Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades

The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes is responsible for ten Bush Fire Brigades that cover the Shire. These Bush Fire Brigades are responsible for responding to fires and all members are VOLUNTEERS. They are all busy people with families who are prepared to drop everything at a moments notice to go and protect their community.

Being a member of the local Bush Fire Brigade is not just about going and putting fires out. Community members who do want to be out there fighting the fire can be members of the Bush Fire Brigade and provide support in other areas such as:

- Providing transport for firefighters and/ or equipment
- Being involved in communications during fires, such as being a radio operator, phoning around for extra crews or equipment, or writing down what is happening at the incident.
- Catering for fire crews
- Looking after the fire stations or brigade equipment, making sure they are serviceable and working
- Acting in the positions of Secretary or Treasurer of the Bush Fire Brigade

These members are classed as Auxiliary members.

Time Commitment to the Bush Fire Brigade

Commitment is dependent on the individual as to how much they are prepared in "put in" to the Brigade, as well as what position you hold within the Brigade hierarchy. Many members of Bush Fire Brigades turn up when only when there is a fire, which is when they are most needed. Other members are the quiet achievers, putting in several hours a week making sure that the brigade is at its best when there is a fire. The choice is up to you.

Training

FESA Fire Services and the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes recommend that all volunteers complete an introductory training program prior to attending any emergency incidents. The emphasis of this training is to enhance volunteer safety and effectiveness.

This training is provided free to anyone who wishes to attend.

During these courses you will learn skills in the following areas:

1) Safety and Survival

2) Wildfire Behaviours

3)Wildfire Suppression

4) Communications

5) Organisation and Chain of Command

These courses are subject to demand and are run throughout the year.

After completing the basic training, which take around six hours, members can opt to do more advanced firefighting training or officer training.

After completion of the required training modules, the Shire will provide the following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE's):

- two-piece fire resistant overalls
- gloves
- helmet
- goggles
- boots (if required)

Any other equipment is the responsibility of the individual, and any equipment supplied remains the property of the Brigade.

More Information

For more Information about joining your local Bush Fire Brigade, please contact the Fire Control Officer in your area:

Bridgetown	**Malcolm McDonald**	**0429 611 064**
Winnijup	**Rod Hester**	**(08) 9764 4027**
Greenbushes	**Greg Kennedy**	**0427 577 821**
Wandilup	**Jim Gifford**	**(08) 9761 1137**
Hester Brook	**Dave Jenkins**	**(08) 9761 1128**
Kangaroo Gully	**Tom Tassos**	**(08) 9761 1197**
Maranup	**Hugh Browne**	**(08) 9761 1200**
Yornup	**Michael Campbell**	**(08) 9761 9002**
Catterick	**Derek Dilkes**	**(08) 9764 4016**
Sunnyside	**Dean Scott**	**(08) 9761 7515**

If you are unsure of which Fire Control Officer to speak to, please contact the Shire Office on 9761 1555.