



HUFF STUFF

Newsletter

Issue 36

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Greetings everyone,

This week we had a callout to 'bush alight' in Minyago Street. Holiday makers had placed a pile of embers from their fire outside on what appeared to be moist ground. However, the heat from the embers dried out the fuel on the ground and started a fire. This fire travelled uphill towards properties in the street above. 000 was called and the fire that reached around 10 sqm was brought under control. Keep in mind that it was a low to moderate fire rating day, high humidity, no wind and relatively low temperatures and the fire was still able to take off.

The interesting thing is that this particular scenario has happened three other times in recent history. We are assuming that tenants are probably asked to clean out the fire grate before they leave and this is what they do. If you know anyone who owns a holiday rental please ask them to try and mitigate the risk. Perhaps they could provide a metal bucket placed in a cleared space for embers.

Cheryl, one of our HUFF Facilitators has sent me an interesting link about the Bunyip Creek fire. It refers to the mopping up after a fire, a procedure that is tedious and time consuming but unfortunately very necessary.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-13/bushfire-clean-up-beyond-the-bunyip-blaze/10981556>

WINTER FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

Each year, the Fire and Rescue NSW attends approximately 4,500 residential fires in NSW with approximately 30% of them occurring in winter months, and 47% of fires starting in the kitchen.

Is your home winter fire safe?

We recommend this simple safety checklist to help keep homes fire safe this winter. Make sure you and everyone in your household follows the following safety advice:

- Never ever leave cooking unattended. **"Keep Looking When Cooking"**
- Most importantly, have an adequate number of suitable smoke alarms installed throughout your home and make sure that you test them regularly.
- Make sure you and all your family know two safe ways out of every room in your home.
- Have a written home escape plan in case of fire and practice it regularly.
- If you have a fireplace in your home make sure the chimney is clean, and its properly ventilated
- If you have a fireplace always place a screen in front of it when in use.
- Check electric blankets for damage or frayed cords before placing on the bed.
- Take care to keep curtains, tablecloths and bedding away from portable heaters.

- Keep wet clothing at least 1 metre from heaters or fireplaces and never leave unattended.
- If you use a clothes dryer make sure you clean the lint filter each and every time you use it.
- Only use one appliance per power point and switch off when not in use.
- Always extinguish candles or any other open flames before going to bed.
- Always handle candles or any other open flame with care.
- Store matches or lighters in a secure place not accessible to young children.
- Avoid the use of outdoor heating and cooking equipment inside your home. The use of this type of equipment indoors could lead to the build-up of carbon monoxide which could be fatal.

Source: F&RNSW website

CYBER_Shed APP_FIX_IT

Simon is offering **free** help with your smartphones and tablets each Wednesday at BANC from 9.30 -12.30. Just drop in, no need to book. Please pass the word around.

Hazard Reductions (HR's)

Hazard reductions are continuing although there is still nothing planned for the mountains over Easter. You can find all of the HR's on the NSW RFS website under **Hazard Reductions**.

Stay in touch with your neighbours

You can get the HUFF newsletter copied at BANC to letterbox your neighbours or email it to them.

That way they are continually reminded that you're there to pass on information.

Happy Easter to you all. Enjoy the magnificent autumn weather.

Regards, Mina Howard