



Lyndoch CFS January 2015



Our Thoughts to the Family & Friends of Mr Brian Johnston

Again in the last month another Fire Fighter sadly lost his life on the fire ground at an incident. Our thoughts are with Mr Johnston's family and friends for their tragic loss and also would like to thank our local community member(s) for their thoughts and leaving flowers at our Station again.

Be Prepared Over Summer:

We need to be constantly vigilant. To that end, CFS has put together some practical tips for your preparedness:

1. Understand the environment in which you live - is your house surrounded by - or near - bush, grass or coastal scrub? Do you travel through or plan to holiday in bushfire-prone areas?
2. Sit down with your family now and write a **Bushfire Survival Plan** - your life could depend on it. You can get a copy of this from the CFS website.
3. Make sure you understand - and are familiar with - the national **Fire Danger Ratings** and what those ratings mean for your family's Bushfire Survival Plan.
4. Practice your Bushfire Survival Plan with your whole family, including your strategies for dealing with stock or large pets such as horses.
5. Create and maintain as much defensible space as possible around your home by managing vegetation, including grass and shrubs.
6. Be aware that should you plan to defend your home in accordance with Fire Danger Rating guidelines, you need to be physically capable and mentally prepared.
7. Take the time to put together your family's Bushfire Survival Kits, including a Relocation Kit and a Recovery Kit containing the things you'll need to survive in the first 24 to 48 hours after a bushfire. You'll find all the details and fact sheets on the CFS website.
8. Learn as much as you can about bushfire warnings and safety - ask your local CFS about forthcoming community meetings or alternatively, visit www.cfs.sa.gov.au
9. Update your home and contents insurance and leave a copy of your policies in a secure place away from your home.

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.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR LOCAL CFS BRIGADE, VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT
www.lyndochcfs.com.au

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

FIRE DANGER SEASON – MOUNT LOFTY RANGES

The Fire Danger Season started from 17th November 2014 and continues until the 30th April 2015



Lyndoch CFS February 2015



CATASTROPHIC CONDITIONS ~ SAMPSON FLAT FIRE

Friday 2nd January:

Our pagers activated on Friday 2nd January 2015 at 12:52 to respond as a 'Strike Team' to assist crews at the Sampson Flat Fire.

On arrival, the fire was controlled for a short time, but due to the catastrophic conditions on the day the fire was taken to a situation of beyond control and continued to grow. It has been stated as the biggest fire since Ash Wednesday and below are some points of interest:

- Up to 1000 persons had been used on any one day, especially in the extreme conditions.
- Tasks Carried Out: Fire-Fighting, Incident Management, Operations, Operational Support, Air Attack, Air Operations, Crew Support.
- Services Involved: CFS, MFS, Forestry SA, DEWNR, SAPOL, SAAS, NSW & Victorian Fire Services, St John Ambulance, Salvation Army and many additional agencies helped.
- Over 15 Aircraft used for Air Attack & Air Operations - which included 9 x Fixed Wing Bombers, 2 x Large Air Tankers from Victoria and 2 x Erikson Skycrane Helitac Aircraft.
- An area that contained 1041 homes it was unfortunate 27 homes were lost, many out buildings lost, kilometres of fencing destroyed and many animals died in the fire.
- The fire burnt an excess of 300 square kilometres.
- Over 1,000,000 litres of water has been used.

The positive outcome from the fire is that there was no loss of human life, nor did we record any life threatening injuries and we always learn from each fire.

In the last month we have had a number of people interested in our Brigade and seven have applied to join.

We would like to thank all families from Lyndoch and areas within the Sampson Flat Fire for their support, well wishes and donated gifts.....THANK YOU!

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Lyndoch CFS March 2015



Fundraising Cricket Match – Winemakers versus Comedians

Sunday 1st March:

The Southern Barossa Alliance Organisation has yet again organised a fundraising cricket match which was part of the Fringe Festival. The cricket match was between local Winemakers versus Comedians and was played in a 20/20 type format on the Lyndoch Oval. There was plenty of food and drinks as well as the thoroughly entertaining cricket match where the players were clearly playing by their own rules. There were plenty of laughs.

The entry was a gold coin donation and all monies raised on the day would be proceeds going to the Barossa Group CFS.

We wish to sincerely thank Mark and Mandy Creed, and all the other committee members of the Southern Barossa Alliance for putting on such a fantastic event – I'm sure everyone who attended had a great day.

THANK YOU!!

Also we wish to thank all businesses and individuals who have sponsored or made donations to this event to support the Barossa Group CFS.

Fire Danger Season:

*The Fire Danger Season doesn't end in the Mt Lofty Ranges until **30th April**, so we still have a fair way to go. It's important that we still maintain home maintenance in terms of keeping areas around the house clear of dry leaves – the gutters are probably littered with a broad range of leaves and twigs and if we have a sudden downpour it's possible that water could get into the house under the eaves. In the past we've had a homeowner who had water coming through their light fittings because of blocked gutters and downpipes.*

We are still likely to have Fire Ban days and it's important that you're familiar with what you can and can't do. For more information contact the CFS Bushfire Information Hotline on 1300 362 361 or visit www.cfs.sa.gov.au and click on the Fire Restrictions Menu option.

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Lyndoch CFS Grapevine Article – April 2015



Smoke sightings! – What’s going on?

Even though the Fire Danger Season is not over in the Mount Lofty Ranges, you may see smoke rising up within the local area. Why? ... Farmers can seek permission from the Council to undertake burning off of their stubble paddocks, but 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.

The challenge for some of us when we see fire is that it may look closer than it actually is and in some cases it's not even in the Barossa Council area. Approved burn-offs in the Light Council area can spread towards the valley as can some in the Adelaide Hills (Gumeracha, Forrester etc).

So what do I do? You can ring 000 and request the Fire Service, they will, (based on the information you provide) possibly be able to provide information of burn-offs 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.

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

New Members

Since the large fires at Sampson Flat we have had numerous enquiries for locals to join the Lyndoch Brigade.

Several have filled out applications with three already completing their basic fire-fighting course and receiving their turn-out gear with pager.

We are still waiting on four applications to be cleared, then we can assign the new members on available courses.

This takes our membership numbers to maximum levels.

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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 – May 2015



Fire Danger Season – Ends 30th April 2015

From midnight on the 30th April 2015, the Fire Danger Season ends across the rest of the State including the Mount Lofty Ranges and so backyard burning is now allowed. Please think before you burn!

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.

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

Wet Slippery Roads – PLEASE SLOW DOWN!

With the wet weather upon us after a long dry spell our roads are very slippery and greater attention needs to be adhered to. Lyndoch CFS and neighbouring CFS Brigades have attended to a lot of calls recently and the majority being Road Crashes. This is only the beginning of these conditions, so please slow down and check the condition of your tyres and allow an extra five minutes to get where you're going.....THANKS!

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Neville Kies / Lyndoch CFS Brigade Captain / 0417 245 128

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Lyndoch CFS Grapevine Article – July 2015

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, walk or drive 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 service workers and others who may be working on the side of the road.
- When 'RED & BLUE' flashing lights are being used by emergency persons it's compulsory to Slow Down to 25 km / hr when passing the incident.
- Avoid driving in extremely adverse conditions unless it is absolutely necessary.
- **REMEMBER:** Keep the 'BRO-MANCE' Alive! (As per MAC television campaign).

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 neighbours 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 fire-fighters. 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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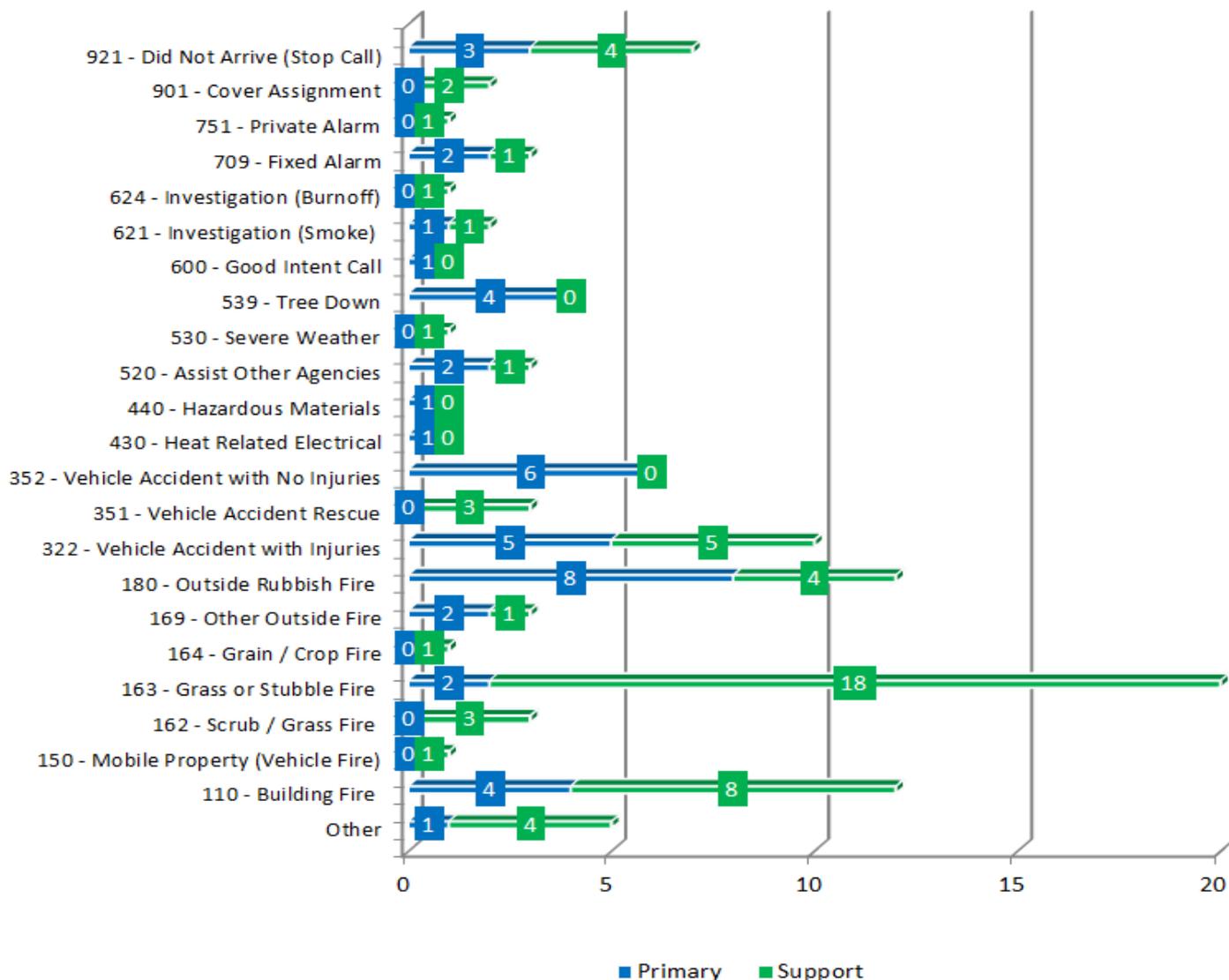


Lyndoch CFS Grapevine Article – August 2015

Brigade Response Statistics for 2014 - 2015

Lyndoch CFS responded to a total of 103 incidents for 2014 – 2015. These are for both Primary Response Calls which is within Lyndoch’s area of response and Secondary Response Calls in which Lyndoch supports other Brigades, Groups and Regions with incidents.

You can see by the following graph a break-up of the type of incidents, but also the primary and secondary calls.



Brigade AGM for 2015

Lyndoch CFS will be having their AGM on the 12th August at 19:30 hours and this year is an election year where all positions will be declared vacant. A reminder to all Operational and Support Members to attend to ensure we have a minimum of 22 members on the night to achieve the quorum under our constitution. Members who are unable to attend should notify the Brigade Administration Coordinator.

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Lyndoch CFS

Grapevine Article – September 2015

Our Weather

Recently we noticed an article in 'The Age' newspaper on Saturday 15th August 2015 with the main headlines '**Great Godzilla' El Nino set to linger.**

With the US and Australian Bureau of Meteorology predicting similar weather patterns to those experienced in 1982-83 and 1997-98. There is an 85 per cent chance the event will last into April 2016 and the Bureau says that effects could be clearly felt across southern and eastern Australia. The El Nino weather pattern could contribute to a Hot Dry Summer, which may lead to a worse Fire Danger Season.

With that in mind and Spring upon us it would be worth clearing the gutters and removing excess leaf debris from around the yard to prepare for Summer.

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.

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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.
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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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PLEASE NOTE:

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- **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 2015

Be Fire Ready

Now's the perfect time to prepare your home and family for the bushfire season, it's not long until Summer.

Although bushfires are an unfortunate reality of Australian Summers, nearly 50 per cent of people living in bushfire-prone areas don't fully understand the threat posed to them. Here are some ways you can prepare your home now!

CLEARING OUT AROUND YOUR HOME:

- Clearing out leaves and debris from your roof and gutters.
- Prune overhanging branches close to your home.
- Mow and slash back grasses and flammable undergrowth.
- On rural properties keep a firebreak around the boundary of your property.
- Remove woodpiles, unused gas bottles or any flammable items near the home.

BURNING OFF:

- Burn off any dried wood branches, prunings and clippings under Barossa Council Regulations. If you require any information on domestic or rural burning, pick up a "fact sheet" from the Council Office or call Jamie or Chadd at The Barossa Council on 8563 8444.
- 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.
- 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.
- Please do not leave the fire unattended at any time.
- Please be considerate of your neighbours with regards to wind direction and smoke.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS:

- Embers from a Bushfire may be small, but can cause significant devastation if they enter your home.
- Seal all gaps in your roof, around your windows and doors where possible.
- Fit a wire mesh screen over windows, doors, roof vents and skylights.
- In high fire risk areas it is also recommended to have fire screens fitted to your ducted evaporative cooling units.

UPDATING YOUR INSURANCE:

In the worst case scenario that your preparation isn't enough, being properly covered will provide some comfort. Now's a good time to check your insurance policy is up to date and you have the correct cover for your home, contents, garages and outbuildings.

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Lyndoch CFS – November 2015

Mock Accident – A Training Reality

On the 1st October Lyndoch CFS arranged a joint training exercise with Gawler St John Ambulance Service (which also involved the Gawler St John Cadets), and Williamstown CFS.

The training scenario given to the crews was as follows: *After a long day on Duty at the 'Lyndoch Fun Fate,' (at the Lyndoch oval), the Gawler St John members were packing up ready to head home. At this moment, a car has lost control on the Barossa Valley Highway. The car smashed through a fence, hitting a number of children in the playground area before finally crashing into a tree. The driver and passenger are now trapped inside the car, whilst a teenager is partially trapped under the car.*

Gawler St John crews got to work immediately with triage, whilst Lyndoch and Williamstown CFS were responded to the training incident. On arrival, Lyndoch CFS secured the scene, providing fire cover and supporting Gawler St John's with patient care. Then, when Williamstown CFS Rescue arrived, they began the extrication of the two casualties inside the car as well as attending to the teenager under the car. Additional rescue-trained crews from Lyndoch assisted Williamstown Rescue. A further fire appliance from Williamstown arrived to assist with traffic and crowd control. While all this was happening, Gawler St John members attended to, and "treated" a further eight casualties who had been hit and injured by the car.

With any Rescue, we aim to have the extrication of a casualty completed within the hour. Williamstown and Lyndoch CFS crews had the three casualties extricated and in the Ambulance in under 45 minutes. The sides and roof of the vehicle had been removed to make extrication safe and easy for the St John Paramedics to attend to the injured.

Sue, a senior member from Gawler St John, had produced multiple fake injuries on the casualties, complete with make-up to simulate cuts, bruising and lots of blood to make it as realistic as possible. It looked very real! Thanks also to Rick from Active Motor Wreckers, for loaning us a damaged Commodore and for being happy for us to return it in many parts!

With all in attendance, we had 2x St John Ambulances, 4x Fire Appliances and 56 people involved in the exercise. A great night for all who attended.

Just a Reminder - Backyard Burning

BEFORE YOU BURN: THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) HAS STRICT RULES FOR DOMESTIC BACKYARD BURNING! CONTACT THE COUNCIL FOR FURTHER DETAILS

- **Backyard Burning is governed by EPA 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 the Council Office, or Call Jamie or Chadd at The Barossa Council on 8563 8444 for further information.

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Lyndoch CFS Grapevine Article – December 2015



FIRE DANGER SEASON

ONLY THE BEGINNING.... 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 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.

LYNDOCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

We hope to see you all at the Lyndoch Oval for this years' **Lyndoch Christmas Party** on Friday 11th December.

Support us at our BBQ Stall 😊 for.....

- Steak Sandwiches
- Sausage Sandwiches
- Cans of soft drink
- Cold bottles of water

We wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas!

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