

Resilient SA

November newsletter

Updates:

Annual Preparedness Briefing

In September, SAPOL hosted the annual Summer Preparedness Briefing with representatives from all major emergency services agencies in attendance.

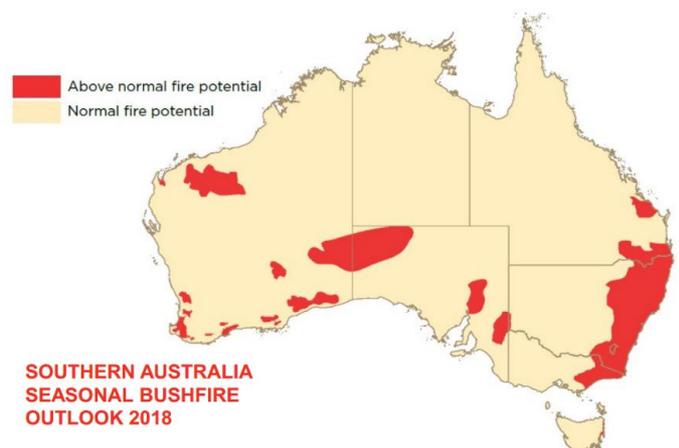
In their presentation, the Bureau of Meteorology stated they are predicting a long hot summer with increased risks of bushfires, heatwaves, drought and dust storms. This is off of the back of a warm, dry winter where the maximum temperatures was the 5th highest on record and the 14th driest. When considering your own emergency planning, know that there is a very real chance of extreme heat days occurring more often- which as well as increasing the risk of bushfire, is the biggest killer on its own with more people dying of heat related illnesses than any other type of natural disaster.

In the same briefing, the CFS have identified the **Murraylands**, some areas of the **Riverland**, **Flinders** and **APY Lands** at increased potential for bushfires this summer. This is not to say that bushfires will not occur elsewhere in the state. So when working with the community, it's important to communicate the need to have a bushfire ready plan for those living in high risk areas.

The CFS will review their outlook in late October/ November and update the warnings as required.

*Images taken from the Annual Preparedness briefing presentations- BOM and CFS.

Impacts		Likelihood compared to most years	
	Bushfire activity	More likely	
	Heatwave	More likely	
	Widespread flooding	Less likely	
	Severe Storms	Similar	
	Drought	More likely	
	Dust	More likely	
	Marine heat wave (coral bleaching)	Indian Ocean Pacific Ocean	 
	Tropical cyclones	Similar	 



Resource in focus

Red Cross Rediplan

If a disaster happened, who and what would you most want to protect? Do you remember important people's phone numbers by heart or your insurance details from memory? The Red Cross [Rediplan](#) is a useful tool for you to record all of those important details in one place in case of an emergency. Use it for yourself, with your family, friends, and neighbours and with those in the community that you work with to help them be better organised to face an emergency and bounce back after the event. The [Rediplan](#) is available to download, as a mobile phone app for either iPhone or android devices or as a printed copy.

Good news stories:

This is where we want to share your successes! In this section we would like to hear from you about the changes and achievements (big or small) that you're organisation or wider community have made to increase resilience to emergencies so we can learn from each other.

Practice Scenario:

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.

Area-wide Black out

Wednesday, early December. Forecast 32, North Westerly winds 15km p/h.

10:15am: Wednesday: Normal day at your organisation until suddenly the power goes out.

10:20am: After checking the fuses and surrounding organisations, it becomes clear that the power outage has impacted everyone and is not just localised to your building(s).

10:35am: A staff member has seen on social media that the local substation is on fire

10:50am: Still no power. You have tuned into ABC Local radio from your car/ battery operated radio and have heard that a small fire is being attended to at the substation and all on your grid are in blackout.

11:30am: Update on local radio, the fire has been contained but has caused significant damage to the substation. Power is not expected to be restored for the next 12 hours whilst repairs are completed.

2:00pm: Update on local radio, the damages more extensive than first thought. The power is now not expected back on for 24-36 hours.

Thursday, early December. Forecast 34, North Westerly winds 0-5km p/h

8:00am Thursday: There is still no power. Some of your staff have contacted you asking whether to come to work. Other staff have not been able to be contacted due to flat mobile phones and no landlines. What is your business continuity plan? What services can you deliver?

3:45pm: Power has come back on. Clients/ community members are frustrated and it is suspected that many will have lost the majority of their perishable food items.

In the case of a power outage, remember that:

- SAPOL will be directing traffic on top of their regular duties
- Many petrol stations will be unable to pump petrol- do you have enough fuel in your car/ for your generator?
- Many of us don't carry cash anymore- how will you cope without eftpos when there's no power?
- Generators need to be serviced regularly to ensure that they work when needed
- Automatic doors cannot be opened or closed without power
- Many assisted lifts, adjustable beds and chairs are powered by electricity, be mindful of staff moving clients safely.
- Also consider in home medical equipment and transport such as motorised wheel chairs, oxygen or dialysis machines. All need access to a power source.



Do you have any questions regarding your emergency planning or your organisations role in an emergency? Contact Jess Law, Community Resilience Project Officer to have a chat.

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