

IMPROVE YOUR BUSHFIRE SAFETY



Bushfire Exercise Scenarios for Service Providers



DESKTOP SIMULATIONS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXERCISES PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR AGENCIES TO DISCUSS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AGAINST THE PROBABLE BUSHFIRE SCENARIO AFFECTING AN IN-HOME CLIENT AND THE DIRECT CARE WORKER PROVIDING CARE TO THEM.

It reviews the processes and procedures that would be used in a real bushfire emergency and will detect issues that may exist. These exercises help to determine how much Agencies and their staff understand their roles, and will identify areas requiring improvement or further training for better response outcomes.

DFES have developed the following bushfire emergency scenarios. Agencies are encouraged to further adapt these scenarios to better suit their needs and circumstances if required. Please ensure all staff refer to the **bushfire warning system** to clearly understand what each alert level means when participating in an exercise.

SCENARIO 1

You are driving to work at 7.55am, when you can smell smoke. As you look over to the north east you can also see smoke. As you have just arrived at your office, you instantly check the **Emergency WA** website and notice there is a fire in the area. There has been a **WATCH AND ACT** bushfire warning issued for the area, with surrounding areas under a bushfire **ADVICE** warning. At this stage there are no road closures in place, although wind conditions are expected to change. Your direct care workers will shortly start their working day – providing services to clients in their homes which are under either an **ADVICE** or **WATCH AND ACT** warning. You have concerns for both your staff and your clients...

SCENARIO 2

One of your direct care workers is on their way to see a client when they are stopped by police at a roadblock and informed that there is a fire in the area, and road closures are in place until further notice. Your direct care worker calls you to inform you of the fire. From the office you immediately check the **Emergency WA** website and identify that there is a bushfire **EMERGENCY WARNING** issued that could affect both your staff and clients. Your direct care worker has indicated that they know a back road into the area and are happy to access this road to get to their client and continue services....

SCENARIO 3

There is a fast moving bushfire affecting several of your staff and clients. All staff have been notified of the fire and have been advised to leave the area immediately. As far as you are aware you have been able to contact all but two clients to advise them that there is a fire. One of your direct care workers believes that one of the clients may be on holidays – but they aren't 100% sure. The two clients live in an area currently under an **EMERGENCY WARNING**. Another direct care worker is still in the area affected by the bushfire. She has been advised that she is in danger and conditions are worsening. Your direct care worker believes she is completely safe and would like to pop around to her client's homes...

SCENARIO 4

A bushfire started suddenly and without warning at approximately 11:45am. The fire has spread rapidly and is burning quickly through vegetation, within 10 minutes two homes were destroyed. It is now 11:58am. A direct care worker is driving to a client's home when they see and smell smoke to the south east of the highway. The client looks at the **Emergency WA** website for further details on the fire, but there aren't any available. The fire has not been reported...

EXAMPLE BUSHFIRE SCENARIO QUESTIONS

The following questions may assist your Agency to test staff responses to the above bushfire scenarios

- What might your first action be once you become aware of a bushfire in your service area?
- What processes do you (or others in your Agency) have in place for notifying direct care workers of a bushfire?
- What processes do you (or others in your Agency) have in place for notifying clients of a bushfire?
- In the past, have you needed to alter or stop services to a client due to a bushfire (or other) emergency?
- What issues may arise due to altering or stopping services?
- How will you notify your clients that their services may be altered?
- Is there anyone outside of the Agency that you may need to notify or make contact with?
- A client notifies your Agency that they are in immediate danger, what do you do?
- Your Agency has the capacity to notify clients there is a bushfire in the area. Your clients responses vary when advised of the bushfire. Some clients plan to leave immediately; others when conditions worsen; and several have advised they will not leave their property regardless of the severity and proximity of the bushfire. What do you do with this information?

The above questions are an example only. Agencies should consider areas of their emergency management plans and processes they are testing with staff and clients to either contextualize the above questions or develop their own questions.



For further bushfire information please refer to the Service Provider webpage at www.dfes.wa.gov.au

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