



“We’ll wait and see what happens”

IS NOT A FIREPROOF PLAN

“We’ll probably stay”

IS NOT A FIREPROOF PLAN

“I think we’ve got a plan”

IS NOT A FIREPROOF PLAN

Your Fireproof Plan must include decisions about whether you will leave early or stay and defend.

If you are planning to stay and defend:

- Have you prepared your property?
- Do you have the right equipment?

Even if you are planning to stay and defend, you must also have a plan for leaving if conditions become too dangerous to stay. You need to be clear about:

- When will you leave?
- What will you take?
- Which way will you go?

NSW has seen one of the busiest and most destructive starts to a bushfire season in decades. The statistics since 1 July are confronting. There have been more than 5,000 bush and grass fires across the state. These fires have burnt through more than half a million hectares of bushland – about twice the total area burnt across the state in the whole of the last bush fire season.

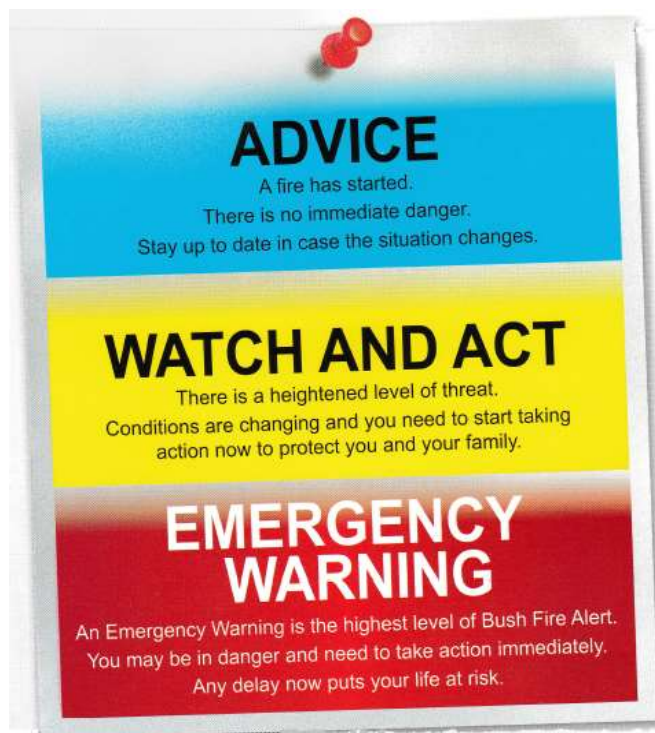
Across the state, two lives have been lost and the fires have destroyed more than 680 homes, in addition to a large number of outbuildings, community facilities and other buildings. There has also been extensive damage and destruction of valuable farmland, equipment and fencing.

Completing or updating your Bush Fire Survival Plan, so you and your family know what you will do in the event of a bush fire, could save your lives.

Check it now at myfireplan.com.au

Bush Fire Alerts

There are three Bush Fire Alert levels to help you make the right choices for your safety in the event of a fire in our area.



Here are five simple actions to make your home safer:

- Trim overhanging trees and shrubs. This could prevent fire spreading to your home
- Mow grass and remove the cuttings. Have a cleared area around your home.
- Remove material that can burn from around your home (e.g. Doormats, wood piles, mulch, leaves, paint, outdoor furniture).
- Clear and remove all debris and leaves from the gutters on your home. Burning embers can set your home on fire.
- Prepare a sturdy hose or hoses that will reach all around your home. Make sure you have a reliable source of water. Check and service your pumps.

M & T MOTORS



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Brigade activity

Colinton crews have been busy both locally and in support of other fire-affected areas throughout the state. Thanks to all those who have attended these call-outs.

August 17 – lovegrass fire started by a welder; attended by two Colinton trucks with support from Bredbo, Michelago, Smiths Road plus a helicopter. 17 hectares burnt

August 19 – two Colinton trucks supported Michelago crews attending a single tree alight on Kelly Road

August 31 – two Colinton trucks attended a lovegrass fire in Chakola

October 11 – local lovegrass fire attended by two Colinton trucks

November 27/28 – two Colinton crews provided support to a fire started by lightning, on Tuross Road

December 1-7 – one tanker with rotating crews has been supporting the firefighting effort at the Black Range fire near Braidwood

Monthly Training

The Brigade conducts training on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 2.00pm at the Fire Shed. Come along, meet some of the team, and see if this might be for you. New members are always welcome – the knowledge and experience gained might help you prepare and defend your own property.

REPORT ALL FIRES – RING 000

Travelling and Bushfires

At the time of writing there are more than 150 fires burning in NSW. With the summer holiday season fast approaching there is a good chance that you could be affected by fire whilst on the road. Bush and grass fires often cross roads and highways. Smoke can reduce visibility and roads may also be closed without warning.




Check these things before you leave:

- **Fire Danger Ratings** and **Bush Fire Alerts** along your route, on the 'Fires Near Me' app
- Weather conditions on the Bureau of Meteorology website – www.bom.gov.au
- How you can call for help
- Your emergency survival kit is complete and packed – including a working battery operated radio, protective clothing, woollen blankets and water.
- If caravanning or camping read the Caravan and Camping Bush Fire Safety fact sheet or brochure
- If bushwalking read the Bush Fire Safety for Bushwalkers fact sheet or brochure


Brochures and fact sheets available at

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/factsheets

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Julie, Louiza and Emilio
have generously produced the
Colinton Courier for many years.
Please support them.



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If you are caught in a fire:

- Call Triple Zero 000
- Park off the road in a clear area away from trees
- Face your car towards the fire
- Stay in the car below the windows to protect yourself from radiant heat
- Turn off the engine and turn on headlights and hazard lights
- Close windows and air vents
- Cover yourself with a woollen blanket
- Drink water
- Cover your mouth with a damp cloth
- Stay down until the sound of the fire has passed, carefully leave the car (it will be hot) and drink water.



REPORT ALL FIRES – RING 000

Permit Officers

**Fire permits are required through to
31 March 2019**

Captain Graham Povey

02 6454 4150 or 0419 406 908

Email: colintoncaptain@icloud.com

Senior Deputy Michael Burton

0407 003 392

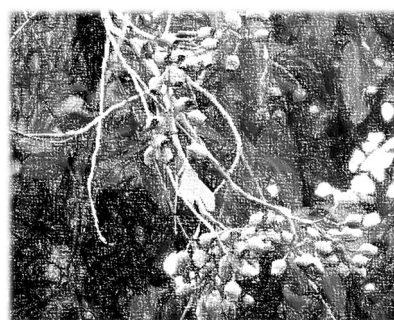
Email: fmburton64@gmail.com



Myth Buster

MYTH: *I'll be fine. The bush is not close to my home and I have cleared around my house.*

FACT: Most houses are burnt in bush fires because of ember attacks. Embers can cause fires many kilometres in front of the main fire and can start falling up to an hour before the fire arrives at your home. You need to make sure that your home is properly prepared to withstand ember attack.



*COLINTON BRIGADE WISHES
YOU ALL A SAFE SUMMER
AND HOLIDAY SEASON.*

WE HOPE WE DON'T SEE YOU!

Stay informed

Look to different sources of information to keep up to date on fire activity in our area. Keep the key contact numbers and websites on hand such as:

- Emergency Triple Zero – 000
- Bushfire Information Line 1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737)
- NSW Rural Fire Service Website rfs.nsw.gov.au
- Fire Danger Ratings – rfs.nsw.gov.au/fdr
- **Fires Near Me** free smartphone app
- *Monaro RFS Region Facebook page* www.face-book.com/MonaroRFS
- ACT emergency services website esa.act.gov.au/community-information/incidents-map/
- **ABC**
Local ABC radio and television

Feedback

Send any feedback on this newsletter to
Helen.Templeton@iinet.net.au

REPORT ALL FIRES – RING 000