

Fire Management and Response Plan

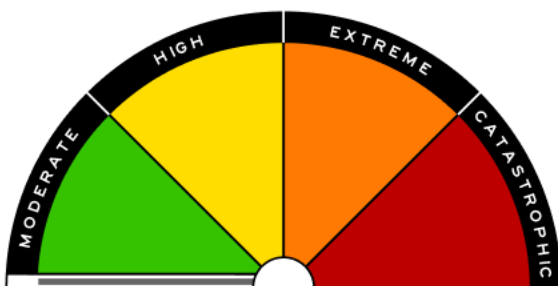
The Woodcraft Guild *Fire Management and Response Plan 2024* forms part of the *Lions Youth Haven Agistee Bushfire Action Plan 2024*.

A hard copy of both the Guild's and the Lions Youth Haven's Plans can be found at the Guild's front desk and on the Guild website.

The Lions Youth Haven Farm Manager is the **Chief Fire Warden** for the property. The Farm Manager or delegated Lions Youth Haven (LYH) staff, will normally communicate with the Guild through the following Guild members by SMS:

- President
- Vice President
- LYH liaison member.

The *Lions Youth Haven Agistee Bushfire Action Plan 2024*, and therefore the Guild's *Fire Management and Response Plan*, is based around the new Australian Fire Danger Ratings:



Moderate is the normal state and requires no additional actions; however, it is the responsibility of each member to keep themselves informed of daily fire danger ratings. The fire danger ratings can be found on the Emergency Services Agency (ESA) website – www.esa.act.gov.au.

On days of **High** Fire Danger, Guild members on site, or intending to attend the Guild facilities, are to stay informed and alert to conditions and be ready to respond to any direction from the Farm Manager or the Shed Boss

On **Total Fire Ban** days, or when the Fire Danger Rating is elevated to **Extreme** or above, Lions Youth Haven staff will communicate with the Guild by SMS to ensure that they are aware of the rating and any restrictions in place across the site including any decision to close access to the property. Regardless of whether the Chief Fire Warden imposes any restrictions, the Shed Boss should also consider whether it is prudent for the Guild to remain open.

- A decision to close access to the Lions Youth haven property will only be made after consultation with the rural Fire Service and would likely be between 9am and 6pm when conditions are usually at their most extreme.
- On days of Total Fire Ban or when the Fire Danger Rating is elevated to **Extreme or above**, the Bush Mill, forges and welding apparatus are not to be used.

- On days with a **Catastrophic Fire Rating**, it is not safe to be on the Lions Youth Haven property. As such, the Guild facility will remain closed. Should the Fire Danger Rating escalate to **Catastrophic** while the Guild facility is open, the Shed Boss is to direct all activity to stop, the facility be secured and locked and all Guild members directed to leave the property.

Regardless of the Fire Danger Rating, all Guild members need to be fully aware of possible ignition risks when accessing the property. These can include driving through or parking on long cured grass, smoking in paddocks and not properly disposing of rubbish (in particular, clear water bottles, glass, chip packets and aluminium cans).

Know the bushfire alert levels

Emergency alerts, updates or emergency warning information are provided 24/7 through the ESA Media and Community Information Unit Duty Media Liaison Officer. This information is published on the home page of this website (www.esa.act.gov.au), the ESA Twitter and Facebook account. You can also find information on the NSW Hazards Near Me app which can be downloaded to your smartphone.

ESA news alerts are also provided to ACT local media outlets and Canberra Connect.

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.

Specific Actions

Regardless of the Fire Danger Rating, if a fire is reported within 10 km of the Lions Youth Haven, the Farm Manager will, where possible, provide advice to the Guild and other Lions Youth Haven tenants.

If the fire is fast moving, or the Fire Danger Rating is escalated to **Catastrophic**, the Lions Youth Haven Farm Manager will direct the site be evacuated.

- Guild members are to pack up their tools and other gear immediately, get into their cars and depart the Lions Youth Haven by road.
- The Shed Boss or SIG leader in charge of the session should ensure that all machinery is turned off, any sources of flame or heat are extinguished, gas bottles are secure, check that members have left the shed and to lock the doors behind them.
- If a member is unable to remove their vehicle immediately, they should leave the key in the ignition and the driver's door unlocked so emergency services personnel can move the vehicle if needed. If you do not do this, you need to understand that emergency services are authorised to move the vehicle by any means necessary.
- The farm manager will unlock the gate near the Galilee Schools to allow two different routes to depart the LYH. Drive carefully and do not exceed the 20kph speed limit.

- If you are unable to depart the LYH safely onto Kambah Pool Road, please assemble in the Lions Youth Haven Community Hall.
- In all cases, follow the instructions of the Farm Manager and emergency services personnel.



Should the Farm Manager declare an emergency requiring evacuation after operating hours, the front gate to the LYH will be closed and entry to the site will not be permitted. If there are members in the Shed, follow the procedures above. The Executive of the Guild will be contacted by LYH.

In all cases information will be sent to all members through the Guild Newsletter, posted on the Guild Facebook page and all relevant SIG Leaders and Shed Bosses will be directly contacted.

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.