



# Lyndoch CFS Grapevine Article – July 2014



## Winter Weather Advice

**During storms and periods of wet and windy weather people should take the following precautions:**

- Ensure loose items such as outdoor furniture and children's play equipment (e.g. trampolines and cubby houses) are put away or secured, so they do not become flying objects.
- Park vehicles undercover or away from trees.
- Stay indoors and away from windows at times when weather conditions are severe.
- Stay away from fallen powerlines (it should be assumed that they are live - fallen powerlines should be reported to SA Power Networks (SAPN) on 131 366).
- Keep clear of creeks and storm drains.
- Do not ride or walk through floodwaters.
- Check that any hazardous substances are stored above ground level in case of flash flooding.
- Check that building and contents insurance is current and adequate.
- Put together an emergency kit that includes items such as a battery-operated torch and radio (plus spare batteries), first aid supplies and a list of useful telephone numbers.
- Consider pets and make sure there is an appropriate shelter for them.

**It is also important for motorists to exercise additional care during wet weather. Motorists should:**

- Observe all road signs.
- Be alert to sudden changes in road conditions.
- Be aware of any fallen trees, branches and debris.
- Drive carefully on wet and slippery roads.
- Turn on their headlights if visibility is poor (and remember to turn them off upon arrival).
- Be aware of emergency services workers and others who may be working on the side of the road.
- Avoid driving in extremely adverse conditions unless it is absolutely necessary. If it is, maintain an increased safe driving distance and slow down.
- Never attempt to drive through floodwaters.

**During periods of fine weather home owners are advised to:**

- Trim overhanging branches.
- Clear gutters and downpipes of leaves and debris.
- Ensure roofing is properly maintained and there are no loose roof tiles.

## Dealing with LPG

LPG is a common fuel used for cooking, heating and for powering cars, trucks and forklifts. While equipment malfunctions are rare, there are some basic things that you can do if confronted with the smell of LPG and or a white vapour in the vicinity of LPG gas cylinders or LPG gas powered equipment.

- Firstly, evacuate people from the area without switching on or off any electrical device or using a naked flame that could ignite the gas. Close the door behind you.
- Next, call **000**. Do this on a mobile phone or use a neighbour's phone if a house is involved, do not re-enter a house or shed.
- If accessible from outside the house or shed, turn off the gas at the cylinder, or each cylinder if multiple cylinders are involved.
- While waiting for emergency services make sure nobody re-enters the building and warn neighbours about what has happened.
- Remember, LPG is heavier than air and will settle in low-lying areas including cupboards, wall cavities and across floors. This will need to be ventilated.



A word of warning. Ventilating a building is best left to trained firefighters. LPG mixed with air is extremely explosive and opening a door or window may produce a mix that could flash or explode on contact with an ignition source.

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Neville Kies  
Captain - Lyndoch CFS Brigade  
Mobile: 0417 245 128

### Fire station attended:

7.30pm to 9.30pm Wednesdays - Phone (08) 8524 5623 Fax: (08) 8524 5128

### Training:

Every Wednesday commencing at 7.30pm at the fire station.



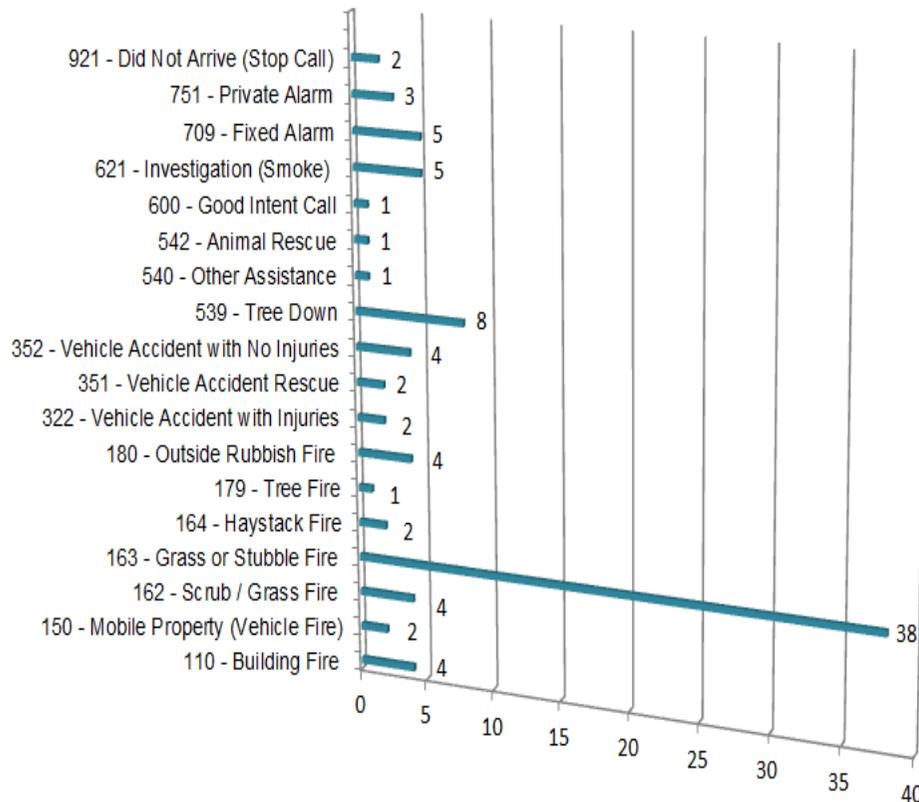
# Lyndoch CFS Grapevine Article – August 2014



## Statistics for 2013 - 2014

The statistics for 2013 – 2014 make some interesting reading.

Lyndoch CFS responded to a total of 89 incidents for the above period.



The above table shows that Lyndoch CFS responded to various incidents which highlights the fact that as an Emergency Services Brigade we are an “All Hazards” agency.

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## Brigade AGM ☺

A reminder to all Operational and Support Members that the AGM for the Lyndoch CFS Brigade is scheduled for Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2014 for a 1930hrs (7:30pm) start. This is a non-election year.

It is also important that we ensure that we have a minimum of 16 members present on the night to achieve the quorum required under the constitution to vote, if needed.

If you are unable to attend please notify the Brigade Administration Coordinator or Brigade Captain.

## Winter Weather Warnings / Things to Remember

### On The Road:

- Check your windscreen-wipers are in good working condition to ensure clear visibility when driving in the rain.
- Ensure you have good tread on your tyres and your brakes are in good working order.
- Allow a longer time to get to your destination and a greater distance between you and the car ahead.

### In Your Home:

- Ensure that your chimney flues are kept clean to prevent flue fires.
- If drying clothes in front of an open fire or heat source, ensure a safe distance is kept.
- Clothes dryer filters should be regularly cleaned and kept free of lint to prevent overheating.
- When leaving the home, make sure your heaters are turned off.

## Lyndoch Station Update

It's been approximately 18 months since the new station was completed. Operations, weekly training nights and meetings have run smoother and certainly with more comfort for our members in the extreme conditions.

Our thanks go to our members, their families, Group Officer and Deputy Group Officers for their on-going support.

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# Lyndoch CFS Grapevine Article – September 2014

## \*\*\* Things To Remember \*\*\*

### Replace Your 10 Year Old Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarm legislation in South Australia first made smoke alarms compulsory in new homes in 1995, and then progressively (in 1998 and 2000) they became compulsory in all homes. As a result there are a large number of smoke alarms in the community which are now around 10 - 13 years old and with every year which passes that number increases.

**Both hard-wired (mains powered, 240 volt) and battery operated smoke alarms are only manufactured to a standard that requires them to perform for 10 years.**

South Australia's Fire Services (the SA Metropolitan Fire Service and the SA Country Fire Service) advise that **all** smoke alarms need to be replaced after 10 years - smoke alarms don't last forever even if they are 240 volt mains powered!

#### What Happens to Smoke Alarms as They Age

Smoke alarms are manufactured to a standard (AS 3786) which specifies an effective life of 10 years. After that time smoke alarms may malfunction and their efficiency may be compromised with accumulated dust, insects, airborne contaminants and corrosion of electrical circuitry. They should be replaced every 10 years.

Many homes in South Australia have smoke alarms which have reached the end of their recommended life.

**The limited lifespan of smoke alarms applies to ALL smoke alarms regardless of power source (battery or 240 volt) or the type of smoke alarm (ionisation or photo-electric/photo-optical).**

### 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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## Lyndoch CFS Grapevine Article – October 2014



### Are You Prepared?

“Are You Prepared” for unseasonal weather conditions and the upcoming Fire Danger Season?

Some may think it's too early for asking this question, but recently with very little rain in September, high winds up to 90km/hr and temperatures up to 30°C, on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> September the CFS encountered over 85 incidents of which most were trees down and grass fires.

At this point in time the Fire Danger season for the Mount Lofty Ranges will start on the 1st December. 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.

It is time to spray the grasses around the home, sheds and fence lines as part of your fire prevention strategy. Removal of dead grass, leaf litter, twigs and old timber will eliminate a potential path for fire to reach your buildings.

Also, 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.

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

#### Actions you should consider include:

- Thinking, “fire safe” for all activities.
- Clean up around houses, sheds and fence lines.
- Disposing of rubbish adjacent to buildings that could provide fuel for a fire.
- Discussing with your family or employees your plans to “**Prepare, 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.
- Prepare a suitable firefighting pack including clothing, food and drinking water.

If there is a risk from an unprepared neighbouring property due to over growth, then firstly talk to the owners about your concerns. If no action occurs contact the Fire Prevention Officer at the Barossa Council. It's quite possible that they are already aware of the issues in the local township as they do undertake regular drives of the towns to check on properties that pose risks. If you contact the local CFS or the CFS Regional Office they will in the first instance refer you to the Fire Prevention Officer.

For more information, check the CFS Website under the heading **Community Information & Education**. Once on that page follow the appropriate links.

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# Lyndoch CFS November 2012



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## Our Fire Danger Season Starts Earlier Than Normal

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Be advised that the Mount Lofty Fire Danger Season will start two weeks earlier than normal. The CFS has confirmed that our Fire Danger Season will officially start on **17<sup>th</sup> November 2014**.

We haven't even started Summer, but the CFS has already seen an increase in the number of incidents. A significant number of which have been grass / scrub fire related from the cause of weather conditions and recently a number were started as a result of lightning.

Lyndoch crews have responded recently to a number of backyard rubbish fires which were burning outside the permitted Council times. It has also been noticed that several comfort fires had been burning the night before a Total Fire Ban.

Please ensure the following:

- Check with the Barossa Council before lighting any fires to ensure they are within the allotted times.
- If you intend to have a comfort fire, then ensure they are fully extinguished.
- Check on the CFS Website or Council for Total Fire Bans and Weather Conditions.

### Are You Prepared?

With the recent weather conditions we pose the question – Are You Prepared for a fire in or around your property?

Do you:

- Know what a Safer Settlement, Safer Precinct and Place of Last Resort are for your area?
- Have you developed a **bushfire action plan** with your family?
- Understand what is meant by **Severe**, **Extreme** and **Catastrophic** Conditions?

If you can answer yes to all of these, then well done – if not, don't panic – there are a number of places you can go to get help with this information.

Go to [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au) and click on the icons as shown on the right.

If you click on the Bushfire Ready link you will find all sorts of information on:

- Knowing if you are at risk.
- Activating your bushfire plan.
- What items go into making up a bushfire survival kit.
- What to do – Bushfire Safety for Travellers.



If you click on the Bushfire Safer Places – look on the right hand side for “The Barossa Council” and follow the link. This will show where the Safer Settlements, Precincts and Places of last resort are.

The CFS website also shows the current incidents, Fire ban districts and their level of alert. If you have the opportunity please spend some time looking at this site.

### Interested in joining?

If you are interested in joining, please come along on any Wednesday training night and we are more than happy to spend some time talking to you and showing you what we have to offer. Also feel free to contact the Brigade Captain.

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