



Shire of Carnamah

Bushfire Response Plan

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Aim, Scope & Objectives

Aim

The aim of this plan is to document preparedness and response requirements for the Shire of Carnamah in order to minimise the impact of bushfires in, or threatening the area, so reducing the fire threat to life, property and the environment.

Scope

This plan is for the Shire of Carnamah and covers:

- The whole of the Shire of Carnamah

Objectives

- To foster a good working relationship with all parties and agencies that can contribute towards the ongoing effectiveness of this plan
- To provide a fire management plan supportive of the overall management objectives and concepts for the area.
- To establish safety procedures for users of the area in the event of fire emergency situations
- To define fire hazard areas
- To define “elements at risk” and where they are located
- To define individuals and organisations responsible for implementing fire protection strategies
- To promote awareness and understanding of the impact of fire on the natural environment
- To have a co-ordinated and effective communication strategy
- To provide procedures for the co-ordination of support functions

Distribution List

Name & Address	File Number

Review Responsibility

This plan shall be reviewed and jointly amended by both the Shire of Carnamah and the Shire Bushfire Advisory committee.

Review Schedule

This document will be reviewed in 2007 and every 1 year subsequent from the approval date unless an earlier review is recommended by the Bush Fire Advisory Committee. Contact Details will be reviewed by the CBFCO annually.

Review History (Amendment List)

Review Number	Date	Plan Section	Reviewed by

Shire of Carnamah Local Government Area

The Shire of Carnamah is located 308 kilometres north of Perth on the Midlands Road. The Shire covers an area of 2834 square kilometres and has a population of 787

General Description

- The Shire comprises of the localities of Carnamah and Eneabba.
- Transverse lines of major access are The Midlands Road, the Brand Highway and Indian Ocean Drive (North/South), Carnamah – Eneabba Road and Eneabba Coolimba Road (East/West).
- The Shire is bounded by the Shires of Irwin, Three Springs, Coorow, Perenjori and the Indian Ocean.
- The Shire consists of coastal heath and broad acre farming and supports the industries of lobster/wet line fishing, mining, mineral sands, rock quarrying,/crushing, cereals, legumes, sheep, cattle, pigs, floriculture and gas production

Specific Bushfire Risk Areas

Fire Risk

Fire risk is the likelihood of fires starting, and the probability of their development into wildfires. Escapes from burn offs on adjoining properties pose a risk, and it can be expected the human element will continue to feature in most fire causes. Lightning strikes and Western Power transmission lines are also a significant cause of fires within the Shire.

Fire Hazard

Fire hazard is the features and conditions affecting fire behaviour. The size of the bushland area, topography, vegetation types, adjoining properties and established wind conditions combine to present a very significant fire hazard.

Fire Threat

Fire threat is the product of fire risk and fire hazard, and is the impact or consequence of unplanned fire on the natural bushland and neighbouring properties.

Residential Commercial & Industrial Areas

The Shire of Carnamah consists of the localities of Carnamah and Eneabba with the Shire Administration Office located in the township of Carnamah and a satellite office in the township of Eneabba,

Specific Hazards

Lightning strikes and pole top fires are a significant cause of fires within the Shire.

Special Elements at Risk**Flora**

Information to be provided by DEC

Recreation Areas

There are public recreation areas located at Lake Indoon and beach shacks at Beagle Ridge and Gum Tree Bay with settlement nodes at Coolimba and Illawong.

Infrastructure

A Western Power high voltage transmission line, and three natural gas pipe lines running North/South through the Shire.

Access**Strategic Fire Access Tracks**

Strategic Fire Access Tracks provide definition of, and access around internal bushland compartments, and also continuity of access as close as practical to the perimeter of the bushland area. They are to specification and located, to assist in safe fire operations, and in the management of fuel loadings,

These tracks create through access with no "dead ends", and are located as much as possible away from steep inclines, and include where appropriate,

turn around points for fire units. Where erosion is likely to occur, provision is made for proper water drainage.

- Strategic Fire Access Tracks are four metres wide, trafficable surface, and do not exceed a gradient of 1:6.
- Turn around points to provide for heavy appliances are installed.
- Strategic Fire Access Tracks are maintained to specification annually.

Water Resources

Water Supplies

There dams, soaks and water tanks located on farms throughout the Shire.

Water Points

Stand pipes are located on Caron Street, Carnamah Midlands Road Prowaka and King Street, Eneabba.

Incident Notification

All agencies have agreed that in all instances, the community of Western Australia is encouraged to report fires through the '000' phone number. Incidents are also reported directly to the Shire office during business hours and to the CBFCCO after hours.

Local Notifications

With any fire occurring on or threatening lands or values of the Shire of Carnamah, DEC, Western Power or the Water Corporation, FESA and the relative agency shall be advised as soon as practical. This will afford the opportunity of providing timely support for the fire operation if required. For a list of Local Notifications see Appendix 1

Call-out Procedures

Standard procedures are for fire calls to be received by FESA Communications Centre (000). Occasionally fires are reported by the public to Councils offices or to Shire Bushfire Control Officers.

The FESA communications officer upon receiving a call will notify the relevant Shire officer.

Initial Appliance & Resource Turnout

The Chief Bushfire Control officer or deputy shall investigate the size and location of the fire and will mobilise Brigades as required.

On Call Rosters

The Shire of Carnamah does not have an on call roster system. Brigades and personnel are mobilized on as needs basis.

Current list of Brigade Members

A current list of all the Shire of Carnamah Bushfire Brigade members is located in the Shire office and FESA Midwest/Gascoyne Regional office

Carnamah Bush Fire Brigade Resources

Carnamah Appliances		
Position/ Vehicle ID	Call Sign	Radios
Carnamah Isuzu	Carnamah 2.4	VHF 44
Carnamah Landcruiser	Carnamah Fast Attack	VHF 44
Eneabba Isuzu	Eneabba 2.4	VHF 29
Eneabba Landcruiser	Eneabba Fast Attack	VHF 29

Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS)

1. FESA, DEC, the Shire of Carnamah and Local Governments adopt the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS), defining the functional areas of Control, Operations, Planning and Logistics as the operational basis of these arrangements;
2. All agencies recognise the AIIMS and its establishment on the fireground through the formation of an Incident Management Team (IMT);
3. At all multi agency incidents, all agencies will recognise a single IMT normally identified through a common Incident Control facility;
4. Regardless of jurisdictional and geographic boundaries, agency command structures are utilised through the formation of divisions or sectors or through the appointment of liaison officers;
5. If appropriate, the Incident Controller is encouraged to nominate expertise of other fire agencies as formal members of the IMT;
6. At multi-agency incidents, or incidents where locality, tenure or consequence is complex, the appointment of an Incident Controller is based on:
 - Identification of land tenure and the responsible hazard management agency;
 - An agreement in the field, recognising any threat to life, property and community wellbeing and extraordinary consequence;
 - As outlined in formal area response arrangements;
 - Through the nomination by the Minister for Emergency Services as outlined in Section 21 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.
7. The designated Incident Controller has the decision-making authority at the incident and is respected by all services and rank.

Incident Management Structure

Level One Incidents

IMT functions may be managed by an Incident Controller/Manager only, possibly involving an Operations Officer, if agency protocol promotes this, and the incident is managed from a Control Point;

Level Two Incidents

Management uses an expanded incident management structure where the Control, Operations, Planning and Logistics functions may be managed from an Incident Control Point. This may involve limited use of units to support the respective functions. The Operations function will normally be provided from an Incident Control Point located at the incident with Staging Areas established to assist in receiving resources and managing welfare and maintenance requirements; and

Level Three Incidents

Are managed using a full incident management structure where Control, Planning, Logistics and possibly Operations functions are managed from an Incident Control Centre. This will involve extensive use of units to support the respective functions.

Mobilisation Arrangements & Plans across Districts

1. The responsibility for determination and provision of combative and non-combative fire response and support lies with the relevant Fire Agencies;
2. Requests for mutual aid assistance can be made through the FESA Communications Centre, the FESA Midwest/Gascoyne Regional Duty Coordinator or LG;
3. FESA will normally dispatch a Bushfire Liaison Officer, to any incident, if available, in the following circumstances:
 - On request from a local government.
 - When the available resources of the local government are committed and further resources outside the local government are requested.
 - On notification that fire fighters or members of the public have been injured or substantial property or life is, or is likely to be, lost.
 - In any circumstances considered appropriate by the FESA Regional Director or Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Carnamah or his/her delegate where there may be a requirement to collaborate to ensure effective support for the communities under threat or affected by the incident.
 - If incident management is dysfunctional and/or key tasks are not being achieved; and

4. The role of FESA Officers in support of local government is described within the stated intentions of Section 13 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* and Section 11 of the FESA Act.

Handover MOU

To provide support to local governments and Bush Fire Brigades, the Bush Fires Act 1954 was amended to enable a local government to request that FESA, under Section 13(4):

Where a bush fire is burning in the district of a local government the Authority may, at the request of the local government, authorise a bush fire liaison officer to take control of all operations in relation to that fire.

The Act was amended to enable local governments to request FESA take control when a bushfire escalates in complexity to a point where firefighting resources are stretched and assistance and support is required.

Communications

Communication at the fire scene will be established as soon as possible by the IC, who will advise personnel of relevant channels and procedures to be used.

Coordination Centres

Coordination centres have been identified as the Shire of Carnamah office and the Eneabba SES building.

Air Support

Air Intelligence must be requested through the FESA Midwest/Gascoyne Regional Duty Coordinator

Fire Suppression Strategies

The main strategy for any fire in the area that cannot be quickly suppressed and is likely to escalate, is to contain it within the defined boundaries of the relevant compartment, with minimum use of earth moving machinery.

Safety Protocols

On a Fire ground

All Bushfire Fighters shall be dressed in appropriate clothing when fighting fires.

Post Incident Procedures

Following the completion of fire operations, the Incident Controller is responsible to ensure all accidents have been reported to the Shire of Carnamah.

Should trauma counselling be required the Incident Controller will contact the Shire of Carnamah who will arrange immediate response to the request through the FESA Midwest/Gascoyne Regional Duty Coordinator.

Security of any premises following completion of fire operations while being the responsibility of the owner, the brigades have a responsibility to ensure if there is no owner in attendance that the property is handed over to the care and control of the police.

Debriefs shall be held if required and it is recommended that all fires where there was multi agency use a debriefing be conducted to ensure that the operation was successful and any alterations to Response Plans or other documentation is carried out.

All damage to Shire of Carnamah fire appliances must be reported to the Shire of Carnamah office via the CBFCA or the DBFCA and repairs should be affected as soon as possible.

Funding Arrangements & Protocols

The Shire of Carnamah receives funding for the operation of its brigades through the Emergency Services Levy. Costs associated with the provision of machinery for the suppression of fires within the Shire boundaries will be bourn by the Shire. If additional machinery or aircraft is required, this is to be requested through the FESA Midwest/Gascoyne Regional Duty Coordinator.

Note. No retrospective claims will be entertained.

Evacuation Procedures

Should evacuation of persons be required the guide lines set out in SEMC Policy Statement 5 shall be observed.

Traffic Management Protocols

Traffic management shall be coordinated through the Incident Controller and is the responsibility of the WA Police Service.

Recovery

1. Local government are the managers of Community Welfare and Recovery;
2. In line with SEMC Policy Statement No. 7, recovery includes all activities intended to return the community to normal as soon as possible after the impact of a disaster or emergency;

3. Recovery Activities should begin to be planned during the incident as soon as a community is identified as under threat;
4. Community Welfare and Recovery Plans should be prepared at the local level (through the Local Emergency Management Committee) with an established, prearranged structure that identifies the role of a coordinating recovery committee; and
5. The Fire and Emergency Services Authority may be represented on this committee.

Post Fire Recovery Strategies	Responsible Organisation
Remove any dead animals away from public sight (tracks and fence lines)	Shire of Carnamah
If required, obtain carers for injured fauna	DEC
Clean up the fire site and appropriately rehabilitate areas adversely affected by the fire or fire suppression activities. Close and rehabilitate any unwanted firebreaks during fire suppression activities.	Shire of Carnamah or DEC
Consider safety of public facilities – close if unsafe	Shire of Carnamah and other responsible agencies
Consider restricting public access to the area until safe to enter. Possible burning Peat, trees etc	Incident controller
Check power lines for safety if in the fire area.	Western Power
Record damage to fence, track and signs. Organise the repair or inform DEC	Shire of Carnamah

Logistical Contacts

A list of Logistical Contacts is attached in Appendix 2.

Evacuation and Safe Refuge

Evacuation Categories

The decision to evacuate is made by the HMA Incident Controller and implemented by the WA Police Service; there are two categories of evacuation, namely Immediate and Planned.

Immediate Evacuation

Evacuation of this kind will require an instant decision by the Hazard Management Agency. The Incident Controller should advise the WA Police Service Liaison Officer of:

1. The urgency of the evacuation
2. The estimated area of evacuation
3. The likely duration of the evacuation
4. The safe direction for evacuation

The WA Police Service Liaison Officer should then arrange the immediate evacuation of the area to any convenient safe area. It should be noted statistics show that more than 25% of people will ignore this instruction and will, in preference, proceed to friends or relatives. The remaining evacuees can then either be allowed to return to their homes once the all clear is confirmed, or, in the case of a longer duration of evacuation, transported to a designated Welfare Centre as nominated by the Welfare Coordinator.

Planned Evacuation

Where circumstances permit, an orderly evacuation may be achieved. Once again a significant proportion of the evacuated population will make their own accommodation provisions.

Evacuation Considerations

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC), Policy Statement No 5 Bushfire Evacuation Decision Policy (Annexure F), provides direction to the WA Police Service Liaison Officer.

Welfare Organisation

Welfare Co-ordination Centre - The Welfare Coordinator will operate from a welfare co-ordination centre located as detailed below.

There may be two types of Welfare Centres established to assist victims of bushfire. These are:

- **Welfare Assembly Centres** - Established within or near the disaster area to meet the immediate needs of disaster victims and to disseminate information. A welfare assembly centre is to provide the following facilities:
 1. Emergency Clothing/Covering
 2. Drinks and Meals
 3. Registration
 4. Shelter

The locations of welfare assembly centres to be used will be determined at the time in accordance with the effects of a particular threat.

- **Welfare Centres** - Established as an emergency facility to provide shelter, food, clothing and all other welfare services until alternative

arrangements can be made. A welfare centre is to provide the following facilities:

1. Administration Manager
2. Emergency Feeding
3. Emergency Clothing
4. Personal Services
5. Registration and Inquiry
6. First Aid
7. Emergency Accommodation
8. Personal Hygiene and Sanitation

Public Broadcasting Procedures

1. The Incident Controller is responsible for the management and authorisation of media releases during an incident. The Shire of Carnamah, FESA and DEC will work together to coordinate information released to the media and define a single point of contact.
2. The Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) may dispatch a Media Liaison Officer in the circumstances to work for/on behalf of, the Incident Controller, in association with the local government. Media Liaison Officers can be requested through the FESA Midwest/Gascoyne Regional Duty Coordinator. In these circumstances, the Media Liaison Officer (MLO) is responsible for coordinating the actions of the media and ensuring their safety while on the incident ground. Information provided to the media by the MLO is of an operational nature only;
3. The Incident Controller will rely upon an officer from the local government to provide local knowledge and expertise in the development and provision of media releases and community information bulletins, for dissemination to the public through the local government, or FESA Media, as agreed at the time of the incident;
4. FESA may release media statements that reflect the Regional and multi agency perspective of the status of fire incidents throughout the Perth Regions; and
5. FESA Media and Public Affairs may also be requested to release public information alerts through radio and television (in extreme circumstances) as well as updates on the FESA website and a recorded message dial in and dial out service.

NB: It is vital that timely and accurate information is relayed from the fire ground to FESA Media and Public Affairs for this public alert system to be successful.

Appendicis

Appendix 1

Shire of Carnamah		
Tony Nottle	CEO	9951 7000
Allan Griffith	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	0428 511 213
Ashley Armstrong	Deputy Chief BFCO (East)	9951 1350
Andrew Forsyth	Deputy chief BFCO (West)	0427 840 015

Carnamah Town BFB		
Peter Hill	Captain	0427 784 232
Malcolm Pumfrey	FCO	0427 511 186
Ashley Armstrong	1 st Lieutenant	9951 1350
Eneabba BFB		
Geoff Hortin	Captain	0427 525 014
Andrew Forsyth	FCO	0427 840 015
Stuart Clarke	1 st Lieutenant	0428 551 078
Coolimba BFB		
Mick Akerstrom	Captain/FCO	
Sean Akerstrom	1 st Lieutenant	9953 1106 hm
Eric Latham	2 nd Lieutenant	

Appendix 2

Logistical Contacts

FESA			
FESA Headquarters	9323 9300	FESA Geraldton	9956 6000
Comcen	1800 198 140	9323 9333	9321 2044 fax
FESA Geraldton			
Regional Director	Russell Hayes	0427 012 947 m	9956 6000
District Manager	Max Barker	0427 024 125 m	9956 6000
Area Manager	Steve McDonald	0427 024 126 m	9956 6000
DEC			
DEC	9652 1911	0429 600 680	
Chief Bushfire Control officers Adjacent Shires			
Corrow	John Browne	0428 529 019	9952 9011
Perenjori	Brian Baxter	0427 731 043	9973 1043
Three Springs	Russell Morgan		9955 8031
Irwin	Peter Summers	0429 086 270	9927 2155
SERVICES (through FESA COMCEN)			
Agriculture		Police	9222 1111
Air Op's Manager	0438 926 224	Police EMOPS	9222 1319
DEC Air Services	9405 1222		
Communications Branch	9479 9254	RSPCA	9248 3155
DEC Pollution Response	1800 018 800	Salvation Army	9227 7010
Family Childrens Services	9350 7250		
Fire Investigation	9323 9333	St. Johns Ambulance	9334 1234
Fire Service Chaplains	1800 153 344	Telstra	13 22 55
Fire Weather	9263 2260 9263 2252		
Main Roads	1800 800 009	Weather Fax	1800 061 436
Media Liaison	9323 9333	Western Power	9427 4368
Peer Support Professional Counselling	1800 153 344	Westrail	9326 2215
		FESA Public Information Line	1300 657 209