



Lyndoch CFS Grapevine Article – February 2013

A busy Fire Season – it isn't over yet!

Since early December Lyndoch has responded to several grass fires in the surrounding areas – one of which was suspicious in nature. Thanks to the assistance of the CFS firebombing aircraft and the prompt response of Lyndoch, Concordia and Williamstown the fire was limited to a relatively small area. This fire along with others that the brigade has responded to highlights the importance of people being alert and prepared.

The recent spell of hot weather is not the last we will see and some of the fires across the Region that have started that have done so through human interaction – a grinder being used to cut through concrete and metal, a disc plough. In some of these cases, the person did not have any form of fire protection around to deal with a fire should it start, nor did they have a cleared area in which they were working. All little things which have the potential for huge impact.

During the Fire Danger Season certain activities may require the securing of a permit. To check this you should visit the CFS website and under the heading **FIRE RESTRICTIONS** look at the page **WHAT CAN I DO / WHAT CAN'T I DO**. This may give you the answer your looking for otherwise ring the local council and talk to their fire prevention officer or alternatively ring the **Bushfire Information Hotline on 1300 362 361**.

Use more than one source of information

The Country Fire Service (CFS) is encouraging South Australians to access information during bushfire incidents through multiple sources, as part of their Bushfire Survival Plan.

The advice follows a slowing of the Country Fire Authority (CFA) website in Victoria last Friday when a Total Fire Ban was declared across the state.

The CFA website and its Smartphone App had more than 12 million hits over a 12-hour period on Friday 4th January which drastically slowed it down and eventually impaired its access.

"Although our website and Fire App withstood the rigour of high demand, the extreme volume of website hits experienced in Victoria has demonstrated that you should not rely on just one source to obtain bushfire information," Mr Miller said.

"The CFS website and Fire App systems are robust but their dependability can also be influenced by other things beyond our control such as the reliability of a service provider or mobile network connections."

Mr Miller said bushfire planning must also include monitoring local emergency broadcast radio stations or signing-on to CFS social media sites, registering for RSS feeds, or subscribing for email notifications through the CFS website.

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Neville Kies

Captain - Lyndoch CFS Brigade
Mobile: 0417 245 128

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BE BUSHFIRE READY
Stay informed

- CFS website: www.cfs.sa.gov.au
- Bushfire Information Hotline 1300 362 361 (TTY 133 677)
- Twitter: @cfsalerts or @cfsstalk
- RSS Feeds
- Email subscription service
- Emergency Broadcast Partners (see brochures and our web page for radio & TV stations broadcasting CFS warnings)
- CFS Booklets, brochures and fact sheets
- CFS Community Engagement programs
- Twitter: @cfsalerts or @cfsstalk
- RSS Feeds
- Email subscription service
- Emergency Broadcast Partners (see brochures and our web page for radio & TV stations broadcasting CFS warnings)
- CFS Booklets, brochures and fact sheets
- CFS Community Engagement programs
- Friends, family and neighbours
- Your own senses and experience

Don't rely on technology or one source of information. Sometimes your own senses provide the best warning

Government of South Australia

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE. **BUSHFIRE READY**



Lyndoch CFS

Grapevine Article – March 2013



Call 000 in an Emergency

It's important to provide as much information as you can when you call Triple Zero as you can see from the comments below. There are some common problems that emergency services see that have the potential to cause a delay in response. The biggest fault is accurate location information – while we will always get a fire truck to the incident delays can happen when the nearest truck is not responded based on the information provided.

The simple steps in making a Triple Zero (000) call to report an incident:

- Stay calm and call Triple Zero '000' from a safe location.
- A Telstra operator will ask you if you need Police, Fire or Ambulance. Say 'Fire'. If you are calling from a mobile or satellite phone the operator will ask you for other location information.
- You will be connected to an Emergency Services Operator to provide more details.
- 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 Freeway, Expressway or on a rural road, know the direction you are travelling and 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 a pre-arranged meeting point or prominent location for Fire Services to arrive to assist them in locating the fire or incident.

Other things everyone should know in an emergency:

- If a person is unable to speak English, if they call Triple Zero (000), say "fire" and leave the phone off the hook the call will be recorded and traced and a fire appliance will be sent to that address.
- Record the Triple Zero (000) emergency number beside the telephone at home and work.
- Take time to teach children and overseas visitors how to make an emergency call.
- Callers with hearing or speech impairments can call the one zero six (106) text-based emergency call service using a textphone.
- **112** is the GSM international standard emergency number which can only be dialled on digital mobile phones. 112 can be dialled anywhere in the world with GSM coverage and is automatically translated to that country's emergency number.

Lyndoch Station

Work is now pretty much finished at Lyndoch Station – some basic landscaping has now been completed at the front and over time the brigade will make its impact in this area. Contactors are now fixing minor defect and these should be finished soon. A formal "Official Opening" is being planned and hopefully in the next Grapevine article we will be able to bring you information in relation to this.

We will be holding another open night in the next couple of months as part of a recruitment drive so watch out for additional information in either your letterbox or around town.

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Lyndoch CFS Grapevine Article – April 2013



Smoke sightings! – What's going on?

Even though Summer is over, the Fire Danger Season is not in the Mount Lofty Ranges. You may see smoke rising up around the area so what's going on? Farmers via the Council can seek permission to undertake burning off of their stubble paddocks – they do however have some obligations.

- 1) They must still seek a permit from the local council Fire Prevention Officer – Schedule 9 for lighting fires during the fire danger season.
- 2) This schedule identifies their obligations they need to abide by which includes the notification of the local brigade on the day of their intention to burn.

FIRE BAN SEASON
Please remember that the Fire Ban End Date for the Mount Lofty Ranges is the 30th April 2013.

The challenge for some of us when we see smoke is that it may look closer than it actually is and in some cases it's not even in the Barossa Council area – approved burnoffs in the Light Council area can spread towards the Valley as can some in the Adelaide Hills (Gumeracha, Forreston etc).

So what do I do? You can ring 000 and request the Fire Service, they will, based on the information you provide them be possibly able to provide information of burnoffs in the area – if they can't then they will usually ask a number of questions and respond the nearest most appropriate brigade to investigate.

Chimney / Flue Fire Prevention

With some colder nights starting to occur and even some days, it's noticeable that some households are starting to stoke up the combustion heater.

Now is a good time to check if the flue or chimney needs cleaning!

A pre winter check for wood fires includes:

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



Chimneys:

- Clean the chimney using a wire brush and look out for big chunks of mortar or brick in the soot which will indicate decay inside the chimney
- Check the section of chimney within the roof space for loose or missing bricks or mortar

While you are thinking about your wood heater, consider the distance to the nearest flammable material like a lounge, cupboard or curtains. Has something been moved closer to the fire over Summer that may now present a danger? If you are unsure on what is a safe distance, consult the Operators Manual or check with the supplier

Should your chimney catch fire, please call the fire service immediately and ensure all occupants are accounted for and safe.

Then, use a fire extinguisher if available and where possible, restrict the flow of air to the fire by closing doors and windows. Beware when using water because it will create steam, which can also cause burns.

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Lyndoch Station Opening

Look for information in next month's Grapevine Article. The opening is planned for Saturday 11th May 2013.

There will be a Formal Opening Ceremony followed by an open afternoon for the local community.

We're also planning an open night for interested new members.

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Lyndoch CFS Grapevine Article – May 2013



Official Opening – Saturday 11th May 2013

Lyndoch Station Official Opening

FROM THIS



TO THIS



The original shed on the left was built in the early 1970's and served the brigade well up until it required some modification in the 1990s to accommodate a newer, larger fire appliance. Over the next decade an additional appliance was added to the brigade requiring the use of a 2nd smaller shed which lasted well until this 2nd appliance was replaced with a larger one. As a result, the Store Shed at the rear of the block was constructed in 2005 to allow the brigade to expand and accommodate this appliance. The brigade had been promised a new station since the early 1990s so this new station as shown on the right has been long coming and is much appreciated and valued by the members of the brigade.

The Official Opening of the Lyndoch Station will be held on Saturday 11th May 2013. While the morning session of the opening is for Invited Guests, the station will be open to the public from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

The Public Opening is not only an opportunity for you to come and meet the members of the Lyndoch CFS Brigade and view the station but also an opportunity for anyone interested in joining to come on down and have a chat.

For a history of the Lyndoch CFS Brigade visit www.lyndochcfs.com.au and click on the Special Events icon and look at the 30th Anniversary information.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 2.00PM – 4.00PM

FIRE BAN SEASON

Please remember that the Fire Ban End Date for the Mount Lofty Ranges is the 30th April 2013. We ask that you take care when lighting fires after this date and ensure that you have suitable extinguishing media on hand and that fires are supervised.

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Lyndoch CFS Grapevine Article – June 2013



Thank You!!

Saturday May 11th was a long awaited event in the life of the Lyndoch CFS Brigade. Much of what occurred this day was a testament to not only the current members of the brigade but also to the founding members of the Emergency Fire Service (EFS) way back in the mid 1970's.

The Official Ceremony commenced at 10.30 and concluded just after 11.00. This gave time for many of the past members to get together and remember those times as well as wander around and see where things had progressed.

History shows that the brigade and its members back then forged their ways by building their station and working on the appliance. Not much has changed – while the SA Government has provided the new Station, the brigade has built its own store shed, new carport, pump trailer and logistics trailer. As was said by some – “it’s what Lyndoch CFS do!”

Special thanks must go to the past members of the brigade, the Chief Officer Mr Greg Nettleton, Region 2 Commander Mr John Hutchins, and the current members and their families.

Thanks also need to go to Barossa Country Kitchens for catering for this event.

Please watch your letterbox over the next month – Lyndoch will be having an Open Night Invitation seeking new volunteers.



Backyard Burning

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

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 Jamie or Chadd at The Barossa Council on 8563 8444, **before you burn a hole in your pocket**.

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