



Brigade Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2007

OUTLOOK FOR 2007/2008 FIRE SEASON

The outlook for the 2007/2008 fire season is uncertain at this stage. There is a weak La Nina weather system in place (the wet one) but we could get long spells of dry weather. The likelihood of a severe fire season is 50:50. It is imperative that you take the necessary steps to prepare your property for the fire season. Fire preparation will make it a lot safer for our crews to operate on your property and increase the chances of your property surviving a bushfire.

What should you do to prepare your property?

1. Prepare your house and other buildings against ember attack.
2. Ensure that you have a fuel reduced zone around your house and sheds
3. Construct a firebreak around your property
4. Have fire fighting equipment and water ready
5. Have a bushfire action plan for your property
6. Make a check list of things to be done as fire approaches

More details are outlined on http://mtwilson.rfsa.org.au/bushfire_checklist.htm showing a series of easy steps to prepare your property and family under the section "Be safe, be prepared this fire season".

TOTAL FIRE BANS

During a Total Fire Ban, outdoor cooking may only be done using a gas or electric BBQ, provided it is within 20m of a residential dwelling, under the immediate supervision of an adult, in a cleared area and there is running water available nearby.

Fireworks (including sparklers), wood or charcoal BBQs and candles (whether enclosed or not) are among the items **not** permitted to be used outside. Where applied for, special Total Fire Ban Exemptions may be provided for such activities as Carols and other religious or cultural observances, by applying to the Rural Fire Service on 1800 679 737. Lighting a fire on a day of Total Fire Ban attracts a fine of up to \$5,500 and/or 12 months gaol.

Penalties for a fire that escapes and damages or destroys life, property or the environment can attract much greater fines and gaol terms with maximums at \$100,000 and/or 14 years.

How will you know if a Total Fire Ban is declared?

Check the RFS website (www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) Current Fire Danger Map or call 1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737), or the local RFS Fire Control Centre. Announcements are also made in newspapers, on the radio and on television. You need to know what NSW Fire Area you are in to determine if a Total Fire Ban applies to you.

You can check this on the Current Fire Danger Map on the RFS website. Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine's NSW Fire Area is Greater Sydney Region (4). Click on this area and the name of Blue Mountains Council will appear on the right hand side of the map. You can then check if a Total Fire Ban applies to your area.

Find us at <http://mtwilson.rfsa.org.au>

MAKE SURE YOU'RE FINANCIAL!

Subscriptions to the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine Brigade fell due on 30 June 2007. There are still quite a few members who haven't paid their dues. Please contact Susie Hope on 9555 4650 or louisard@bigpond.net.au to keep your membership of the Brigade current.

NEW PHONE NUMBERS AT DISTRICT OFFICE

In a continuing effort to improve communications systems, the District Office has recently upgraded its phone system with the installation of a new phone system. As a result, there have been some changes to contact phone and fax numbers. These are effective immediately as follows:-

NSW Rural Fire Service, Blue Mountains District

Blue Mountains Emergency Services Centre

Corner Bathurst Road and Valley Road

KATOOMBA NSW 2780

PO Box 600, KATOOMBA NSW 2780

Phone: **4784 7444**

Fax (Operations): **4784 7460**

Fax (Administration): **4784 7461**

Could you please change all your contact details, fax machines, phones, etc to reflect the above new numbers and update the front page of your Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine local phone book.

FIRST AID REFRESHER COURSE

Please be advised an additional First Aid Refresher course has been scheduled for late November. Details are as follows:-

Course No. FAR03

Description: First Aid Refresher

Date: Sunday 25 November 2007

Time: 08:30 to 16:00hrs

Location: Mt Wilson Brigade station

Pre-req: Must have BF and a current First Aid certificate. NB: The certificate must still be current as of 25 November 2007.

Course Co-ordinator: Dick Dowd - 4739 3428

If you would like to take part in this course and need to keep your qualification current, please contact Penny Ewing on 8235 1111 or pewing@kinglink.com.au to apply.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

It's that time of the year again – the annual Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine Christmas party jointly hosted by your Brigade and the Progress Associations of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine.

Saturday 1st December 2007 at 7pm.

Mount Wilson Village Hall

Dinner will be provided. Please bring your own drinks.

To RSVP please contact Moira Green on 4756 2162 or rm.green@bigpond.com before 24 November.

NEW ROLE FOR FORMER CAPTAIN

Due largely to future work commitments, Deputy Group Captain Barry Freeman has recently resigned from the position of Group Officer (West 3, Learning and Development). Barry will continue to be an active support member of the Mt Wilson/Mt Irvine brigade utilising his invaluable skills, experience and training in operations, brigade management, and the First Responder program. He will also continue to serve as a member of the Brigade Executive Committee and offer valuable support to the Captain and Executive.

NEXT TRAINING DATE: SUNDAY 2 DECEMBER 2007 9am at the Mt Wilson shed.

Editors:

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Comments, contributions and suggestions welcome!

Find us at <http://mtwilson.rfsa.org.au>