS** – delivers warning / incident information issued by official agencies across Australia.

Internet

- ▲ <https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au/#> – Alerts, Warning, Incidents, Fire Danger Ratings and Total Fire Bans.
- ▲ [dfes.wa.gov.au/](https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/) – variety of resources.
- ▲ [arehouseady.wa.gov.au/](https://www.arehouseady.wa.gov.au/) – provides information on how to Prepare – Act – Survive.
- ▲ [myfirewatch.landgate.wa.gov.au/](https://www.myfirewatch.landgate.wa.gov.au/) – bush-fire information in a quickly accessible form.
- ▲ www.abc.net.au/news/emergency/ – provides the latest advice, warnings, information and news reports for you to prepare, survive and recover from emergencies and disasters.
- ▲ www.emergencyaus.info/#/map – delivers warning and incident information issued by official agencies across Australia.
- ▲ www.broadcastify.com/listen/feed/1432/web – Perth Fire and Rescue Service Command Live Audio Feed.

Social Media

Twitter

- 🔗 [Twitter@dfes_wa](https://twitter.com/dfes_wa) – for State fire updates.

Facebook

- 📘 www.facebook.com/dfeswa/ – “DFES” Official Page (not for reporting).
- 📘 www.facebook.com/pages/Perth-and-Western-Australian-Fire-Information/1380009998890490 – “Perth and WA Fire Information” for State fire updates. Please note that it is not run by DFES.
- 📘 <https://www.facebook.com/EASE-WA-1524612297864243/> – “EASE WA” for Emergency Animal Support and Evacuation across the State.
- 📘 www.facebook.com/EmergencyAUS – “EmergencyAUS” not to be relied on as a warning source, but relevant information is posted.

- 📘 www.facebook.com/groups/chitteringbushfireready/ – for local Chittering, and immediate surrounds, information. This page is facilitated by staff at the Shire of Chittering (on a volunteer basis out of office hours). Resources are not available to offer a service which is professionally manned on a 24 hour a day 7 day a week basis. The following terminology is used on this page by Shire staff;

UNVERIFIED – *this term is used when something has been reported through 000, meaning that a pager request for attendance has been received by a Brigade. At this stage the Shire has no other information than that given in the callout.*

VERIFIED – *this term will be used once the Shire is confident that the incident is not a false alarm, ie, the CESM has attended and can confirm the details.*

<pager> - *this shows that the information was received via a Brigade pager.*

<community> - *this will be used when the information has been received through a resident’s phone call and / or Facebook post.*

<CESM> - *this indicates that the information has been called through to the office by the Community Emergency Services Manager.*

Community Observations are welcomed as the group is not monitored 24/7. Please note, for SMOKE we ask that you post “**I SEE SMOKE** with your location and the direction of the smoke” (with a photo is even better!) rather than “**I SMELL SMOKE**”. If you smell smoke it is recommended that you ascertain its source through checking your surrounds and the DFES website. The SMELL of smoke can travel a great distance.

This group is also a place for **Community Discussion** about becoming bush fire ready.

You can keep in touch with what **Brigades** are doing through their individual pages, or through the Association of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades <https://www.facebook.com/VolunteerFireBrigades>.

Radio

- **ABC** – for frequencies check www.abc.net.au/wheatbelt/programs/frequencies.htm.
- **Radiowest** – 864AM, <http://www.radiowest.com.au/northam>.

Publications

A wide range of Bush Fire Manuals, Guides and Brochures are available from the DFES website www.dfes.wa.gov.au/safetyinformation/fire/bushfire/Pages/publications.aspx. The Shire also has a number of these available from the Shire Administration.

Are there other ‘tools’ which should be here?

If you have other information sources which you feel should be included on this sheet please send the details through to the Shire (see contact details below).

Enquiries to;

Jamie O’Neill, Community Emergency Services Manager, Shire of Chittering. Phone 9576 4600 or email chatter@chittering.wa.gov.au.

All Shire information is available in alternative formats upon request.