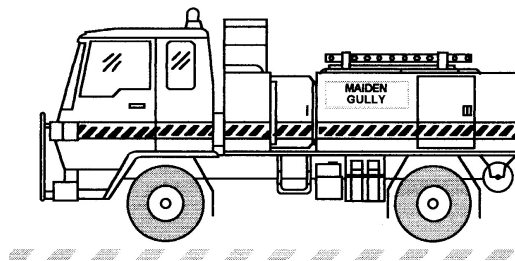


Maiden Gully Fire Brigade Winter Fire Safety News

2011

www.maidengullycfa.org.au



A quiet summer

We were all very pleased that this year's fire danger period was rather benign with your brigade responding to very few grass and scrub fires. In fact brigade members were kept busy assisting with flood events. Some crews worked locally whilst others assisted at Kerang. A new innovation is an alerting system in the fire station that shows the location of each emergency incident on a screen in the turnout room and prints this information and a map to assist the first responding vehicle. It has already shown itself to be very valuable particularly for calls outside of Maiden Gully. Another key component in getting us or other emergency services to your door is a clearly displayed house number.

Although this year's fire danger period has passed, the recent rain has encouraged the grass and forested areas in and around Maiden Gully to grow at incredible rates. There is every chance that the 2011-12 summer fire danger period could see an increased rate of grass and scrub fires. To ensure that you, your family and property are prepared, take advantage of the offer below:

Free on site review for bushfire safety. Book now!

Fire prevention and preparation works should be part of an ongoing yearly schedule. Now is the perfect time to review your plan for this fire season and start refining it and complete the works required around your property prior to next summer. To help you identify your local risks the CFA is offering **FREE** home site reviews to see how your home would stand up to a bushfire and how you can plan for your families safety.

What's involved – A trained fire safety officer can help you review your property's risks, provide advice to develop your Bushfire Survival Plan and guidance to make your home bushfire ready for those living in high bushfire risk areas such as Maiden Gully. This is a **FREE** service which provides you with a written report on your property and some literature to assist you to write down your plan. An assessment takes no more than two hours. You will get the most out of an assessment if you have completed the bushfire self assessment tool on the CFA website so you are familiar with the terms and issues that the fire safety officers will refer to in their assessment.

To book:

*Visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au

*Call the Victoria Bushfire Information Line on:
1800 240 667

*Contact CFA District 2 HQ on 1800 735 202

Staying safe this winter

The winter fire danger period is upon us again and unfortunately winter sees an increased rate of house fires across the state. Here are some facts:

-The CFA attends more than 1000 house fires every year

-When we are asleep we lose our sense of smell. A working smoke alarm is the only thing that will alert you to smoke caused by fire when you are asleep.

- It is a legal requirement that all homes have working smoke alarms. Despite this, only 45 percent of properties attended by fire services had smoke alarms and of those, 31 percent were not working.

-A person is 60 percent less likely to survive a house fire without a working smoke alarm. Change your smoke alarm batteries NOW and ensure your smoke alarm is working correctly.

-One third of Victorian house fires last winter began in the kitchen. Be vigilant when cooking. Never leave cooking unattended and never leave kitchen appliances on when you are not home.

- The majority of fatal fires each year occur in the home, yet most families do not have a plan if a fire does breakout. Establish a home fire plan and discuss it with all your family members. For info on establishing a fire plan go to www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Supporting your brigade.

Our winter fire wood raffles are underway each Saturday morning outside the Maiden Gully shops. This is an important fundraiser that supports the purchase of extra equipment.

Another way of helping the brigade to develop is to participate in the community programs provided by Maiden Gully IGA and the UFS Pharmacy. Both organisations have ways you can nominate your brigade to receive a benefit from your business. Ask next time you're in IGA or the Pharmacy.

Our brigade will be holding a Winter Fire Safety BBQ on the 10th of June from 3.00-7.00pm outside the Maiden Gully IGA. Come along to talk to our members about fire safety, pick up some fire safety brochures and buy a sausage to support your local brigade. We will also be selling early raffle tickets for the wood raffle the following day.