

summer news

from the Christmas Hills Fire Brigade

November 2015



Photo Neill Kamminga
Christmas Hills working at Lancefield

in this newsletter...

Brigade Open Day
Fire Restrictions
Hazardous Materials Exercise
Fire Ready Meeting
What if No One Came?

you are invited to our

Brigade Open Day

Sunday 29th November

10am to 12noon

North Station 720 Ridge Road, Christmas Hills 3775

The Brigade also conducts training drills as part of our preparation for the fire season, so please drop by for a look & a chat, & bring the kids

Fire Restrictions

The fire restrictions for Nillumbik Shire came into force on November 9th. You can't burn off now without a permit from the Nillumbik Shire Fire Prevention Officer.

For those of you in Yarra Ranges Shire, we believe that the restrictions will begin on Monday November 30th at 1am, but please check the CFA website to confirm:

<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/central-fire-district/>

report all smoke and fires
ring 000



Hazardous Materials Exercise

The Winneke Water Treatment facility treats water from the Sugarloaf Reservoir in Christmas Hills. There are a number of chemicals stored in bulk on-site, and a regular exercise is held in conjunction with Melbourne Water to practice our response to a potential hazardous materials accident.

Christmas Hills Brigade, along with Eltham and Yarra Glen Brigades are the first Brigades to respond to an incident. Melbourne Water, Eltham and Yarra Glen Brigades provide gas suit wearers, and Christmas Hills provides initial incident control, and provides other support, including decontamination, as required.

Do you know what to do if there's an incident, such as the accidental release of a dangerous gas, and a warning is issued? **Is your Fire Ready App set to receive Hazardous Material (HazMat) alerts?** What do you do if there warning says **NOT** to leave but to "shelter in place"?

Emergency Warning "Shelter in Place"

One of the Brigade's first responsibilities when they arrive at an incident is to initiate a public warning if it's required. There are 3 levels of warning – do you understand what they mean and what to do? See the explanations at:

<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/about-warnings/>



Advice



Watch and Act



Emergency Warning

But what if you get a Watch and Act warning for a HazMat materials Incident? What if the advice says **"too late to leave – shelter in place"**? What does this mean for you? The recommended actions are explained in this video on You Tube – please take the time to watch it, as it could save your life!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LAX1bhnABnI&list=PL6EHXr54f5MoskqJEZsLk6JTKxqr57IVR&index=3>

summer news November 2105

find us on facebook

In addition to the Brigade's email newsletter *summer news*, we are also now on facebook.



<https://www.facebook.com/ChristmasHillsFireBrigade>

If facebook is your "thing" then find us on facebook and like our page. We aim to keep you in touch with Brigade activity, but the page isn't monitored 24/7. For warnings and advice you still need to visit the CFA website, facebook, or download the Fire Ready App.

Summer News

Summer News is the Brigade's email newsletter. If you would like to receive the newsletters regularly, and occasional email information, send your email address to:

robyn.adams@members.cfa.vic.gov.au

Captain: Pete Rae

0402 759 154

Secretary: Deirdre Lucas

0412 999 224

Proudly supported by

Warrandyte **Community Bank**[®] Branch

Call in and see us at 144 Yarra Street or phone 9844 2233



Christmas Hills Fire Brigade (since 1941)

Café Benders Come and join us for coffee and cake at *Café Benders*, held every 3rd Saturday of the month, starting about 10.30am, south Station, 6 Catani Blvd., Bend of Islands.

Chills Lounge is BYO drinks with BBQ meats for sale (or BYO meat). It is run by the Brigade, starting about 6pm every 1st Friday of the month at the north Station 720 Ridge Road, Christmas Hills – come and meet your neighbours & friends – and bring the kids. **Dessert is on the menu!!**

Fire Ready Safety Information Session

Saturday November 21

11am – 12 noon approx.

Christmas Hills Fire Station

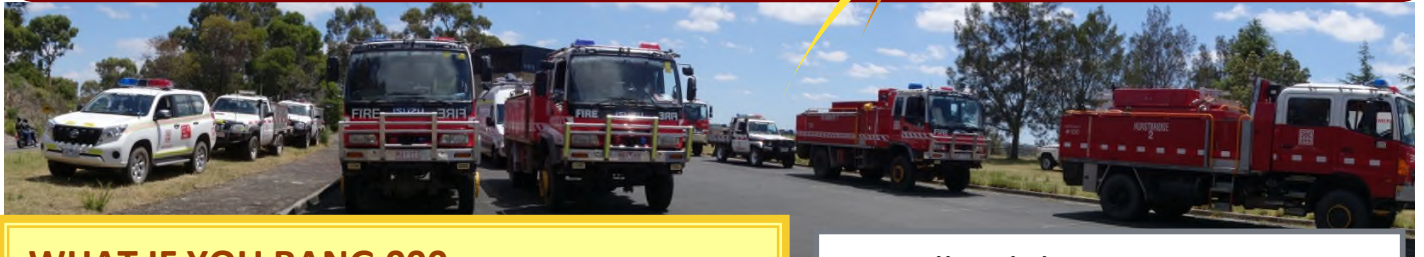
6 Catani Blvd.

Bend of Islands, 3097

Melway 24 K1

for more information contact
Peter Mildenhall 9712 0577

This session will provide a season update and an opportunity to discuss your fire plan and fire readiness.



WHAT IF YOU RANG 000

...and no one came?

When you ring 000 in an emergency, you expect a quick response from Police, Ambulance or Fire. In the metropolitan area, paid personnel are on duty 24 hours a day, and respond immediately to emergencies. In rural areas like ours, response to fires, accidents and other emergencies relies totally on volunteer firefighters. This means we need local people to train and to commit to responding to emergency calls.

Our Brigade response area covers Christmas Hills and the Bend of Islands, and WE NEED MORE FIREFIGHTERS.

Victorians expect to have the same "standard of cover" for emergency support wherever they live, so volunteer firefighters are expected to respond to Stations within 6 minutes, and get to an incident in 20 minutes. With the clock ticking, if no one is available locally, the next closest Brigade is responded...then the next...and so on... until an appliance gets on the road. So if you want a rapid local response, the Brigade needs enough well trained volunteers to ensure a response 24 hours a day every day.

Brigade members are your trained neighbours, who volunteer their time and respond even when it's inconvenient! Just like Superman, underneath their day clothes there is a firefighter ready to spring into action!

We will be **recruiting firefighters** after this fire season, starting with an information session in March, and we ask you to think seriously about joining the Brigade as a FireFighter.

Nillumbik Group Exercise

Christmas Hills Brigade area was the focus of this year's Nillumbik Group Exercise on Sunday 15th November.

The exercise was designed to give Strike Team Leaders some practice forming up a Strike Team from individual appliances. The Staging Area was set up inside Sugarloaf Reservoir, and crews fought a couple of "grassfires" in the grassland surrounding the Sugarloaf Reservoir. The nine Brigades from Nillumbik, as well as Brigades from Mernda and Warrandyte took part. The Nillumbik Forward Operations vehicle provided comms and the Salvo's took care of the lunch!

