



PBSAG NEIGHBOUR ALERT BULLETIN 2021



BACKGROUND

Pearl Beach Safety Advisory Group (PBSAG) is a subcommittee of the Pearl Beach Progress Association. It is a small group of local Community volunteers, some with great expertise such as medicos, trainers and life savers. The Pearl Beach Progress Association's Safety Advisory Group has been active in Pearl Beach safety matters and has in recent years:

- Installed 4 defibrillators within Pearl Beach with CPR/AED training/accreditations arranged for over 20 local residents.
- Being instrumental in erecting beach safety warning signage and installed/maintains beach safety equipment following the tragic drowning of a little boy in 2014, and more recently in March 2021 an elderly man drowned.
- Implemented and maintains the Neighbour Alert resident messaging system alerting residents of danger/emergency evacuation situations such as bush fires; and
- Supports the activities of the Pearl Beach Rural Fire Service.

BUSHFIRE DANGER

Pearl Beach is in the middle of the Brisbane Water National Park and with most suburban streets containing natural tree cover, is identified by the New South Wales Rural Fire Service as bushfire prone area at significant risk from bushfire.

A real wake up call for our local community occurred on 14th December 2016 with a bush fire at Patonga Drive. Overall, Pearl Beach residents were ill prepared, some evacuated, some had a bushfire survival plan whereas others either didn't know what to do or were totally unaware of the fire threat.

Leading on from the Patonga Drive fire, PBSAG decided that our Pearl Beach residents needed a more reliable local community-based communication system through the establishment of **Neighbour Alert**, a system involving **Street Contacts** (2 street contacts each street to obtain household information) to register mobile phone numbers of residents, and the establishment of an **SMS messaging** to relay important RFS updates on nearby bushfires.

(NOTE: It is important to clarify, 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)

SMS TEXT MESSAGING SYSTEM

PBSAG maintains a Neighbour Alert data base and has set-up an SMS messaging system to send Alert Messages to mobile phones of those registered, of the RFS Bushfire Alert Level for fires near 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 on the system of the RFS bushfire Alert Levels of –

- **ADVICE**
- **WATCH AND ACT**
- **EMERGENCY WARNING**

NOTE: All residents should also avail themselves of other publicly available bush fire danger alert notification systems including:

- **RFS/SES Text Messages** sent to all mobile phones connected to 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.

Please advise your Street Contact if you do not have the RFS Bush Fire Survival Plan brochure as we are working with the RFS to ensure Pearl Beach residents have a Bush Fire Survival Plan.

It is important to review your plan prior to every bush fire season ensuring it remains relevant to your personal situation.

Property Preparation for the 2021/22 Bush Fire Season

GET READY
FOR BUSH FIRE SEASON

PROPERTY PREPARATION FOR THE BUSH FIRE SEASON

Getting ready for the bush fire season could be easier than you think. Even the little things can make a difference during a bush fire. Here are the top five actions that you can do to make your home safer.

- 1 TRIM**
overhanging trees and shrubs.
- 2 MOW**
your lawn and remove all the cut grass.
- 3 REMOVE**
material that can burn around your home
(e.g. door mats, wood piles, mulch, leaves, paint, outdoor furniture).
- 4 CLEAR**
and remove all the debris and leaves from the gutters
surrounding your home.
- 5 PREPARE**
a hose or hoses that can stretch all around the house.

PREPARE ACT SURVIVE TO FIND OUT MORE GO TO [RFS.NSW.GOV.AU](https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)

NSW

PBSAG emphasises this RFS pamphlet is a critical message to all Pearl Beach residents and property owners. Refer to <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/prepare-your-property> for more information.

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>

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

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

**PBSAG Committee
September 2021**