



Warrandyte Community Association
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Be  Ready Warrandyte

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Sample Bushfire Survival Plan for families living in fire-prone areas

A sample survival plan for a typical family living in bushfire-prone areas such as Warrandyte is a key part of a “fire ready” package developed by the Warrandyte Community Association (WCA).

WCA President Dick Davies said the *Sample Bushfire Survival Plan* was a comprehensive guide that covered essential actions to be undertaken:

- Before the bushfire season
- On a day when severe, extreme or Code Red fire danger has been predicted
- If leaving early is impossible
- If fire directly threatens the house
- After the fire front has passed.

“The sample fire plan, which follows the model of the CFA Bushfire Survival Plan, also lists all items for a fire emergency kit as well as vital emergency telephone numbers.

“The Warrandyte Community Association urges those residents who may not yet have prepared their fire plan and those wishing to review their plan to check out this comprehensive sample bushfire survival plan at our website www.warrandyte.org.au/tools,” he said.

Mr Davies said the sample “Smith Family” fire plan was for a fictitious family, living in a two-storey house in North Warrandyte, who plan to leave early on a day of severe fire risk or greater.

“This ‘typical’ Smith family consists of mother June, father Tom, two school-aged children (Alison who attends a local primary school, and Melissa who attends high school), Sam a 17-month old toddler, and June’s elderly mother Mary (who needs assistance walking), two dogs and a pet bird.”

“Whilst the plan is customised for Warrandyte residents it could easily be adapted for other fire-prone communities.

“Residents can download the sample fire plan from www.warrandyte.org.au/tools and personalise it to make it work for their own family.

“It is intended as a thought starter and should be adapted when developing your own family fire plan,” Mr Davies said.

An earlier ‘Bushfire Readiness Survey’ conducted by the WCA’s ‘Be Ready Warrandyte’ project revealed that most households in the ‘Greater Warrandyte’ area do not have an effective bushfire survival plan, despite the significant majority (80 per cent) of respondents believing they will face a bushfire threat in the near future.

Respondents suggested that the top three barriers to having a Bushfire Survival Plan were:

- They need assistance in preparing one
- They do not know how to prepare one
- They are too busy.

“This sample Fire Plan is to help these people prepare an effective plan, with guidance on typical problems such as disability, what to do about pets and letting everyone know what should happen,” Mr Davies said.

The plan reflects the CFA recommendation that all fire-plans should be reviewed annually. Residents are urged to save this on to their own computers. Cut and paste, change it and personalise it to make it work for them. It is available on the WCA website at: www.warrandyte.org.au/tools.

The ‘Be Ready Warrandyte’ project is funded by a ‘Fire Ready Communities Grant’ to the WCA from the Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development, and supplemented by funds from Manningham Council, Nillumbik Council, the Warrandyte Community Bank and the Community Market Committee.

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