

*These scenarios are designed to stimulate conversations within organisations and networks of what may need to be considered in a variety of different emergency situations. Please feel welcome to use these scenarios in staff meetings or emergency planning workshops to increase awareness of organisational procedures and potentially identify gaps in planning.*

*For further information and advice please contact your local emergency planning committee through your council or local emergency services.*

## **Practice Scenario: Bushfire.**

We encourage you to use these as part of wider staff discussions of what your action plans are in case of an emergency. Walking through the scenario and having discussions about what you would do before, during and after an emergency will help ensure you are aware of any gaps and in a real event that your staff and volunteers are ready to respond.

### **Bushfire**

(Scenario adapted from [DFES- Western Australia](#))

**7:55am-** You are driving to work and notice smoke coming from the North West. When you arrive at your desk, you check the CFS website and see that there is a fire in the area with a WATCH AND ACT warning for this area and an ADVICE warning for the surrounding areas. There are currently no road closures. Your outreach staff will shortly be commencing work helping clients in their homes. Many of whom live in the local area with WATCH AND ACT and ADVICE warnings. You are concerned both for your staff and your clients.



**10:20am-** One of your outreach workers calls you to let you know that they have been stopped by police at a road closure and told there is a fire in the area. You check the CFS website and find there is an EMERGENCY WARNING for the area that could affect both your staff and clients. Your worker wants to continue visiting clients and tells you they know a back road to get through...

**11:45am-** the bushfire is moving quickly and is likely to affect several staff and clients. All of your staff have been contacted and advised to leave the area immediately. Your team have been able to contact all but 2 clients to advise them of the fire. One of your staff thinks that one of the clients is on holiday but isn't sure...

Another outreach worker who has been advised that the situation is worsening believes that they are not in any danger and wants to continue to check on clients...

### **For your organisation, consider the following:**

- What would be your organisation's first action after learning that there is a bushfire in your area?
- What advice and duties are you communicating to your staff?

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- Will you alter or stop any of your services? How will this be communicated to clients/ customers/ community members?
- What issues may arise from altering or stopping any of your services?
- A client/ customer/ community member calls you and tells you they are in immediate danger; what do you do?
- When advising clients of the fire, you have a variety of responses. Some clients will be leaving the area immediately, some if the conditions worsen and others will not leave their homes regardless of the severity and proximity of the fire. What do you do with this information?

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