

Our Community on Bushfire Recovery

What do we need ?

This forum is informal and led by the community.

What worked?

what didn't work?

Questions that are current for our current situation.

How are you feeling now?

Do you have a current fire plan?

Did you register with the red cross?

What were your intentions through this current situation to stay or go?

Do you know what the emergency codes are and what they mean and at what point do you go? The difference between emergency evacuation point and relief centre?

What are your personal issues?

These can be addressed through post it notes and stuck on the whiteboards, written on the feedback sheets provided or emailed to the centre info@mountbeauty.org.au

Issues that have been raised so far in our community?

Where is our designated emergency evacuation venue?

- If it is the stadium, when is it expected to be open?
- Is it equipped for Tea/coffee facilities or even cooking facilities?
- Would there be generators in place to cope with lighting/heating/cooling/cooking even charge phone and digital devices ?
- Where would pets be housed?
- Personal items available and sleeping mats, blankets etc?

Issues that have been raised so far in our community?

Better local knowledge information Needed.

- Radio station was and is fantastic with the report updates but most of the time it was not local enough.
- Rubbish removal was obviously needed to be done and transfer station was closed for some of time.
- Information centre was closed for some of the time.
- Where was the best place to seek information on what to do or even register for volunteering help?
- If we were cut off and not able to travel what happens?
- Older and vulnerable people what to suggest and direct.
- Phone numbers for services that may be needed.
- In situations like this it's important the community are aware of who to contact and who has responsibility for emergency management.

Issues that have been raised so far in our community?

- If you choose to live here be responsible for your own safety. Evacuate all vulnerable family members and prepare your property.
- Frankly the resources from the Alpine Shire too thin in times of emergency. It's all very well to boast how much money has been saved by cutting staff - it's another thing to provide resources during the emergency
- Lack of communication (apparent between cfa and police at Mitta. Wider problem?)
- Should cfa volunteers be used to check fire safety standards in the community - I think not.

Issues that have been raised so far in our community?

- Emotional responses to an emergency? What resources are available?
- Anxiety levels heightened post during and post fires.
- Health issues from inhaling smoke over long periods and unable to exercise and now the smoke has passed still having problems with being lethargic and finding it hard to function properly.
- Elderly people do not understand apps. Nor do we all have iPhones. Readable notices would be good posted around town.
- Worried of what the options are if the Kiewa Valley Highway is closed.
- Effects of smoke on daily activities

What has worked in the community?

- Positive responses by the integrated agencies to inform us of and assist with the overwhelming situations. But not sure if they had been Alpine shire directed.
- The Vic emergency App but not without problems with knowledge on how to load onto digital devices.

Suggestions that have been raised so far in our community?

- Skill set of volunteers register. Where would this be best kept and updated?
- Shire facebook page designated for fire awareness and community input.
- Local register of who is going to leave. Where would this be initiated?
- Where was the best place to seek information on what to do or even register for volunteering help?
- If we were cut off and not able to travel what happens?
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- Phone numbers for services that may be needed.
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Suggestions that have been raised so far in our community?

- Pre-Fire season, perhaps a reminder to landowners of their responsibilities in relation to property maintenance especially large properties close to town that can be a danger to neighbouring properties.
- More frequent mowing of verges. Especially in built up areas. Extend wider clearing strips along fences/ roads. Clearing grass and fuel from side of road leaving town.
- More free green waste days at the transfer station.
- Problem trees identified on private property for pruning or removal.
- Would like to see council property cleaned up.
- VICPOL to coordinate any response to wild fire and their access to key people in service groups.
- Urge people to make the most of CFA bushfire plan resources.
- Urge government to fund CFA properly

Suggestions that have been raised so far in our community?

- A clear statement by the shire of about safer places in our communities.
- A vulnerable and elderly list compiled to identify evacuation and safety issues.
- Community groups to involve their members of being prepared well before the fire season.
- Prepare Act survive handbook re released with specific posters for codes possibly in fridge magnet.
- Consider making fire assessment much earlier ie August. Also check past fire season.
- Locked gates! - DELWP need to unlock for fire season

Suggestions that have been raised so far in our community?

- Have some info about how the body reacts in a state of emergency. General mental health awareness
- Bushfire ready kit be sent to all residents of Alpine Shire and these also be available at caravan parks and the Information Centre and promoted on the local facebook pages.
- **Alpine Shire needs an appointed media person to administer information as it changes on Facebook etc**
- **Not have conflicting newspaper articles for tourists-mayor saying come here and staying away in the same paper.**
- **Timely info about when waste services will run**

What other information sessions in the future would be beneficial?

- Centrelink information and what is available.
- Insurance policies and how bush fires are defined.
- Business resources available to help through the next 12months.