

Malua Bay Rural Fire Brigade

Bushfire Season Newsletter

September 2015

Serving Our Community



NSW RFS

CONTACT US

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Malua Bay Rural Fire
Brigade



**YOU DON'T HAVE TO
LIVE IN THE BUSH TO
BE AT RISK OF FIRE.**



Fire Season Dangers

There are a few simple things you can do to dramatically increase your family's, neighbour's and fire fighter's chance of surviving a bush fire and protecting your home. They are **(1) Understand:** your risk, **(2) Discuss:** with your family what you will do and where you will go if a bush fire threatens, **(3) Action:** protect your home, **(4) Know:** the fire alerts and **(5) Save:** the bush fire information number, website and apps.

To assist in preparing for the upcoming fire season and understanding the above tasks the Malua Bay Rural Fire Brigade prepares a newsletter that we distribute to our residents, property owners and also make available on our website. Further we now have a Facebook presence to update and disseminate information. Each of these tells you a little of us and offers contemporary suggestions about preparing for the coming fire season.

Captain's Message

The 2015/16 Bushfire Danger Season is fast approaching. Living with the bush is part of where we live on the NSW South Coast - but so is living with the risk of fire. A bush or grass fire can happen at any time of the year but the risk is higher during the warmer months, when bush, grass or scrub is drier. It's important to remember that you don't have to live right near the bush to be at risk of bushfire. Even if your home is a few streets back, you are still at risk. There are many critical decisions you need to make, which can influence your safety and it's important to make those decisions well before a fire threatens your home. Leaving it until the last minute could prove deadly. I encourage and ask that all residents in the Malua Bay Rural Fire Brigade Area to please have a "Bush Fire Survival Plan", and to prepare your property prior to the start of the Bush Fire Danger Season. Taking 20 minutes to discuss what you'll do together with your family in the event of a bushfire could save their lives as well as your home.

Get Ready Day

Malua Bay Rural Fire Brigade

Sunday 13 September 2015

10am - 3pm

(Out the front of Malua Bay IGA)

Are you Bushfire Ready?

"Preparation is the key to surviving a bush fire"

Malua Bay Brigade members will be available on Sunday 13 September out the front of Malua Bay IGA to answers any questions you may have about bushfire safety, preparing your property prior to the Bush Fire Danger Season and how to complete your Bush Fire Survival Plan and being prepared to keep yourself and your family safe. We'll also have our fire fighting vehicles on display for kids both young and old to inspect.

How Bush Fires Interact with Houses



Prepare. Act. Survive.

PREPARE.

It's your responsibility to prepare yourself, your family and your home for the threat of bush fire.

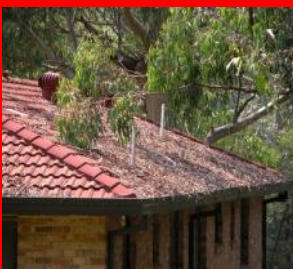
Prepare a Bush Fire Survival Plan, Prepare Yourself, Prepare Your Property

ACT.

You need to act decisively in accordance with your Bush Fire Survival Plan when bush fires threaten. *Keep Informed, Follow your Bush Fire Survival Plan*

SURVIVE.

Your survival depends on your preparations and the decisions you make.



A critical component of understanding your potential risk is knowing how a fire may behave as it approaches and passes your property.

There is now a vast body of research on how bush fires interact with houses and out buildings. The attack of a bush fire on a building goes through three stages:

Stage 1: As the fire front approaches

The attack begins when embers, blown ahead of the fire front, reach the building and its surroundings. This ember attack can begin up to an hour or more before the fire front itself arrives.

Stage 2: When the fire front arrives

The second stage occurs when the fire front arrives. Ember attack, radiant heat, flames and smoke are at their maximum. But this only lasts for a few minutes while the fire front passes.

Stage 3: After the fire front passes

After the fire front has passed, embers continue to be blown from burning tree trunks, outbuildings, fence posts, wood heaps and the like. This final stage may last several hours.

Fire times associated with these stages could be	
Stage 1	As the fire front approaches ½ - 1 hour
Stage 2	When the fire front arrives 5 - 15 minutes
Stage 3	After the fire front passes 3 - 8 hours

The NSW Rural Fire Service suggests that at least 70% of people and property owners are not properly prepared for a fire emergency.

Serving Our Community

The **Malua Bay Rural Fire Brigade** is an "urban interface" brigade and responds to bushfires, house fires, motor vehicle accidents and supports other agencies as needed. In the past 12 months the Brigade has attended a total of 40 incidents.

Fire (Bush / Grass / Structural)	20
Motor Vehicle Accidents	9
Hazardous Conditions	0
Service Support Calls	6
False Alarm Good Intent	5
TOTAL	40

Hazard Reduction - Protecting Our Community

Who is Responsible for Hazard Reduction?

If it's your property, it's your fuel and you are legally responsible for reducing hazards.

Under the *Rural Fires Act, 1997*, land managers and owners are responsible for carrying out hazard reduction to protect existing dwellings, major buildings or other assets susceptible to fire. Effective hazard reduction is one way to reduce the risk of damage to homes and structures by bushfire.

HELP US TO HELP YOU! PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY!

Eurobodalla Control Centre Phone: 4474 2855 Email: farsouthcoast.team@rfs.nsw.gov.au

Check List Before Burning Off

Your cooperation and consideration of others as well as following the regulations will dramatically reduce the number of unnecessary fire calls the brigade receives.

Before lighting that fire ask yourself the following:

- Do I need a Hazard Reduction Certificate? Is it an agricultural burn?
- Do I need a fire permit?
- Do I need to comply with the Eurobodalla Shire Council's Clean Air Policy?
- Are the weather conditions favourable?
- Do I have sufficient equipment and personnel to control the burn?

AND Have I ...

- Given 24hrs notice to the Brigade Captain?
- Given 24hrs notice to the Fire Control Centre?
- Given 24hrs notice to my neighbours?

Stay Up To Date

You're ready for the fire season, you've completed and practiced your Bush Fire Survival Plan, and your property & home is well prepared. When a fire does occur it's important to stay up to date with current incidents or major fire updates. Visit: www.rfs.nsw.gov.au or Follow: Facebook - www.facebook.com/nswrfs. If you have a mobile device such as an iPhone, iPad, Android, tablet or smart phone, download the free [Fires Near Me NSW Mobile App](#) which provides current fire information on bush fire incidents. If you do not have access to the internet you can call the [Bush Fire Information Line](#) 1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737).

Reporting an Emergency

Before making an emergency call you need to answer yes to one of three questions:

Is someone seriously injured or in need of urgent medical help?

Is your life or property being threatened?

Have you just witnessed a serious accident or crime?

While the **triple zero (000)** service is the universally accepted way in Australia to report a fire emergency there are two other secondary numbers that can be used. If the caller has a hearing or speech impairment they can call the **one zero six (106)** text-based emergency call service using a teletype writer or a text phone (TTY). There is also an internationally accepted number that can be used on digital mobile phones only and only in areas of GSM network coverage that number is **double one two (112)**, it does not give your call priority over Triple Zero (000) nor can the number be used on a landline connection, it is simpler to go with Triple Zero (000).

Voice over Internet Protocol (**VoIP**) is a technology that allows telephone calls to be made over broadband Internet connections. Some VoIP providers **may not provide access to emergency calls**, so check with your VoIP provider to assure yourself that if you require the emergency call service you can access it.

Dial Triple Zero (000)

The **triple zero (000)** service is the quickest way to get the right help from emergency services and should be used to contact Police, Fire or Ambulance services in situations where a life is in danger, a crime is taking place, or in time critical situations.

Calls to '000' are free and can be made from mobile phones, home or work phones or pay phones.

The **simple steps** in making a Triple Zero (000) call to report a fire are:

- **Stay calm** and call Triple Zero '000' from a safe location.
- The Telstra operator will **ask you if you need Police, Fire or Ambulance**. Request: Police, Fire or Ambulance. If you are calling from a mobile or satellite phone the operator will ask you for other location information.
- You will **then be connected to an Emergency Services Operator** to provide more details of your situation.
- **Stay on the line**, speak clearly and answer the Operator's questions
- **Give them details** of where you are including:
 - Street number
 - Street name
 - Nearest cross street
 - Locality
 - In rural areas it is important to give the full address and distances from landmarks and roads, not just the name of the property.
 - If travelling on a Motorway or on a rural road, know the direction you are travelling and the last exit or town you passed through to assist services to correctly locate the incident.
- **Do not hang up** until the Operator has all the information they need

If possible wait outside at a pre-arranged meeting point or prominent location for Fire Services to arrive to assist them



PREPARE.

ACT.

SURVIVE.



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Meeting Nights

1st Tuesday of each month 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Training Nights

2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month 6:00pm - 7:30pm

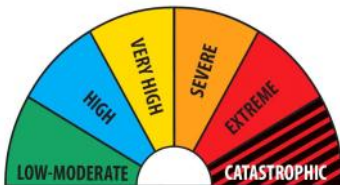
Location

Reservoir Rd, Malua Bay (off George Bass Drive)

Interested in becoming a Volunteer?

Joining the Malua Bay Rural Fire Brigade is an excellent way to become involved in your local community, be part of a great team and when needed support other regions and communities. While firefighters attending fires and emergencies are more often than not seen as the common image of the RFS there are a multitude of areas that require volunteer support not only at the local level but in the Far South Coast Team, Eurobodalla Rural Fire Districts and across NSW. Many people tell us they do not think they are physically fit enough to put on the yellow and jump in a truck. While that is an important role we also need support volunteers. If you're interested in joining or have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Malua Bay Rural Fire Brigade Secretary Helen Riedl on 4471 2625.

FIRE DANGER



Fire Danger Rating (FDR) is an assessment of the potential fire behaviour, the difficulty of suppressing a fire, and the potential impact on the community should a bush fire occur on a given day.

The FDR is determined by the Fire Danger Index (FDI). The FDI is a combination of air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and drought factors.

An FDI of 1 (Low-Moderate) means that fire will not burn, or will burn so slowly that it will be easily controlled, whereas an FDI in excess of 100 (Catastrophic) means that fire will burn so fast and so hot that it will be uncontrollable.

Training

Over the last 12 months brigade members have been busy completing a number of NSW Rural Fire Service Training Courses. Members completed training in, Bush Fire Fighter, Village Fire Fighter, Advanced Fire Fighter, Crew Leader, Chainsaw Operation and Rural Fire Driver to name a few. Brigade members have also completed an inspection of all fire hydrants in the Malua Bay Rural Fire Brigade area.

Reporting Bush Fire Hazards

If you believe there is a bush fire hazard near your property, you can make a formal complaint by contacting the Eurobodalla Fire Control Centre in person, via email, mail, fax or phone;

NSW Rural Fire Service - Eurobodalla
30 Campbell Street Moruya NSW 2537
PHONE: 4474 2855

Email: farsouthcoast.team@rfs.nsw.gov.au

Thank you for your support

Over the past year we have upgraded our shed, equipment and facilities to make them safer and assist us in responding more quickly to callouts. Some of the items purchased are: hose fittings, more versatile radios, expanded equipment storage areas and drying racks. We've only been able to achieve this through your generous donations and support. From all of us at the Malua Bay Rural Fire Brigade we say "THANK YOU!". Over the past two years we have also been issued with a new Cat 7 and Cat 9 unit (both trucks are pictured below).



**Contact Malua Bay Rural Fire Brigade
Secretary Helen Riedl**

Phone: 4471 2625
Email: mbrfb@bigpond.com
or

You can get more information at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

[Check out and like our Facebook page](#)

Visit our Malua Bay Brigade Website
www.maluabay.rfsa.org.au