

RISK INFORMATION – CHURCHES BUSH & GRASS FIRE PREPAREDNESS

Bushfires and grassfires in Australia are an all too common occurrence in summertime. The state and territory fire brigades provide us with excellent advice regarding preparation for fires and emergency procedures to enact if a fire occurs.

It is essential that churches and other Baptist properties in fire prone areas prepare their properties well in advance of the fire season. Preparation includes:

- Preparing your buildings to minimise the possibility of embers and fire entering buildings,
- Clearing vegetation around buildings,
- Installation and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment,
- Formulation of a fire plan, outlining actions to be undertaken in the event of an emergency, e.g. flee or fight. It would normally include preparation for preservation of critical data at risk from a fire, e.g. organisation history, current governance and accounting records.

For guidance in relation to planning for emergencies refer to the BIS Churches Risk Information publication entitled “Churches Emergency Planning”.

Refer also to the website of your local state and territory authorities who have published helpful information to assist you in your preparation activities – see references below. A number of these authorities have developed “Apps” for downloading to your mobile phone or tablet; these are intended to assist you in keeping up to date in relation to specific fire and other emergency events.

Government Sites

South Australia Country Fire Authority - www.cfs.sa.gov.au

WA Department of Fire & Emergency Safety – www.dfes.wa.gov.au

Victorian Country Fire Authority – www.cfa.vic.gov.au

NSW Rural Fire Service – www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Queensland Rural Fire Service – www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au

Tasmanian Fire Service – www.fire.tas.gov.au

ACT Emergency Services Agency – www.esa.act.gov.au

NT Department of Land Resource Management – www.lrm.nt.gov.au

The information provided is of a general nature only and may not identify all matters that need to be included in the design of effective controls for the subject area. Professional advice should be obtained on individual circumstances.