

AGISTEE AND TENANT BUSHFIRE ACTION PLAN 2022

Lions Youth Haven

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Phone 0451 244 099
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Step 1: Prepare

It is the responsibility of every Lions Youth Haven client or lease holder to have their own bushfire safety plan in place and ensure they have diligently prepared themselves for a bushfire event.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT LYH STAFF HAVE YOUR CURRENT CONTACT DETAILS

- Where an approaching fire front is expected to be days away, the Farm Manager (who is the Chief Fire Warden) will encourage clients to evacuate animals and assets from the property. When doing so clients should be mindful not to block any roadways or put themselves, their family or other clients in harm's way. Contact should be made with the farm manager on 0451 244 099 to notify staff they have left.
- If you need to leave your vehicle for any reason, please leave the vehicle unlocked with keys in the ignition in case it needs to be moved in a hurry.
- Where an approaching fire front is expected to be days away the Farm Manager may also take fuel reduction actions or prepare fire breaks at likely impact points.

How clients prepare for a potential fire event:

Clients should decide well ahead of the bushfire season what will trigger their decision for their animal to stay or go.

Last minute, ill-prepared decisions may cost clients their life or result in permanent injury. An important lesson from the 2003 Canberra fires is that with advance planning and preparation animals can survive a fire without human assistance.

Some plans which clients need to have in place:

- Deciding what trigger event or fire danger rating will mean temporarily moving animals and assets from the property.
- How to physically move animals and assets from the property.
- If it is decided to keep animals and assets at the property what precautions and actions will be taken under various levels of rating/perceived risk.

In the event of evacuation ahead of a fire event, clients considerations and plans should include:

- Having a well prepared well equipped, roadworthy float/truck, tow vehicle and experienced driver readily available.
- Having a well trained animal that will reliably load on to a float.

- Estimating how long it will take to hitch up your float, drive to your paddock, load your animal(s) and leave the property. Factor this time period, plus a 50% safety factor, into your evacuation plan and do a dry run. Consider making your float readily accessible by taking it home on Total Fire Ban days and Extreme or above Fire Danger Rating days.
- Understanding that clients not owning a float will need to hand walk their animal off the property.
- Being aware of an alternative route away from the paddock if available. Even if you leave early, it is possible that your usual route may be blocked.
- Having a predetermined safe place to take your animal.
- Keeping friends and family informed of your intentions and progress.
- **Inform LYH staff that you are/have relocated**

Clients should prepare and store an evacuation kit in an easily accessible location and place another kit in their float. Only use it for emergencies and check and test equipment regularly. Label and load a metal rubbish bin (with lid) with the following:

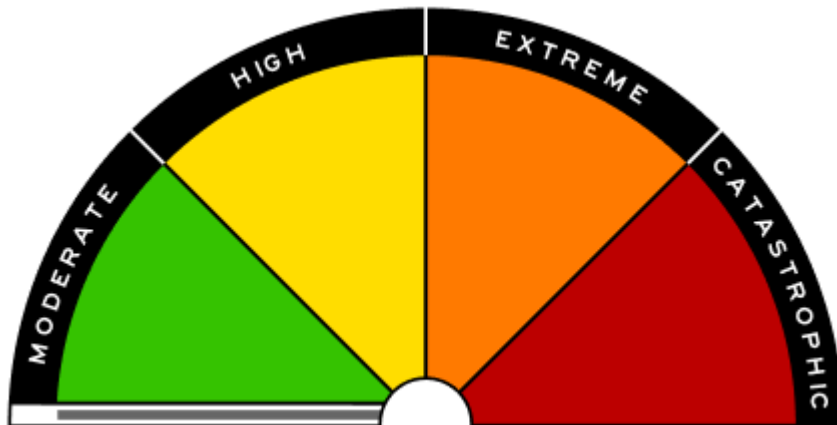
- Wire cutters and a sharp knife
- Torch, portable AM/FM radio and fresh batteries
- Water bucket
- Extra lead rope and head collar made of natural fibres
- Woolen blanket and towels
- Equine first aid items
- Whatever else you feel is essential for the first 25 hours e.g. feed and water if evacuating

Fire resistant clothing and equipment for you and those identified to help you. This type of clothing will help shield you from radiant heat, burning embers and flames.

Keep the following in your car during the fire season and consider keeping a set in a drum stored where your animals are kept:

- Long pants, a long-sleeved cotton shirt or a woolen jumper and a wide brimmed hat. Natural fabrics are essential as synthetics can melt and cause serious burns.
- Sturdy leather gloves, while cumbersome, are essential to protect your hands from the effects of radiant heat
- Leather boots with a good tread are a safe footwear choice. Tennis shoes or rubber shoes will melt. You can buy high temperature soled boots.
- A mask, cotton scarf, handkerchief to wear 'bandit-style' or cotton nappy/triangular bandage to shield your nose and face from the effects of smoke and ash.
- A pair of goggles to help protect your eyes from smoke and burning embers.

Step 2: Watch the fire danger levels



Fire danger ratings now include Catastrophic. Catastrophic fire danger levels indicate that it is **not safe** to stay on the LYH property and that you will need to **evacuate as early as possible**.

On High Fire Danger and above days, you will need to keep informed and alert and keep your mobile phone on you at all times. Make sure the phone is charged, and keep a charger or power bank with you.

How will LYH Staff respond to Total Fire Ban or Extreme or above Fire Danger Rating days?

LYH Staff will aim to communicate with clients via SMS to advise them of a Severe or above Fire Danger Rating day. However, it is the responsibility of each client to keep themselves informed of daily fire danger ratings.

What property access will clients have in the event of a Extreme or above Fire Danger Rating day?

On these days, clients are encouraged to complete all preparations and evacuations early in the morning while temperatures are lower, and winds are down. There may be some instances where weather conditions are extreme and LYH deems it appropriate to close access to the property. This would likely be between the hours of 9.00am and 6.00pm when conditions are usually at their most extreme. The decision to limit access to the property will only be made after consultation with the Rural Fire Service.

All clients need to be fully aware of possible ignition risks when accessing the property. These can include driving on or through long cured grass, smoking in paddocks, storage of moldy or moisture laden hay and not properly disposing of rubbish (in particular, clear water bottles, glass, chip packets and aluminum cans).

NOTE: When a fire event exists at LYH or is closely approaching the property clients should not presume that they will be provided access to the farm.

If a client elects not (or is unable) to move their animal in the event of a Extreme or above Fire Danger Rating day or imminent fire front how can they prepare?

- Remove all fly veils, synthetic halters and rugs and metal objects from your animal.
- Ensure there is access to water – don't rely on hoses, automatic watering mechanisms or LYH provided troughs.
- Ensure animals are easily identified either by use of livestock grease crayons to paint name and phone number direct to body of animal or alternatively permanent marker to hooves with the same information.
- Advise the Farm Manager in advance (if possible) that you intend to leave your animal on the property.

In short, the safest place for humans and animals is away from areas of high fire risk. If you are concerned about fires then consider removing yourself and your animal to a safer, prearranged location for the duration of the Extreme and above Fire Danger Period. If you decide to move your animal ahead of the approaching fire, please identify the trigger for you to go early. Late evacuation is a deadly option. Ensure you advise the Farm Manager that you are taking your animal from the property.

Step 3: Know the bushfire alert levels

If there is a fire in your area you will find its alert level on the NSW RFS website, on the radio, and in the 'Fires Near Me' app. You need to keep track of the alert level so you know what you should do.



In an emergency call
Triple Zero (000)

For information on bush fire,
call the Bush Fire Information Line
1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737)



NSW Rural Fire
Service Website:
rfs.nsw.gov.au

Fire Danger Ratings:
rfs.nsw.gov.au/fdr



'Fires Near Me'
Free smartphone app.



Local radio,
local ABC/emergency
broadcaster frequency,
TV, newspapers

There are three levels of Bush Fire Alerts:



Advice

A fire has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.



Watch And Act

There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.



Emergency Warning

An Emergency Warning is the highest level of Bush Fire Alert. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

Step 4: Take action in the event of a fire

The Farm Manager will firstly ensure the personal safety of any public or clients on the property at the time of the incident and, where possible, livestock.

The Farm Manager will then defend, in priority order:

1. Assembly Area (Oval for people without horses)
2. Office
3. Buildings
4. Assets

If it is not possible to defend, the Farm Manager will advise / support evacuation. This decision will be communicated to the Emergency Co-ordination Centre which will be set up in the farm office (the Office).

The Office will (if practicable), after contacting ACT Emergency Services, send an SMS to mobile phones of current clients contained in a distribution list advising one of the following:

- 1. Fire on property**
- 2. Fire. Evacuate now.**
- 3. Fire. Too late to leave. Shelter.**

Where the Farm Manager has facilitated access to the property in the event of an approaching fire front, clients should carry out their pre-determined fire plan where it is safe to do so. **All clients entering the property during this time must advise the Farm Manager via SMS on 0451 244 099.**

Animal owners or their elected representative must be present when evacuating their animals. Under no circumstances should strangers to the property be present or acting alone on the property during a fire event.

NOTE: Once the fire is close, smoke and flying embers will reduce visibility and make travelling extremely hazardous. Fallen trees or power lines and abandoned vehicles may block roads. Even quiet animals may panic if they are separated from their mates and/or loaded onto a float by tense and worried handlers in adverse weather conditions with high winds, flying embers and smoke.

Step 5: Returning to the property

Should the property be impacted by a fire event, the Officer in Charge of the event i.e. Emergency Services Officer, will advise the Farm Manager when it is safe for clients to return to the property.

The Farm Manager will then send an SMS to mobile phones of current clients advising the emergency is over and providing an estimation of when it will be safe to come back onto the property.

If you are on the property and it is too late to leave, go directly to the evacuation point and await instructions from the Farm Manager.

The evacuation point is: **The oval behind Westwood Lodge** for people without horses.

The evacuation point for agistees with horses is: **PADDOCK 2** (the paddock adjacent to Ken Sandoe House)



