



## Lyndoch CFS Grapevine Article – February 2010



### The Backyard BBQ

During the warmer months, firefighters respond to an increased number of incidents involving barbeques and gas cylinders. Barbequing is an enjoyable part of summer in Australia, but make sure that your safety remains front of your mind.

People shouldn't assume their barbeque is in the same condition they left it in the last time it was used. It's important that people take time to check and clean their barbeque before use.

On **Total Fire Ban days** it is not legal to use heat bead or wood-fired barbeque kettles or barbeques unless you have a permit from your local council.

Gas and electric barbeques **can be used** on a total fire ban day, provided they are within 15 metres of a domestic premises, or on a coastal foreshore, provided there is a 4-metre cleared space around and above the barbeque, that there is a responsible person in attendance at all times and there should be an ability to extinguish the fire with an adequate agent nearby.

The CFS encourages people to follow these tips for gas barbeques:

- Check the expiry date on your gas cylinder. Cylinders must be tested every 10 years.
- Visually check that all hose lines and the cylinder are in good condition.
- Check that all 'o' rings are in good condition and are visible in the hose connections. They must be soft and pliable, not hard and cracked.
- Check all hose connections and control valves for gas leaks. Turn the cylinder on, and with the barbeque knobs turned off, use a very wet soapy cloth (or a paint brush and soapy solution) and apply copious amounts of soapy water over all the hoses and valves. Bubbles forming will indicate a leak.
- Check that hoses and connections are clear of burners or hot metal parts.



- Give the barbeque a good scrub to remove fat build-up and empty the fat tray under the barbeque.
- Always check the current fire ban information before you light a barbeque.

#### Tips for a barbeque kettle or a wood fired barbeque:

- Do not use an accelerant, like petrol, to assist in lighting the kettle or barbeque.
- Keep fire starters, matches and lighters in a secure place away from children.
- Always check the current fire ban information before you light up.

#### Tips for campfires within bushfire season:

- Do not light a campfire if it is a total fire ban day in your district.
- At other times, campfires must be in a 30 cm deep trench and no more than one metre square in area.
- Ensure there is adequate clearance around the campfire of at least four metres.
- Ensure a responsible person is present at all times with water or an extinguisher.

#### A Busy Period

The Lyndoch CFS has been busy of the last 2 months responding to 20 incidents at the time of writing this article. Approximately half of these have been grassfires in the surrounding areas where Lyndoch has responded in most cases both of their appliances to assist in the prompt containment and mop up of these jobs.

While we have been lucky, the fire danger season is still with us and the grass is still exceeding dry. A recent fire in the Kapunda area was started by someone moving their lawn. Had the wind not changed direction at least 1 neighbours house was under direct threat.

Some simple things to remember:

- 1) Have a bushfire Survival Plan – PREPARE, ACT, SURVIVE,
- 2) Know what you and your family are going to do on a Catastrophic day
- 3) Maintain vigilance around your property and that of your neighbours

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Neville Kies

Captain - Lyndoch CFS Brigade  
Mobile: 0417 245 128

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# Lyndoch CFS

## Grapevine Article – March 2010



### February - A Busy Month for Lyndoch CFS

They say “It never rains, but it pours” – well they had that right. On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February at approximately 1.30pm, chaos happened when the heavens suddenly opened up in a narrow band of weather activity that affected a small patch of the Barossa. In the space of 3 hours, Lyndoch CFS had 10 incidents, predominantly trees on road or reported flood damage to houses due to overflowing / blocked gutters. It would seem that some incidents were not even reported. These incidents highlight a number of important points.

- 1) Ensure at all times that the gutters are clean of debris – this helps from a bushfire perspective whereby you are not providing fuel to fire embers that may end up in your gutter and thereby affect your house
- 2) In the event of sudden Summer or Winter showers, the risk of water backflowing under the eaves and into the house are significantly reduced.
- 3) The third benefit, is that if you collect your rainwater and use it for drinking, you reduce the amount of unwanted sediment entering your tanks and tainting (through taste or colour) the water supply.

It was our intention after these incidents to have a quiet night and deal with the minor flash flooding our station had, but this was not to be. At approximately 8.30pm Lyndoch, along with Concordia, Williamstown, Tanunda, Nuriootpa and Dalkeith responded to a hazardous materials spill. This incident took some 4 hours to deal with and involved firefighters in chemical splash suits dealing with the incident.

#### Part 1 – Who makes up the Lyndoch CFS!

Lyndoch CFS currently has an active membership of 30 firefighters and a small number of Operational Support personnel. Who are some of these people?

The first group are the Officers of the brigade – these people are elected to these positions by the brigade itself and provide a “Chain of Command” - A conduit for administrative and operational management.



**Name:** Neville Kies  
**Position:** Captain (since 1992)  
**Service:** 1978 → current  
 Neville runs cattle, sheep and vineyards just out of Lyndoch and prefers to work quietly in the background when it comes to his CFS activities. He is always willing to help others at a moment's notice and like all, looks at Lyndoch CFS as part of a big family.



**Name:** Shane Emms  
**Position:** Lieutenant 1  
**Service:** 1992 → current  
 Shane runs his own business in Gawler (Adelaide Heating and Cooling) and began his CFS career in Evanston Gardens before moving to Dalkeith and then Lyndoch in 1999. He is married and has 2 children.



**Name:** Gavin Laycock  
**Position:** Lieutenant 2  
**Service:** 1990 → current  
 Gavin is not only a volunteer firefighter but also a paid firefighter working for the Metropolitan Fire Service out of Elizabeth. He is married with 2 children.



**Name:** Vaughn Elsworth  
**Position:** Lieutenant 3  
**Service:** 1996 → current  
 Vaughn has spent a number of years in both St John and CFS. He is currently employed by the CFS as a State Training Officer delivering Basic Firefighter training to volunteers across the State.

*For more, see the Lyndoch CFS Website and look under Members.*

As you hopefully can start to see, there are many different individuals which make up the Lyndoch CFS and those above are just a few you may see in and around Lyndoch at that next road block or managing that next incident. Next time – Training requirements.

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# Lyndoch CFS Grapevine Article – April 2010



## Medal Presentation

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, eligible members of the Lyndoch CFS brigade were presented with their CFS Service Medal.

The CFS Service Medal, automatically awarded for meritorious service, is presented for 10 years of diligent service to the South Australian Country Fire Service (CFS). For each increment of 10 years service a number bar corresponding with that year will be added.

The depiction of the eight-pointed star on the medal was chosen as it is the traditional insignia of the CFS, formerly known as the Emergency Fire Service (EFS). The star is not unique to the CFS, as it is recognised by fire services all over the world. It is the Cross of Saint John which originally emerged from the Maltese Cross. Used by the Knights of Saint John during the crusades in Jerusalem, the points on the Maltese Cross represented eight virtues of Knighthood which over time firefighters have adopted.

For the Service, the colour of the medal and ribbon symbolises the following:

- The Bronze of the medal represents the wealth of the land and the colour of the desert earth;
- Red is the colour of the threat of fire and danger to the community;
- The Yellow is the healing sun and the common colour of a firefighter's protective clothing;
- The White symbolises the unity of agencies working together with the community against common threats and for the peace that comes from a resilient community.



**Tact**  
**Loyalty**  
**Dexterity**  
**Observation**  
**Sympathy**  
**Explicitness**  
**Gallantry**  
**Perseverance**



Recipients of the medals included:

### 30 Years

Neville KIES

### 10 Years

Brenton EDWARDS

Jacque EDWARDS

Shane EMMS

Vaughn ELSWORTH

Gavin LAYCOCK

David POLLITT

Richard SCHILLER

### 20 Years

David PRITCHARD

A number of certificates were also awarded to members of the brigade – notable – Tom CARR and Tom SMITH for completion of Basic Firefighting 1 and Neville KIES and Richard SCHILLER for Certificate II in Public Safety (Firefighting Operations).

## Part 2 – Training Requirements

Many training opportunities exist within the SA CFS once the initial Basic Firefighting 1 course has been completed.

**Basic Firefighting 1 (BFF1)** is focused on the minimum skills to work safely on the fireground. It looks at the core elements that the firefighter may face – from Wildfires to Road Crash, from Hoses to HAZMAT. It provides the building block for continued training within the brigade.

**Suppress Wildfire (SPW)** is a more involved look at responding to grass and scrub fires. It builds on acquired knowledge and focuses on strategies and tactics to deal with combating these types of fires.

**Road Crash Rescue (RCR)**, while Lyndoch is classed as a Rapid Intervention Brigade for RCR, the training is exactly the same as any other RCR Operator across the State, the only difference is the equipment used.

**Operate Breathing Apparatus (BA)** is focused on providing the knowledge and skills necessary for fire fighters to wear and operate a BA. It includes knowledge and skills of the operation of a BA set and application in the use of BA in heat and reduced visibility conditions.

**Next time:** Positions within the brigade

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# Lyndoch CFS

## Grapevine Article – May 2010

### Fire Danger Season – Ends 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010

We are all breathing a sigh of relief that the 2009 / 2010 fire danger season is over. Fortunately even though we had a number of bad weather days, we were lucky that there were no significant fires.

Never the less, we should not let down our guard down. With the warm weather over and the strong breezes, the gutters are likely to be full of dead leaf litter, so now would be a good idea to clean these out in preparation for the rains. Blocked gutters can lead to water entering the house under the eaves and down the inside wall as a number of people experienced when we had that Summer Rainstorm back on the 10<sup>th</sup> February.

It's also likely that many of us have stockpiled rubbish ready to burn and we would like to remind residents of the following.

#### FIRST: THINK FIRE SAFETY!

1. Please ensure there is a four metre clear space around and above your rubbish heap.
2. If you think your rubbish heap is too big or too close to trees or buildings, make several smaller heaps in safer areas. Smaller heaps are likely to burn more efficiently anyway.
3. Please ensure you have a rake or shovel on hand together with a water hose that is capable of reaching to the far side of the fire.
4. Please do not leave the fire unattended at any time.
5. Please be considerate of your neighbours with regards to wind direction and smoke.

#### SECOND: THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) HAS STRICT RULES FOR DOMESTIC BACKYARD BURNING!

1. Backyard burning is only allowed **Monday to Saturday**.
2. Fires **must not be lit before 10am**.
3. Fires **must be completely extinguished by 3pm**.
4. **Only perfectly dry wood, paper and pruning's can be burnt** in a clean hot burn.
5. Leaves, lawn clippings and other garden refuse should be composted or disposed of via the "Green Waste" pickup service. The Barossa Council encourages these options.
6. It is an offence to burn Treated Pine and items containing plastics.
7. Smoke that is offensive to neighbours is reportable.
8. The only fires allowed at night are home heaters and outside fires principally used for cooking or "comfort fires" not exceeding 1 metre by 1 metre, using clean dry wood.

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9. Penalty - on the spot fines may be issued by The Barossa Council or the EPA.

**Bonfires at locations outside township boundaries must not be burnt at night and must comply with items 1 to 7 above.**

#### PLEASE NOTE:

These are EPA regulations, not CFS or The Barossa Council regulations.

The Barossa Council administers the regulations along with the EPA and SA Police.

The local CFS Fire Brigade only puts out the fires.

If you require further information on domestic or rural burning, pick up a "fact sheet" from your local Council Office or call Phil Herrmann at The Barossa Council on 8563 8444, **before you burn a hole in your pocket.**

#### Part 3 – Positions within the Brigade

Within the CFS we operate under a Chain of Command – if you like this is a reporting process. The Chain of Command within the brigade consists of:

**Captain:** The Captain assumes responsibility for the administrations and operations of the brigade. While this is a significant responsibility, a number of the functions are delegated to other members of the brigade. There can only be one (1) Captain.

**Lieutenants:** A brigade can have up to 4 Lieutenants and their role is to take responsibility for a crew and fire appliance on the fireground and look after their welfare. The holder of Lieutenant 1 will also act on behalf of the Captain should he / she be absent.

**Seniors:** Depending on the brigade, there can be up to 4 Seniors. These are usually members of the brigade who have been around for a while with a sound firefighting knowledge. They may be tasked to be in charge of an appliance should a Lieutenant not be available.

**Firefighters:** The most important members of the brigade, these are if you like the workers.

**Next Time:** Other functional roles

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# Lyndoch CFS Grapevine Article – June 2010

## Winter Fire Safety in Your Home

There are some basic things you can do to make sure that what are normal activities for many people do not result in the devastation and heartache for families that results from a fire in your home.

### Flues

- Clean the flue using a cylindrical wire brush available from most hardware stores
- Check the flue for corrosion, particularly the sections that are out of sight in the roof cavity
- Check that the flue is central in the heat shield and if the conical shroud on the external heat shield has been dislodged, check for bird nests and accumulation of leaf litter

### Do you dry clothes in front of the heater?

Radiant heat from domestic heaters will readily ignite fabrics particularly synthetics, including clothes, towels and curtains. Please ensure that:

- If damp clothes are dried overnight in front of a slow combustion heater that they are kept at least two metres from direct radiant heat.
- Freestanding heaters are placed so that they cannot be accidentally tipped over or bumped up against furniture or curtains.
- A fire screen is used in front of an open fire is to reduce the risk of a fire being started from sparks or a piece of timber rolling out of the fire.

### Do you have candles burning in your home?

If so, please observe basic precautions which include:

- The candleholder is solid enough and stable enough to hold the candle securely.
- Not leaving candles unattended near soft furnishings or curtains.
- Not using candles as night-lights for children.
- Making sure candles are extinguished before you leave the room.
- Make sure candles are extinguished before you go to sleep.

### Have you checked your electric blankets?

Each winter electric blankets cause a number of house fires. Some of the causes are:

- Frayed wiring at the controller or where wiring is attached to the mattress. If you see frayed wiring do not use the electric blanket.
- Damaged internal wiring. This can result from electric blankets being stored with tight folds, which damages the insulation around the heating coils.
- Electric blankets left switched on for extended periods. The heat build up can be enough to ignite the mattress or bedclothes.

### Part 4 – Other Functional Roles within the Brigade

In the last part we looked at the Operational Roles that are used on the fireground. This month I want to look at other functional roles within the brigade. To this end there are many but I will only touch on a few.

**Administration Coordinator** – Responsible for managing the paperwork of the brigade and ensuring that it reaches the intended recipient. They ensure that all members are registered and complete the police checks. In some cases the Administration Coordinator also looks after the finances of the brigade as well.

**Training Coordinator** – Responsible to ensure that a training programme is structured to meet the specific needs of the brigade – it needs to cover the basic skills of day-to-day firefighting as well as the more specialist roles the brigade has eg Road Crash Rescue and Breathing apparatus.

**Equipment Coordinator** – They are the person responsible to ensure that any items that need repair or replacement are actioned as quickly as possible. They look after everything that the firefighter wears (trousers, coat, boots, helmet, goggles, etc) as well as ensuring hoses are replaced or repaired as required. They do not necessarily do all the work, but will usually delegate things out and use the expertise within the brigade.

**Communications Coordinator** – This person is responsible for the radios and pagers used by the brigade – a new members after completing the Basic Firefighting course will usually see this person to obtain a pager and undergo any training relating to the use of the Government Radio Network (GRN). Again, like all many of the other roles above, they may delegate responsibility to others to assist them in this role.

**Next Time:** Support Roles within the Brigade

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# Lyndoch CFS

## Grapevine Article – July 2010



### Safety on the Roads

As at writing this article (25/06), we have just returned from another vehicle accident. Fortunately no one was injured. This along with other incidents recently attended in the Lyndoch Area highlights a number of things we as Road users need to understand.

SA Police along with the Motor Accident Commission talk about the **Fatal 5**:

- Vehicle Speed
- Drink Driving / Drug Driving
- Inattention and Complacency
- Not wearing seatbelts
- Fatigue



It was noted by all at the incident today (including SAPOL) the inattentiveness of road users. At incidents CFS along with SA Police set up traffic management, the same system used by Road Crews doing maintenance on the roads – STOP SLOW bats.

It seems that a number of people fail to understand the meaning of the word STOP / SLOW or worse think it doesn't apply to them. One particular driver this morning said to the CFS member managing the traffic – he didn't stop because the operator was not standing directly behind the sign. This was not the only occurrence this morning – another driver completely ignored the STOP sign and proceeded through unaware of traffic coming the other way. Another individual was irate that he had been stopped and wanted to know how long he was going to be waiting as he was running late to an appointment. To all of these individuals – STOP thinking about only yourselves and think of others – more importantly leave a little earlier and drive to the conditions – the road is NOT a racetrack.

A number of other drivers gave what may only be described as “dirty looks” to the crews managing the traffic – at the end of the day, we are trying to manage a situation and find common ground for all users to be able to travel safely by the incident scene.

We also want to remind all road users that 40km/h is the current speed allowed when passing any incident where Red / Blue flashing beacons are being used. It is currently going through Parliament to have this reduced to 25km/h.

We deploy traffic management at incidents for the safety of crews working at the scene as well as for you, the general public. The CFS members, out in all weather are volunteers who have delayed going into work to provide a service for / to the community.

#### A New Station at last!

At last, after many years, Station Plans have now been forwarded and colours chosen. A few minor changes have been requested and we shall have to wait and see. Lyndoch is entitled to a 2 bay station with Administration area. Hopefully we shall see things start shortly.

#### Part 5 – Support Roles within the Brigade

In this final part we will look at the Support Roles available within the Brigade

There is generically one role that all Brigades have and that is what is termed Brigade Operational Support. This role is quite broad and caters for:

- Those members of the brigade who wish to step down from Operational Status (through Age, Time Commitments or Medical Conditions).
- Members of the community who want to assist a volunteer organisation but do not wish to be out there at the pointy end.

The Brigade always looks for people to undertake:

- Administration – Radio Communications Operator
- Refurbish appliances when returning from long / protracted incidents
- General Repairs and maintenance / handyman type on equipment
- Catering assistance for protracted incidents.

If you are interested in one of these roles, please contact the brigade on a Wednesday training night.

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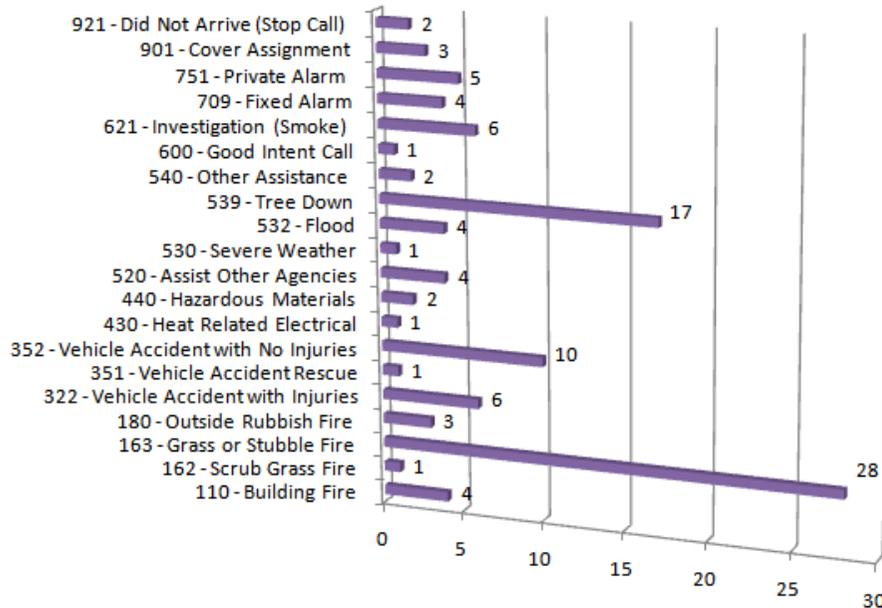


# Lyndoch CFS Grapevine Article – August 2010



## Statistics for 2009 / 2010

Lyndoch CFS responded to 105 incidents in the periods 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 compared to 73 for the previous year.



Increases were noticeable across 3 broad areas from the previous 12 months:

- Approx 50% increase in Trees down (Type: 539)
- Approx 30% increase in Vehicle Accidents (Type: 322, 351 & 352)
- Approx 200% increase in Grass / Stubble Fires (Type: 162 & 163)

Based on this and the previous calls, Lyndoch on average has responded to 97 incidents per year over the last 10.

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### So Close!

Crews responded to a reported house fire in Lyndoch at the back end of June (after the last Grapevine newsletter). On arrival, smoke was seen issuing from under the eaves, a sure sign that things were not too good inside. Fortunately it was not as bad as it seemed – SMOKE – but things could have been much worse. The quick thinking of a relative prevented a possible catastrophe by them noticing the smoke in the first place and then turning off the gas and power.

The cause was food left “slow cooking” on the stove. The owners, on return were surprised and shocked to see so many services at the scene – other than venting the house of smoke, they were not required.

As a general reminder – do not leave any food cooking on the stove unattended / unsupervised.

### Welcome

We haven't done this for a while and it's now overdue. Lyndoch CFS would like to welcome the following members to the Brigade:

- \* Derek Jones (Firefighter)
- \* John Platten (Firefighter)
- \* Wayne Sanders (Firefighter)
- \* Valerie Koch (Operational Support)
- \* Rachel Koch (Cadet)
- \* Samuel Koch (Cadet)

Before responding to incidents, firefighters need to undertake a basic training course.

We also need to congratulate Tom Carr and Tom Smith who moved up from cadets into the firefighter ranks.

### Brigade AGM - 2010

A reminder to all that the Brigade AGM is scheduled for the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2010 at 1930 hours – Lyndoch Station.

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# Lyndoch CFS Grapevine Article – September 2010



## Fire Prevention – Start Now

It is likely that the Fire Danger season will start in December this year as it did last. This may be subject to change and closer to the Fire Danger Season these dates will be officially published. It is therefore important that you think about preparing your house and surroundings now rather than leave it to the last minute. The rains of late have prompted consistent growth and this should be dealt with before we enter the Summer Months.

In preparation for haymaking, please check mowers, rakes and balers and do pre-season maintenance on bearings, belts, chains and drive shafts to minimize the chance of overloaded or overheating equipment. While you may prevent a fire, you will probably also avoid costly damage, downtime and repairs. While you are checking the machinery, don't forget to fill, check and test Firefighting equipment that you may rely on if a fire does start. The right equipment and quick action to extinguish a small fire have obvious benefits.

Community Information	Education	Training	Join Us	Links
Brochures and DVDs				
Bushfire Safety				
Call Triple Zero in an Emergency				
House Fire Safety				
Organisations & Business				
Prepare. Act. Survive.				
Fire Tracks and Fuel Breaks				
Watch & Act and Emergency Warnings				
Kangaroo Island BRMP				
Smoke Alarms				
Local Government				
Travellers				
<b>Farmers</b>		Burning Off		
<b>Industry</b>		Council Information		
		Farm Fire Unit Guidelines		
		Harvesting Codes of Practice		
		Haystack Fires		
		LP Gas Safety		
		Machinery		
		Permits		
		<b>Reducing Fuels</b>		
		Weather Information		

It is also time to spray grass around the home, sheds and fence lines as part of your fire prevention strategy. Once the grass has died off, removal of dead grass, leaf litter, twigs and old timber will remove a potential path for fire to reach your buildings.

Should you require more information, visit the CFS website ([www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au))

### Brigade AGM

The Brigade AGM was held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August. Even though this was a non-election year, 3 vacancies were required to be filled. Firstly thanks must go to those members who relinquished those positions for their efforts – positions were relinquished due to increased work commitments.

We welcome the following members as position holders:

- Brigade Liaison** – Wayne & Valerie KOCH
- Cadet Coordinator** – Leigh McCORMACK
- Brigade Logistics Coordinator** – Reuben BATTEN

We also welcome Shane Robinson to the Brigade. Shane needs to complete the Basic Firefighting course before he is able to respond on the appliances.

### Lyndoch CFS Pump Trailer

Lyndoch CFS, with the approval of the Group and Region are currently constructing a pump trailer, with the aim to it being operational for the forthcoming Fire Danger Season. The trailer will have the ability to provide water to appliances at a minimum of 1000 litres per minute, thereby allowing a short turn-around time. The trailer will also be fitted with a 5000 litre self-supporting collar dam and a portable generator. To this end Lyndoch CFS has applied for a State Government Grant from the Office for the Volunteer to assist us in this venture.

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# Lyndoch CFS

## Grapevine Article – October 2010



### Preparing for the Summer – Part 1

Over the next couple of months we will look at issues that may assist you in understanding aspects of Fire and its impact on your home and on the community. This month we will look at **Bushfire Behaviour**.

#### Bushfire Behaviour

Some basic facts about bushfire behaviour may help you understand how fire can damage property and how to protect against it.

#### Fire Intensity

The intensity of a fire refers to the amount of heat being generated. The higher the intensity the harder the fire is to control and the more damage it is likely to cause. Fire intensity depends on three major factors: vegetation, weather and topography.

#### Vegetation

The type and amount of vegetation determines fuel load, which in turn determines fire intensity. The intensity of a fire increases in proportion to the amount of available fuel (flammable material less than 6mm in diameter). The more available fuel, the greater the fire intensity experienced. Forest and scrub fires are more intense and generate significantly more heat than grass fires. As a result the impact and potential damage of a forest or scrub fire on a home will be much greater. Reduction of fuels by clearing undergrowth provides the best method of reducing fire intensity and thus is an essential part of any fire protection strategy.

#### Weather

Increasing temperature and wind velocity and decreasing relative humidity directly contribute to an increase in the rate of spread of fire and the resultant fire intensity. As fuels dry out ignition is easier and the rate of spread increases. In South Australia the prevailing fire winds are from the North. However, history has shown that a South Westerly wind change, although cooler, can increase the danger by swinging the fire in a different direction catching people unaware. It is therefore important, when developing a fire protection strategy for your

home to take into consideration that the majority of fires are most likely to come from the Northern and Western sides.

#### Topography

Fires burn more quickly and with greater intensity up slopes than on flat ground or downhill. Ridgetops and steep slopes therefore are the most dangerous sites to build on. North facing slopes are also dangerous as they receive more direct sunlight than South facing slopes, which dries out vegetation causing more intense fires.

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Realistically, as residents of the township and for its immediate surrounds, the likely impact of fire will come from ember attacks, so preparing around the home is extremely critical.

#### Other things to keep in mind:

- Autumn growth has added to the already significant fuel load around the district.
- Winter vegetation will begin to dry rapidly adding to the fuel already around
- The Fire Danger Season may be brought forward from the usual 1<sup>st</sup> December start.

#### Actions you should consider, include:

- Thinking, “fire safe” for all activities.
- Clean up around houses, sheds and fence lines with a view to eliminating paths for fire.
- Disposing of rubbish adjacent to buildings that could provide fuel for a fire.
- Discussing with your family or employees your plans to “**Stay, Act & Survive**” in the event of a major fire.
- Developing or revisiting your escape plans, both for your home and for your property. This applies to everyone.
- Filling and testing firefighting equipment and making sure potential operators know how to use it safely and efficiently.
- Preparing a suitable firefighting pack including clothing, food and drinking water.

#### Next Month – Bushfire Attack & How Houses Burn

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# Lyndoch CFS Grapevine Article – November 2010



## Preparing for the Summer – Part 2

Welcome to Part 2 of Preparing for the Summer. In this article we will look at **How Houses Burn** and **Bushfire Attack**.

### How Houses Burn

#### Initiation of Building Fires

Building fires start in the same way as bushfires - with small ignitions. These ignitions progress slowly at first, accelerate and progressively involve the whole building. During a bushfire buildings can ignite in three ways; through **ember attack**, **direct flame contact** and **radiant heat**.

#### Ember Attack

The entry of windblown sparks (burning embers) through unprotected openings is the principal cause of building damage during bushfires. These sparks start small fires, often well before the main fire front or many hours after, which develop rapidly and may eventually involve the whole building if left unattended.

#### Direct Flame Contact

Direct flame contact occurs when hazardous vegetation or other flammable material in close proximity to the home ignites causing flames to impinge directly on the exterior of the building.

#### Radiant Heat

While exposure to radiant heat is the principle cause of loss of life in bushfires, it is not the common cause of building fires. In extreme cases it may ignite timber directly but this only happens when a large quantity of fuel burns close to the building. More importantly, radiant heat can break glass (due to different rates of expansion between the glass and window frame) allowing the entry of sparks and flames into the building. It may also heat up a building making ignition by embers easier.

### Bushfire Attack

The attack of a bushfire on a building goes through three stages:

#### Stage 1: As 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.

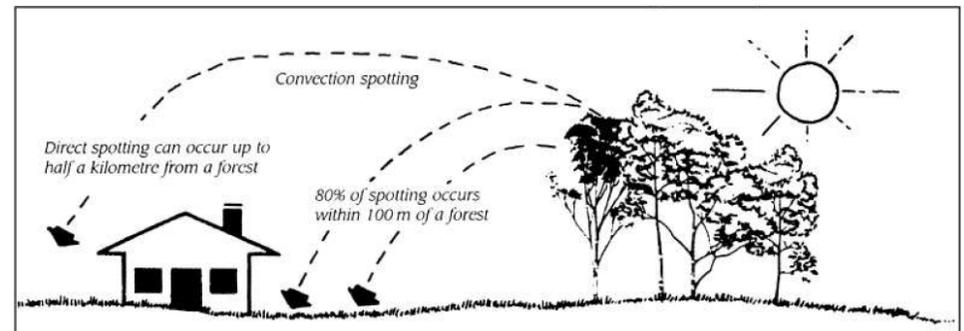
#### Stage 2: When Fire Front Arrives

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

#### Stage 3: After Fire Front Has Passed

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

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
<b>As Fire Front Approaches</b>	<b>When Fire Front Arrives</b>	<b>After Fire Front passes</b>
<b>½ - 1 hour</b>	<b>5 – 15 minutes</b>	<b>3 – 8 hours</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ember attack</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ember attack</li> <li>● Direct flame contact</li> <li>● Radiant Heat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ember attack</li> </ul>



Forest fires can cause 'spotting' (small ignitions caused by burning bark and twigs blown ahead of the main fire front which evolve into large fires). Spotting can occur hundreds of meters ahead of the fire and has been recorded as far as 30km in extreme conditions. However, the greatest chance of spotting is immediately adjacent to the going fire front.

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# Lyndoch CFS

## Grapevine Article – December 2010



### Fire Danger Season What Can / Can't I do?

This is by no means a definitive list. Please check the CFS Website, Your Local Council or contact the CFS Bushfire Information Hotline on **1300 362 361** for more information

	Within the Fire Danger Season	On a Total Fire Ban Day
<b>Can I burn-off on my property?</b>	<b>NO</b> Unless you have obtained a Schedule 9 permit from your local council. <b>Check with your local council for conditions.</b>	<b>NO</b> Unless you have obtained a Schedule 10 permit from your local council. <b>Check with your local council for conditions.</b>
<b>Can I burn rubbish or grass clippings?</b>	<b>YES</b> But only in a properly constructed incinerator unless you have a permit from your local council to burn on the ground. When using an incinerator, you must have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A four-metre cleared space around and above the fire</li> <li>A responsible person must be in attendance at all times with water or an extinguisher.</li> </ul> All incinerator doors and openings should be closed and screens and guards in place.	<b>NO</b> Unless you have a Schedule 10 permit from your local council. The lighting of incinerators is banned during days of Total Fire Bans.
<b>Can I use a gas or electric barbecue?</b>	<b>YES</b> Providing you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a 4-metre cleared space around and above the gas fire or electric element;</li> <li>a responsible person in attendance at all times;</li> <li>adequate agents to extinguish the fire at hand.</li> </ul>	<b>YES</b> A gas or electric barbecue can be used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>within 15 metres of a domestic premises, <b>OR</b></li> <li>on a coastal foreshore</li> </ul> Providing you have a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4-metre cleared space around and above the barbecue;</li> <li>a responsible person in attendance at all times;</li> <li>adequate agent to extinguish the fire at hand.</li> </ul>

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<b>Can I use fireworks?</b>	<b>NO</b> Private use of fireworks is banned.  <b>Licensed pyrotechnics may conduct public fireworks displays providing a Schedule 9 permit has been obtained from the local council.</b>	<b>NO</b> Private use of fireworks is banned.  <b>Licensed pyrotechnics may conduct public fireworks displays providing a Schedule 9 permit has been obtained from the local council.</b>
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### Christmas Fire Safety

The festive season brings a number of extra fire risks to the community and your family.

You need to recognise these risks and take precautions to keep your family and friends safe during the Christmas period.

Please note these precautionary tips:

1. Check Christmas lights carefully for frayed wires, bare spots in insulation, broken or cracked sockets and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up.
2. Do not overload electrical circuits or power boards; make sure your home or power boards are fitted with an approved overload protection device (RCD)
3. Do not leave Christmas lights on when you go out or when you go to sleep.
4. Do not let bulbs touch anything that can burn easily, like paper or other decorations.
5. Dispose of live trees quickly after the Christmas period before they dry out and become a fire hazard. Also dispose of wrapping paper quickly and safely.
6. Do not leave candles unattended when they are lit.
7. Only place candles in stable holders on a heat resistant surface.
8. Make sure candles are completely out, not smouldering.
9. Do not use party poppers, silly string or other party streamers where there are naked flames from candles etc.

### Merry Christmas

The Lyndoch CFS would like to extend Christmas wishes to all members of the community. The Management Committee would like to especially thank the volunteers of the Lyndoch CFS and their families. We hope you all have a quiet and safe Christmas and hope to see you all in the New Year.



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