

# Pearl Beach Safety Advisory Group

Neighbour Alert – Street Contacts Meeting  
November 2022



# AGENDA

## Meeting Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – 2pm in Hall

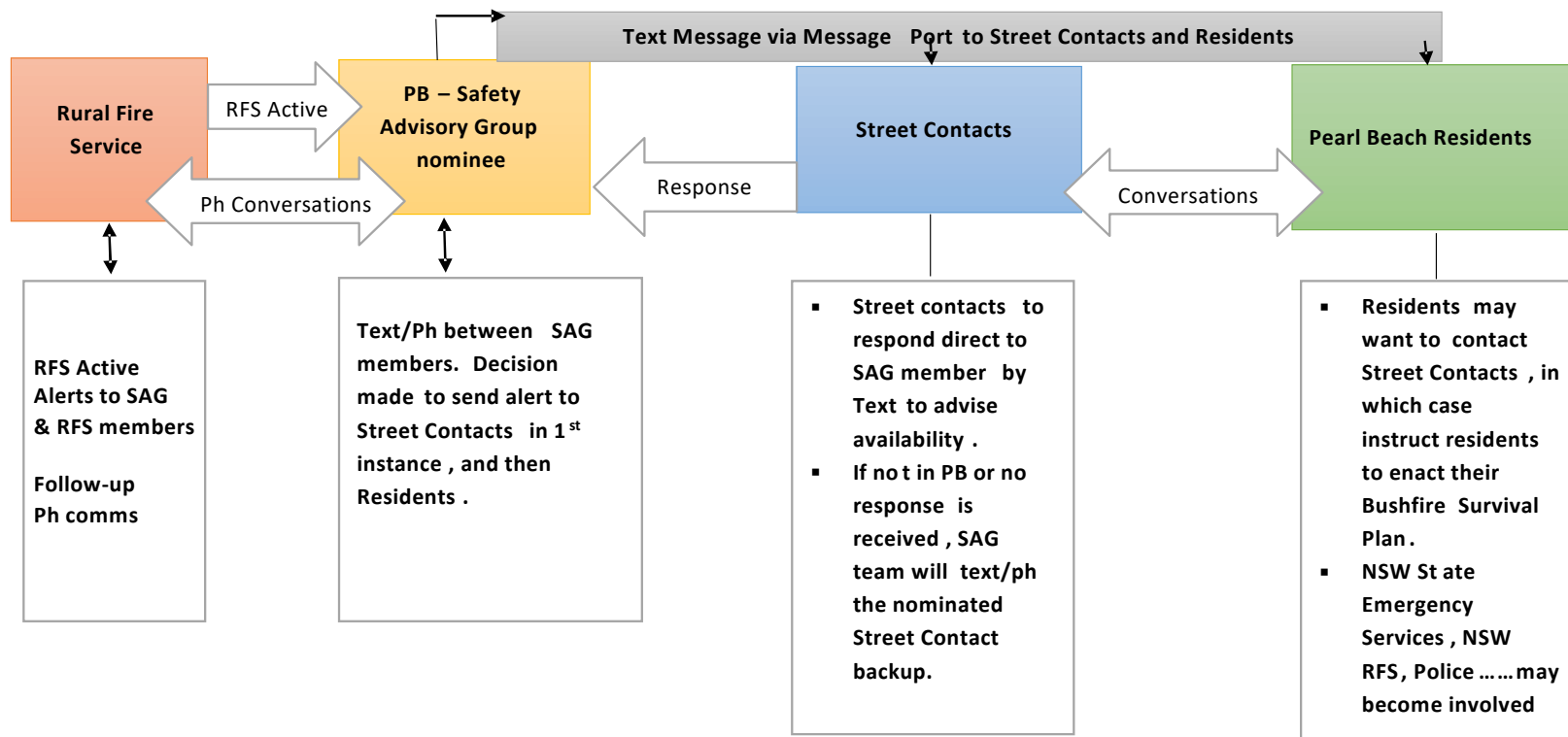
1. Street contacts to help update the Neighbourhood alert database by collecting the data (Household Info form) via door to door knocking.
2. How Street Contacts are notified by the SMS Neighbourhood Alert system (MessagePort)
3. Update on the new Community Support Centre facilities (The Hall with new fire sprinklers etc.)
4. Recap on Bush Survival Plans and Bushfire ratings etc.

# Neighbour Alert Street Contacts

## Update Existing Resident Details + New Residents

- NA residents registered street by street spreadsheet list hand out to Street Contacts
- Visit residents to update Household Information Form (new), check their Bush Fire Survival Plan or hand out the RFS Brochure “Get Ready for a Bushfire and Your Bush Fire Survival Plan”, if necessary, and deliver the Neighbour Alert Bulletin Nov 2022.
- In respect to new residents, we have prepared **RED BAG WELCOME PAKS** containing:
  - Progress Association Welcome Letter & Progress Association Membership Form
  - Neighbour Alert Bulletin – Nov 2022
  - Neighbour Alert Guidelines – Nov 2022
  - Neighbour Alert Household Info – Nov 2022
  - Neighbour Alert Fridge magnet
  - RFS Brochure “Get Ready for a Bushfire and Your Bush Fire Survival Plan”.
- The Community Support Centre – information brief included in the Neighbour Alert Bulletin.
- Upon return of your resident spreadsheet + new household information sheets, the Neighbour Alert database will be updated & consolidated into a Master spreadsheet to be held by the PBSAG.
- The updated individual street spreadsheets / printouts to be distributed, collected and returned to SAG to update data records. In all cases please return the completed Household Info forms to SAG. If you are able to update the spreadsheet for your own street – great – otherwise the database will be updated from the hard copy forms.

## PEARL BEACH – FIRE ALERT COMMUNICATION SCHEMATIC



### Text Message Samples

**1. To registered Neighbour Alert residents :**

“Bush fire alert .....at.....Please closely monitor the situation through the emergency channels provided , and implement your Bushfire Survival Plan. ”

**2. Street Con tacts:**

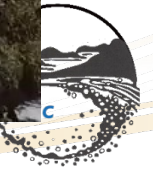
“Bush fire alert .....at..... Please be aware a message is being sent to Residents. If you are not in PB, please notify your SAG contact by text.”

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTRE

## PEARL BEACH MEMORIAL COMMUNITY HALL

- **Solar power emergency backup system** with:
  - 7.4kW solar panels (approximately doubling the size of the existing array on the North roof)
  - 24kWh battery storage (1-2 days supply for the hall)
  - 10 kVA generator for emergency backup power
- **Bushfire protection sprinkler system** with:
  - Around 20 sprinklers protecting the hall roof and another 30 for walls
  - Two rainwater tanks totalling 18,000L in the rear yard to supply water
  - A domestic spearpoint pump for backup water supply when necessary, and a separate fire sprinkler pump (both electric). (N.B. Spearpoint delayed due to Water Access Licence issue)
- A substantially more resilient “last resort” place for residents to shelter if unable to evacuate from a major fire or other major events such as storm. Letter sent 26 Sept to Central Coast Bushfire Management Committee seeking their assessment for CSC to be classified as the new safer place at Pearl Beach.
- SAG members and other community volunteers will be all trained up to Manage and Operate the CSC inclusive of operational manuals for the **a)** sprinklers and **b)** solar + battery + generator power systems. An operational procedures manual is being prepared for community volunteers in assisting/directing community residents to the CSC in events of bushfire and/or storms and loss of power in the village.

# Community Support Centre Project video







# Bushfire Survival Plan – what to do scenario!

- “**It’s not safe to do nothing**, you must **leave** or **actively defend.**” Wait and see will only result in you having less time to take action. Act early, while you can, and while you have options.

>>>> HAVE A PLAN <<<<<<

GO	STAY and DEFEND
• <b>WHEN?</b> Sign to go?	• <b>EXTREME</b> – reconsider. <b>CATASTROPHIC – GO!</b>
• <b>WHERE? HOW?</b>	• <b>Not sure? – GO</b>
• <b>TELL SOMEONE</b> (incl street contact)	• Property <b>MAINTAINED &amp; PREPARED</b>
• What to <b>TAKE?</b> Important items packed and ready. Pet cage. Medications	• All <b>EQUIPMENT</b> you need? Water, pump, PPE, boots, goggles, mask
• Mobile + charger + contacts	• Mentally Physically <b>FIT &amp; READY</b>
• Change of clothes.	• Power + water may be interrupted
<p><b>There are more homes than fire trucks. Emergency help may not arrive.</b></p> <p><b>COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTRE OPTION ....BUT LEAVE THE VILLAGE EARLY PREFERRED</b></p>	



# Clear message always be prepared !!

- The more you think it through now, the less panic you will face in an emergency.
- The power can go out. Mobile Ph network can be clogged. Road can be cut.
- **GO EARLY. YOU CAN ALWAYS COME BACK. MAY NOT HAVE THE CHANCE LATER**
- Information sources – RFS, Fires near me App, ABC Radio, Social Media.
- Plan B. Last resort – Community Support Centre / Neighbourhood Safer Place  
*(NSP classification subject to Central Coast Bushfire Management Committee's inspection of the Hall)*
- Preparation Considerations:
  - Wooden or brush fences
  - Wood piles
  - Dense, dry, dead shrubs / trees.
  - Branches overhanging buildings
  - Leaf litter, piles of leaves.
  - Door mats and furniture.
  - Fuel & chemicals like paint cans

# THREE BUSHFIRE ALERT LEVELS



## Advice

A fire has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.



## Watch And Act

There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.



## Emergency Warning

An Emergency Warning is the highest level of Bush Fire Alert. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

# BUSFIRE DANGER RATING

## MODERATE



### Plan and prepare.

- › Stay up to date and be ready to act if there is a fire.

## HIGH



### Be ready to act.

- › There's a heightened risk. Be alert for fires in your area.
- › Decide what you will do if a fire starts.
- › If a fire starts, your life and property may be at risk. The safest option is to avoid bush fire risk areas.

# BUSFIRE DANGER RATING

## EXTREME



**Take action now** to protect your life and property.

- These are dangerous fire conditions.
- Check your bush fire plan and ensure that your property is fire ready.
- If a fire starts, take immediate action. If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, go to a safer location well before the fire impacts.
- Reconsider travel through bush fire risk areas.

## CATASTROPHIC



At **Catastrophic**, for your survival **leave bush fire risk areas.**

- These are the most dangerous conditions for a fire.
- Your life may depend on the decisions you make, even before there is a fire.
- Stay safe by going to a safer location early in the morning or the night before.
- Homes cannot withstand fires in these conditions.
- You may not be able to leave, and help may not be available.



# NSW SES

- **NSW SES moved to the Australian Warning System for flood and tsunami warnings on 30 September 2022.**
- The Australian Warning System (AWS) is a nationally consistent, three-tiered approach designed to make warnings clearer and lead people to take action ahead of severe weather events. The warning system comprises warning levels, action statements, hazard icons, colours and shapes.
- **Warning levels and action statements**
- There are three levels within the AWS - Advice, Watch & Act and Emergency Warning. For each level, there are a series of clear action statements to guide positive action by the community. These include 'stay informed', 'prepare to evacuate' and 'move to higher ground' as shown below:
- **Advice** - an incident has started. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.
  - Stay informed
  - Monitor conditions
  - Reduced threat: return with caution
- **Watch and Act** - conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.
  - Do not enter floodwater
  - Prepare to evacuate
  - Prepare to isolate
  - Avoid the area
- **Emergency Warning** - the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately.
  - Evacuate now / Evacuate before [time]
  - Shelter now
  - Move to higher ground



# SES Warnings



Each warning has three components:

- **Location + Hazard:** The location and the type of hazard impacting the community (e.g. Lismore flooding).
- **Action statement:** For each warning level there are a range of action statements to guide protective action by the community. These statements evolve as the warning levels increase in severity. Statements range from 'stay informed' at the Advice level, to 'prepare to evacuate' at the Watch and Act level, to 'evacuate now' in the Emergency Warning level. As the situation changes and the threat is reduced, the level of warning will decrease accordingly.
- **The warning level:** The severity of the natural hazard event based on the consequence to the community.



# Questions & Feedback