MT WILSON & MT IRVINE RESIDENTS'

BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLAN

Prepared By:....

Date:....

For further information on making the decision to Leave Early or Stay and Defend a well prepared property or on writing a Bushfire Survival Plan consult the NSW Rural Fire Service's booklet 'Bushfire Survival Plan' or their website www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

PREPARE, ACT, SURVIVE

BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLAN

GUIDE TO COMPLETING THIS BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLAN

Completing a Bushfire Survival Plan is a risk management exercise. Therefore it is important that you consider all risks and how you can mitigate them.

The safest option will always be to leave early. If you are leaving, Leave Early. The NSW Rural Fire Service recommends that you make the decision to leave early on days when:

* There is a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating or

* The Fire Danger Rating is Extreme, if your home has not been specifically designed, constructed or modified to withstand a fire, or if you are not well prepared.

Choosing to ignore these recommendations means you may be risking your life and the lives of your family. Leaving early is always the safest option.

However, Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine are extreme fire risk areas with only one road in and out. This road travels on ridge lines through steep, dry sandstone country. It is lined with dry schlerophyll forest with the eucalypts at times touching overhead. During a fire this is a very dangerous road and we know from experience that it can be cut very quickly. During the 1994 fires it was cut by fire within an hour of the fire starting and was closed for days.

Therefore, your brigade also recommends that you not only prepare a 'Leave Early' Plan but also prepare a 'Stay and Actively Defend' Plan. In this way you are prepared for the risk of not receiving adequate information in time to leave early and safely.

Unfortunately, research shows that a significant number of people on receipt of a bushfire warning or notification of a day of high fire potential, chose to 'Wait and See'. This usually means 'do nothing' and is an extremely high risk strategy. Please do not allow yourself to be paralysed by indecision. Please do not be complacent about the risk of fire at Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine. Please do not think 'it can't happen to me'. It can. We have had fires before at Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine and properties have been lost. In order to Survive, you must Prepare and you must Act.

The Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Residents' Bushfire Survival Plan contains 3 plans and 10 checklists. Please read and complete all pages to ensure you have covered your risks adequately. Complete the 'Leave Early' Plan then the 'Stay and Actively Defend' Plan then the 'Wait and See' Plan. With your complete plan, if you are threatened by bushfire and whether your preferred decision is to Leave Early (best choice), Stay and Defend or Wait and See, you are prepared to act and survive.

If you need further information or assistance in completing this plan please contact your Community Engagement Officer or any active brigade member.

BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLAN	LEAVE EARLY	
Family Considerations	What will you take with you? See Checklist 8. Relocation Kit	You and your family planned to leave but it is too late. What will you do?
What will be your trigger to leave early? Consider Total Fire Ban, Fire Danger Ratings, Emergency Warnings.	List your protective clothing. See Checklist 6. Protective Clothing Kit	How safe is your home if leaving is no longer an option?
What actions will you take before and during the fire season? See Checklist 1. Planning and Preparation	Where will your kits be stored?	What will you do as the fire approaches?
Before and During the Fire Season What will you do with your pets and/or livestock?	Who will you tell that you are leaving? Who will you tell when you have arrived? Your street co-ordinator is	See Checklist 3. As the Fire Approaches List the equipment you will need.
What will you do if family members are	OtherSee Checklist 10. Emergency Contact List	See Checklist 7. Fire Fighting Kit Where is your water supply and how will you
separated? Where will you go to?	What will you do to your property before leaving? See Checklist 9. Before You Leave Your Property	access it?
	What is Your Backup Plan?	What will you do if your house cannot be defended or catches fire while the fire front is passing? Where will you go to be safer?
How will you get there?	What might go wrong with your plan?	

BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLAN		
STAY & ACTIVELY DEFEND		
Family Considerations	Property Preparation	What will you do as fire approaches?
		See Checklist 3. As the Fire Approaches
	What actions will you take before and during the fire	
Who will leave for a safer place?	season?	What will you do once the fire has arrived?
Consider very young, elderly, people with	See Checklist 1. Planning and Preparation Before and	
disabilities, ill family members, house guests	During the Fire season	See Checklist 4. During the Fire
	List equipment needed and where you will store it.	What will you do after the fire has passed?
When, where and how will they go?	See Checklist 7. Fire Fighting Kit	See Checklist 5. After the Fire
	Personal Safety	What is Your Backup Plan?
What triggers mean that you will not stay and	How many people will you need to protect your home?	
defend?	Who will be there to help you?	What if you are alone?
Consider being alone, unwell, house guests, FDI too		
high, house not defendable, equipment/power		
failure, lack of water.	List protective clothing.	
		What if you cannot return to your home to
		actively defend (roads blocked)? Where will you
	See Checklist 6. Protective Clothing Kit	go?
If you plan to relocate family members and/or		
pets/livestock, how long will this take?	Where will your kits be stored?	
		What will you do if your home cannot be
		defended or catches fire before the fire front
		passes? Where will you go to be safer?
Who will you tell of your plans?	On the Day of a Bushfire	
Your street co-ordinator is		
	What will you do on the day of bushfire threat?	What will you take?
See Checklist 10. Emergency Contact List	See Checklist 2. On the Day of Bushfire Threat	See Checklist 8. Relocation Kit

BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLAN
WAIT AND SEE
What are you waiting to see?
A plan to wait and see how bad things are is a plan to flee at the last moment and maybe die on the road or to die in an unprepared house.
You must keep informed and be ready to act. If you decide to wait and see, what will you do?
See Checklist 1. Planning and Preparation Before and During the Fire Season See Checklist 2. On the Day of Bushfire Threat See Checklist 6. Protective Clothing Kit
See Checklist 7. Fire Fighting Kit See Checklist 8. Relocation Kit
Your safest option is to leave early. If you decide to leave early, what will you do?
See Your Leave Early Plan
If it is not safe to leave your 'Wait and See' Plan is now a 'Stay and Actively Defend' Plan. What will you do?
See Your Stay and Actively Defend Plan

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Planning	To do	Property Preparation	To do	Preparations	To do
Review your Bushfire Survival Plan for				Make an inventory and photographic	
this season and discuss it with all		Clear around fances gates shade		, , , , , ,	
members of your household		Clear around fences, gates, sheds, garages, carports and under power lines		record of household possessions, buildings and garden	
members of your nousehold		garages, carports and under power lines			
				Take precious possessions to a safe	
Practise your plan and your backup plan		Insulate gas tanks, pipes and relief valve		place	
		Clear vegetation, ground litter & light		Store favourite photos and vital	
:		mulch, mow regularly		information electronically	
Home Preparation		Maintain access to water supply		Prepare your Relocation Kit	
Have a prominent house number		Clear around and under house		Check Insurance cover	
Wire/metal screens or shutters on all		Keep fuel & chemicals in appropriate			
openings including under house		storage containers			4
Prepare emergency food packs		Provide access for fire fighters		Communication Preparation	4
Repair flaking paint on window sills and					
door frames		Remove wood piles from near house			
		Trim branches overhanging house and		Have battery operated radio and spare	
		shrubs below windows		batteries	
				Prepare your Emergency Personal	
Equipment Preparation		Clear roof and gutters of leaf debris		Contacts List	
				Know where you will get information	
Prepare your Protective Clothing Kit				from during a bushfire	
Prepare your Fire Fighting Kit		Children and Pets			
Have torches in known locations in the					
house and spare batteries				Other	
Maintain your fire fighting pump, fuel,		Allocate tasks for children or prepare			1
hoses and nozzles		activity bag			
Maintain sprinkler system (on roof &					
garden)		Have emergency pet food			

CHECKLIST 2.ON THE DA	AY OF BUSHFIRE THREAT
	What needs to be done and who is responsible?
Enact Bushfire Survival Plan	
Check Protective Clothing Kit	
Check Relocation Kit	
Check backup safer place	
Check Fire Fighting Kit	
Place survival, firefighting and relocation kits in easily accessible area	
Confirm location & contact numbers for family	
Check first aid kit & medications	
Recharge mobile phone	
Be alert - monitor fire information and weather (radio, web). What is the Fire	
Danger Rating for your area?	
Fit transistor radio with fresh batteries	
Prepare area inside for pets and bring them close to house	
Check emergency food packs	
Check fuel and chemicals are in appropriate storage containers	
Prepare car and park in garage or clear space and wind up windows	
Check water supplies and hoses	
Test pumps, sprinklers, generators, hoses	
Clear gateways, driveways, doorways and around windows and check roof and	
gutters for leaf debris and clear	
Check access for firefighters is clear	
Watch and smell for smoke every 30 mins	
Check with street co-ordinator	
Other:	

CHECKLIST 3. AS THE	FIRE APPROACHES
	What needs to be done and who is responsible?
Alert family and neighbours	
Put on protective clothing	
Monitor the radio (ABC 702) for information	
Prepare drink flasks and drink water regularly	
Bring pets inside and cover birdcages with woollen cloths	
Allocate jobs for children or place in identified part of house with activity bag,	
blankets and water	
Check torches are in easily accessible places	
Close windows, doors, skylights and metal screens/shutters	
Seal all gaps (wet towels/blanket) around windows and doors	
Place ladder for roof spaces access (keep inspection hole open) and have torch	
nearby	
Put planks across rafters for crawling in roof space	
Cover flammable furniture with blankets or heavy rugs	
Remove curtains (unless wool) and flammable items near windows. Protect	
windows with blankets, foil or cross with tape	
Fill bath & containers with water and place around building, in rooms and in roof	
space. Include a dipper with each.	
Put ladder against roof (to check eaves and guttering). Do not climb on roof	
Block downpipes and fill gutters with water	
Bring door mats, outdoor furniture, hanging baskets, plastic flower pots into the	
house	
Turn off gas and electricity at mains; turn off gas bottles and direct relief valve away from house and flammables	
· ·	
If water supply adequate, hose down side of house and garden facing fire	
Check for embers regularly	
Other:	

CHECKLIST 4. DURING T	'HE FIRE
	What needs to be done and who is responsible?
Make sure you are well covered to protect from radiant heat	
Shelter in house till fire passes. It will protect you from radiant heat	
Disconnect smoke alarm	
Be actively defensive	
Check for embers entering house and extinguish them	
Close internal doors but maintain a watch on fire progress outside. Shelter in a room with at least 2 exits. Avoid sheltering directly under or in front of a window	
Check roof space for embers and extinguish	
Disconnect hose and fittings and take into house. Attach to laundry tap.	
Monitor ABC radio for information	
Check each other and pets for heat stress or breathing difficulties. Drink water every 10 minutes and loosen clothing	
Never go outside while flame front is passing	
Check exposed windows for openings/cracks	
Other:	
Should your house catch fire call the fire service on 000. If you are unable to extinguis after the fire front has passed. Move onto a fuel-free area, eg lawn or burnt gr	

CHECKLIST 5. AFTER TH	HE FIRE
	What needs to be done and who is responsible?
Exit house carefully and wear protective clothing	
Do not use water on electrical, petrol, kerosene or fat/oil fires	
Extinguish any fires or embers. Do not turn your back on fire	
Target water at burning surface (not the flames)	
Reconnect hoses and water down house including roof	
Check for embers inside the roof, under floorboards, under house spaces, on	
verandahs and decking, on timber window ledges and door sills, on roof line and in	
gutters, in garden beds and mulch, and in garages and outbuildings.	
Assess any damage and check for hot spots	
Continue to check for fire inside and outside for up to 8 hours	
Check family and pets	
Check and help neighbours if possible - fire in neighbouring properties or houses can	
quickly spread to yours	
Notify relatives, friends to let them know you are safe	
Tell someone if you do not feel well	
Conserve your energy and drink plenty of water	
Other:	
Be alert for strangers and make a note of car type and registration numbe	r. If acting suspiciously, call Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000

CHECKLIST 6. PROTECTIVE CLOTHING KIT What needs to be done and who is responsible? Jeans or cotton drill trousers/overalls Long sleeved shirt (heavy duty natural fibres) Leather shoes or boots without elastic sides Wool socks Goggles or glasses to protect your eyes from ash or embers Moistened smoke mask or non-synthetic scarf/teatowel/hankerchief to protect face Cotton underwear Hat/cotton scarf/woollen cap Strong leather gloves Long sleeved wool jumper Wool coat for dog/cat **RFS** yellows Other: Do not wear synthetic clothing, singlets, T shirts, short sleeved shirts, dresses, skirts, sandals, thongs or stockings

CHECKLIST 7. FIRE FIGHTING KIT		
	What needs to be done and who is responsible?	
Drinking water		
Hoses (long enough to reach all parts of house), connectors, nozzles		
Wet towels and blankets to seal gaps under doors and windows		
Fire extinguishers		
Torches and spare batteries		
Cotton mops (hold a lot of water and can put out embers)		
Shovel		
Ladder		
Metal buckets and dippers		
Mobile phone and charger		
Pump & fuel		
Metal rake/ rakehoe		
Knapsack, indoor plant sprayer		
First aid kit (including artificial tears)		
Other:		

CHECKLIST 8. RELOC	ATION KIT
	What needs to be done and who is responsible?
Protective clothing for the whole family	
Battery operated radio and spare batteries	
Clothing (2 sets for each family member), toiletries, sanitary supPlies	
Mobile phone, charger, car charger	
Woollen blankets (one for each person and pet)	
Identity information (passports, birth certificates, medicare card, health insurance)	
Spare keys	
Medications & prescriptions	
Torch and spare batteries	
Bottled water	
Handbag/wallet/money/credit cards	
Emergency Personal Contact List	
Items/ documents of high importance or sentimental value	
Eye glasses, walking stick	
Road directory	
For your pets: basket/lead/cage, dish for water, food, drinking water	
Laptop, USB, CDs	
Favourite item for children	
Other:	

CHECKLIST 9. BEFORE YOU LEAVE YOUR PROPERTY

	What needs to be done and who is responsible?
Discuss the day's activities with all family members	
Bring indoors any doormats, outdoor furniture and hanging pots	
Ensure all family members are wearing protective clothing	
Advise your street coordinator of your actions	
Advise neighbours/family/friends of your actions	
Take down curtains (unless wool) and move flammable furniture and items away	
from windows	
Shut all windows and internal doors	
Protect windows with woollen blankets, foil or cross with tape	
Add final items to Relocation Kit and pack car	
Close up house	
Fill gutters with water	
Shut off gas and electricity	
Leave front gate open for emergency services access	
Remember your most important items and documents such as wallet, cards, keys,	
banking, medical and insurance information	
Other:	

CHECKLIST 10. EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST
FOR ALL FIRE, POLICE & AMBULANCE EMERGENCIES
RING 000 Blue Mountains RFS: 4784 7444
RFS Information Line: 1800 679 737
RFS Website: www.rfs.ns.gov.au
Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Recorded Bushfire Message: 4756 2040
Mt Wilson RFB Station: 4756 2168
Mt Irvine RFB Station: 4756 2092
Street Co-ordinator:
Police Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000
SES: 13 2500
Blue Mountains City Council: 4758 5000
Blue Mountains City Council Website: www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au
R&MS - road closure information: 13 2701
RSPCA - Katoomba: 4782 2674
BM WIRES: 4754 2946
Radio Stations - for emergency information: Local - Blue FM 89.1FM; General - ABC 702 AM; Hawkesbury - Radio 89.9 FM
NRMA - Road Service: 13 1111
Endeavour Energy: 13 1003
Elgas:
Insurance:
Bank:
Doctor:
Vet:
Family & Friends: