

FACT SHEET

No. 55 – Community Fire Units (CFU) For Government and Emergency Services (ES)

Version 01

Issued: June 2011

FACT

The CFU Program is one of Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) initiatives to enhance community safety and mitigate bushfire risk; in line with community education outcomes in local Bushfire Risk Management Plans (BFRMP).

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

FRNSW CFUs are teams of local residents who live on the bushland urban interface in FRNSW *fire districts*. These residents are trained and equipped to prepare themselves, their families and their properties for the bushfire season, and make informed decisions about whether they should leave early or stay and defend their homes from spot fires and ember attack when bushfires threaten.

PURPOSE OF THE FRNSW CFU PROGRAM

- Increase community preparation and resilience to bushfires and other emergencies
- Empower residents in urban bushland areas through education, training and the provision of basic fire fighting equipment
- Increase the community's knowledge of bushfire behaviour in their local area
- Support and promote the Prepare.Act.Survive strategy and BFRMP outcomes
- Reduce identified bushfire risk, and reduce life and property loss in the event of a bushfire

ENGAGEMENT WITH FRNSW CFUS

Members perform an important and specific role in the lead up and during the summer bushfire season. It is important that this fact sheet is read in conjunction with fact sheet no.54 to gain an understanding of the role of FRNSW CFU Members through out the year.

- Members follow the direction of emergency services personnel during a bushfire.
- Members are residents in areas with bushfire risk, they are not firefighters. CFU Members operate within an Area of Activity defined by FRNSW; and should not be instructed to enter the bush during a fire nor directly extinguish bush or structural fires.
- Members operate under the same rights and privileges offered to all residents who live in bushfire prone areas. For the safety of CFU Members; they should not be given instructions, access or permissions to carry out firefighter or emergency service personnel activities, e.g.:
 - access to bushfire operations or closed areas should not be granted unless deemed safe by emergency service personnel, or
 - permission should not be granted for a CFU to create/undertake pile or hazard reduction burns. CFU Members may be invited to attend Hazard Reduction activities by FRNSW personnel only as a training activity.
- CFUs are a sustainable bushfire risk mitigation tool that should be considered in bushland urban interface areas with identified bushfire risk that would benefit from community bushfire awareness and education.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

