

FACT SHEET

No. 54 – Community Fire Units

Version 01

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FACT

The CFU Program was pioneered by Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) after the devastating bushfires in Sydney in 1994. FRNSW CFU program members prepare and protect thousands of homes across metropolitan and regional NSW.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

FRNSW CFUs are teams of local residents who live in urban areas close to bush land in NSW, and are supported by FRNSW to enhance their safety and resilience to bushfires.

FRNSW CFU members are trained and equipped to assist them in:

- preparing themselves, their families and their properties for the summer fire season;
- making informed decisions about whether they will leave early or stay and defend their homes from spot fires and ember attack in the event of a bushfire

THE ROLE OF A FRNSW CFU MEMBER

Prior to the bushfire season, CFU members:

- Participate in induction training and maintain their skills in bushfire behaviour awareness, personal and property preparation and in the operation of basic fire fighting equipment.
- Prepare and practice a Bushfire Survival Plan with their families.
- Prepare and maintain their homes, including; reducing fire fuels and creating a defensible bushfire space on their property.

During a bushfire, CFU members:

- Like all residents on the bushland urban interface, must follow instructions and actions contained in the joint FRNSW/NSW RFS *Fire Danger Rating* brochure and the *Bushfire Survival Plan*.
- Decide whether to leave early or stay and defend their property. If they decide to stay Members extinguish spot fires in their area of activity prior to the arrival of the fire front and once the fire front has passed.

REMEMBER

FRNSW CFU Members:

- follow the direction of emergency services personnel during a bushfire. Residents should not expect guidance or instruction from FRNSW CFU Members during a bushfire.
- are not firefighters. FRNSW CFU Members operate under the same rights and privileges offered to all residents who live in bushfire prone areas.
- operate within an Area of Activity defined by FRNSW, and do not enter the bush during a fire nor directly extinguish bush or structural fires.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on the FRNSW CFU Program or related policies, visit www.fire.nsw.gov.au or contact 1300 CFU CFU (1300 238 238).



For more information contact your local fire station or visit:
www.fire.nsw.gov.au or www.rfs.nsw.gov.au or www.esa.act.gov.au



IN AN EMERGENCY CALL TRIPLE ZERO (000)

PREVENT PREPARE PROTECT

