



PBSAG NEIGHBOUR ALERT BULLETIN 2020



BACKGROUND

Pearl Beach Safety Advisory Group (PBSAG) is a subcommittee of the Pearl Beach Progress Association. The group evolved as a reaction to the tragic drowning at Pearl Beach of a 5 year-old boy in July 2014. A small group of local people, some with great expertise such as medicos, trainers and life savers, met and formed the PBSAG who successfully set-up beach safety equipment, defibrillators and First Aid Training for the Pearl Beach Community.

BUSHFIRE DANGER

On 14th December 2016, the Patonga Drive fire provided a real wake up call for our community. Overall our residents were ill prepared, some evacuated, some had a bushfire survival plan and knew what they should do. However most either didn't know what to do or were totally ignorant of the fire threat. Although there was a mobile signal the RFS bushfire TXT message alerts didn't happen that day in Pearl Beach.

NEIGHBOUR ALERT

PBSAG decided that our Pearl Beach residents needed a more reliable local community-based communication system to relay important RFS updates on nearby bushfires whereby **Neighbour Alert** operates as a communications network only.

In developing the **Neighbour Alert** program, a key component is that each Pearl Beach street has at least two **Street Contacts**, volunteers who distribute "Household Information" sheets to residents to obtain relevant information such as name, address and contact numbers for registration to the **Neighbour Alert** program.

It is emphasised however that the **Street Contact volunteers are not fire wardens, fire fighters nor are they expected to provide any other support to people in time of a bushfire emergency.**

The role they play is completely dependent on their own personal safety situation.

PBSAG maintains a Neighbour Alert data base and has set-up an SMS messaging system.

SMS TEXT MESSAGING SYSTEM

PBSAG has established a **Text Messaging System** to send communications to registered residents of Neighbour Alert via their mobile phones. This is our first preference to alert residents and others who have registered, of the Bushfire Alert Level for Pearl Beach. Text Messages are sent upon PBSAG being notified at the same time as the Pearl Beach RFS of a local bushfire warning.

This system aims to alert Pearl Beach residents and any homeowners registered in our system of the RFS bushfire notifications of - **ADVICE, WATCH AND ACT and EMERGENCY WARNING**

Should the Text Messaging System fail, we will endeavor to personally alert residents through our Street Contacts. **NOTE:** All residents should avail themselves of other publicly available bush fire danger alert notifications/systems including:

- **RFS/SES Text Messages** sent to all registered mobile phones on the local mobile phone tower – sent in emergency danger situations.
- **Fires Near Me app – smartphone & tablet**
- **NSW RFS website – rfs.nsw.gov.au**
- **Bushfire Information – 1 800 679 737**
- **Local radio – ABC 92.5 FM / 702 AM**
- **Facebook – facebook.com/nswrfs**
- **Twitter – twitter.com/nswrfs**

YOUR BUSH FIRE SURVIVAL PLAN

It is essential to note that residents are expected to enact their own Bushfire Survival Plan.

The Neighbour Alert initiative has been active in encouraging all residents to write a Bushfire Survival Plan. We have been working with the RFS in distributing these to residents. So, as notifications are issued residents enact their own bushfire Survival Plan.

Please review your plan and ensure it is up to date.

Bush Fire Emergency “Must Have Bags”

With emergency contact information and an emergency survival check list to assist you in taking the important items with you in a bush fire emergency.

These are a highly visible and safe way to keep all your Emergency Documents in one place. A practical holder of those important items you don't want to leave behind.

Only \$10

Our Red Bag initiative helps residents keep all their bushfire documents together. Please ask your street contact about purchasing a Red Bag

Emergency kit suggestions:

- Hardcopy, digital photos or USB
- Insurance papers
- Medicare and health insurance cards
- Birth certificates, passports
- Phone
- Prescriptions and medical supplies
- Cash, handbag/purse
- Underwear
- Water bottles, non-perishable food snacks
- Toothbrush/paste, deodorant
- Chargers for electronic items
- Jewelry, small sentimental items
- A plan for pets and their food
- Know the radio station and social media pages you'll need to follow for more information

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**Police, Ambulance, Fire Brigade, RFS
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Major Bushfire Information

1800 679 737

NSW RFS Website

rfs.nsw.gov.au

Free Smartphone App

Fires Near Me

Local Radio

ABC 92.5FM / 702 AM

Social Media

facebook.com/nswrfs

twitter.com/nswrfs

SES

132 500

Central Coast Council

4325 8222

**Pearl Beach Safety Advisory Group
(PBSAG)**

pbpa.safetyadvisorygroup@gmail.com

INFORMATIVE BROCHURES

<https://pearlbeachprogress.org.au/wp-content/uploads/20200903-Bushfire-Awareness-Preparing-your-Property.pdf>

<https://pearlbeachprogress.org.au/wp-content/uploads/20200903-Bush-Fire-Behaviour.pdf>

Pearl Beach Safety Advisory Group and the Street Contacts team sincerely thank residents for their support of the Neighbour Alert program.

**PBSAG Committee
Sept 2020**