

FARMERS RESPONSE GUIDELINES

MORAWA

For all
emergencies,
including Fire
call 000



Volunteer Firefighter Decision Tool

Are you uncertain about whether you are classified as a Spontaneous or Bush Fire Brigade Volunteer? This decision-making tool is here to help you choose.

Spontaneous Volunteers

Often referred to as 'farmer response', or non-registered members, utilise their own farm response units to tackle bushfires on their own initiative. They form the backbone of incident response but are spontaneous by nature, resulting in varying levels of experience and equipment.

Bush Fire Brigade Volunteers

These are registered members of a Shire's Bush Fire Brigade. The standards for joining a Bush Fire Brigade are higher, as community expectations demand specific training and experience when operating the Shire-provided Fire Appliance.

These volunteers are requested to respond to incidents through official channels and are expected to conduct vehicle maintenance, attend trainings, meetings and operational callouts, identify mitigation procedures, and occasionally assist other Local Governments in a coordinated response.

Spontaneous Volunteer 'Farmer Response'	Bush Fire Volunteer 'Registered Members'
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must maintain and operate own private appliance as per DFES Fire guidelines.• Must wear basic PPE as per guidelines• Must report when attending the fire ground via the Shire's WhatsApp group• Must have vehicle ID Sticker• Must take direction from Incident Controller• Should undertake Rural Fire Awareness training• No obligation to respond to any incident	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must attend Bush Fire Brigade meetings• Must Complete Rural Fire Awareness, AIMS Awareness, Bush Fire Safety Awareness & Firefighting Skills training• Actively contribute to appliance checks• Must comply with Shire PPE standards when attending incidents• Attend Incidents on Fire Appliances when available

For additional guidance regarding the volunteer category, you can reach out to the Shire of Morawa or contact the DFES Community Emergency Services Manager at Richard.Ryan@dfes.wa.gov.au or via mobile on 0438 277 582.

Online Rural Fire Awareness Training

The Rural Fire Awareness course is designed for pastoral and farmer response brigades, as well as seasonal workers. This course equips participants with crucial knowledge about ground safety, suppression strategies, and how to maintain their safety while working on-site during a fire.

Course Access

For individuals who are not DFES staff or volunteers, simply scan the QR code to access the online course:



Accounts will be active for 30 days from initial activation. If you need to regain access after not completing the course, please contact **eacademyhelp@dfes.wa.gov.au** to request account reactivation. The course can be accessed via computer, tablet, or smartphone, but using a computer or tablet is recommended for an optimal experience. Ensure your device settings allow pop-ups. Upon completion of the training, you are required to forward a copy of your certificate to the Community Emergency Services Manager (Richard.Ryan@dfes.wa.gov.au) for recording purpose.

For additional instructions, visit: www.publications.dfes.wa.gov.au/publications/course-information-online-rural-fire-awareness.

LGIS Induction Part A

The Shire of Morawa is responsible for ensuring compliance with work health and safety legislation (WHS) which takes into account the safety, health and wellbeing of all of its volunteers.

To begin meeting our obligation to effectively train and protect our volunteers, the Shire requires all of its volunteers to complete some basic WHS training.

The Volunteer Bushfire Fighter Induction Part A is applicable to Local Government Shire's volunteers in the Midwest Region.

This induction is required by all Fire Volunteers. The induction can be found at the LGIS website www.midwestsafetygroup.velpic.net/#register?key=26V4H05U50N8 or scan the below QR code



Responding to an Incident as Farmer Response Unit

Landowners have certain responsibilities under the Bushfire Act 1954 regarding fires on their property. Upon discovering a fire, the occupier must take all possible steps to extinguish it and, if unable to do so without help, report it right away to Triple Zero (if there is a viable means of communication available).

1. Report the fire to 000.
2. Inform the CESM, CBFCO, or Shire of Morawa that you are responding.
3. Alert your neighbors about the fire.
4. Make sure you are wearing suitable PPE, including:
 - Long-sleeved shirt
 - Long trousers
 - Safety boots
 - Gloves
 - Safety glasses
 - Hat
5. Check that your vehicle is secure and the water tank is properly fastened.
6. Equip your vehicle with a UHF radio tuned to UHF Channel 11 for communication.
7. If you reach the scene before the fire brigade, collaborate with others and work within your capabilities; your efforts could make a significant difference.
8. Upon the arrival of fire services, report to the incident controller.
9. Adhere to any instructions given by the incident controller.
10. Manage your fatigue and stay hydrated regularly.
11. Inform the incident controller before you leave the fire scene.

Please note that the Shire of Morawa does not support the use of trailer-operated fire units for active firefighting due to maneuverability concerns.

Bushfire Incident / Accident Claim Procedure

Before Responding to an Incident

- All fires must be reported to 000.
- Farmers and spontaneous volunteers are required to notify the CBFCO, CESM, or Shire of Morawa of their attendance at the incident/fire.

What to do If Damage, an Incident, or Injuries Occur

1. Immediately inform the Incident Controller, CBFCO, and CESM at the time of the incident or as soon as possible.
2. If safe, take and provide pictures of any damage at the scene.
3. Fill out the Shire's accident incident report form from the Shire insurance administrator.
4. Complete and sign the LGIS Property Bushfire claim form.
5. Submit a copy of your driver's license along with your report to the Shire's insurance administrator.
6. Email a copy of the documents to the CESM at Richard.Ryan@dfes.wa.gov.au or Shire reception at admin@morawa.wa.gov.au.
7. Obtain a repair quote and send it to the Shire for payment arrangements after approval.
8. Email a copy of the documentation to:
 - admin@morawa.wa.gov.au
 - CESM at richard.ryan@dfes.wa.gov.au

The CESM will complete the LGIS declaration form.

Safety First, Remember L.A.C.E.S

LOOKOUTS

Lookouts and firefighters must maintain an unobstructed view of their designated fire section. Regular patrols are essential if the lookout cannot see the entire length of the fireline.

AWARENESS

Stay informed about the fire situation, including current and potential weather conditions, terrain, fuel types, fuel loads, hazards, and crew locations. Every team member has the duty to remain vigilant and take proactive measures before conditions escalate.

COMMUNICATIONS

Make sure to receive a thorough briefing, maintain communication with your team, report any changes in the situation, and provide regular updates.

ESCAPE ROUTES

Always be aware of your escape routes and ensure that your fireline colleagues are also informed. Position vehicles for quick and easy escape.

SAFETY ZONE

Always identify a safety zone (anchor point) to retreat to in case fire behavior intensifies. A well-burned ground serves as a safe area, and the safety zone must be large enough to provide adequate protection.

Recommended Equipment Specifications and Guidelines

Water carrying capacity- 300 litres minimum, 1000 litres preferred

Pump- Internal combustion engine rated at 3.5kW (5hp), capable of a minimum pressure of 250kpa, and self-filling capability (via suction)

Safety-

- Lap sash seatbelts for all crew when traveling
- 1 x woolen blanket for burn over protection
- 1 x portable first aid kit
- 1 x UHF radio
- Work lights

Delivery hose- 30m of 19mm hose on a hose reel

Suction hose- Hard suction hose complete with a strainer to match operations of the pump

Hand tools- 1 x shovel, tools and other safety gear

Fuel- Ensure the pump is fully fueled. At least 10 litres of pump fuel should also be readily available at a safe location

Other-

- Food, electrolyte replacement and drinking water sufficient for a shift (four hours minimum)
- First Aid Kit

Personal Protective Clothing (PPE) and Equipment Checklist

	Yes /	No
1. Cotton or natural fibre overalls with long sleeves or Natural fibre work shirt and trousers or Level 1 Bushfire personal protective clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Sturdy leather boots	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Leather work gloves	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Industrial type helmet with chin strap	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Industrial type goggles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Respirator or dust mask	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Hearing protection (if required)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. High visibility clothing or vest (if required)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Drinking water, food, snacks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Vehicle Safety Checklist

	Yes /	No
1. When loaded, is the weight of your vehicle less than the rated Gross Vehicle Mass?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Is the load, including the water tank, pump, and fittings adequately secured?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Is your vehicle roadworthy to Department of Transport standards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Is your vehicle and pump mechanically sound?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Have the vehicle and pump been serviced regularly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Is your vehicle fitted with a UHF Radio?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Is there a first aid kit in the vehicle?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Is there a woolen blanket for fire protection in the vehicle?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Is your vehicle fitted with an amber rotating beacon?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION



Shire of Morawa

Phone: 08 9971 1204

www.morawa.wa.gov.au

The QR code will take you directly to the Shire's fire services page.

Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)

www.dfes.wa.gov.au

Rick Ryan (Community Emergency Services Officer) - 0438 277 582

Wayne Kowald (Chief Bush Fire Control Officer) - 0427 615 271



Emergency WA

www.emergency.wa.gov.au

Keep informed about any total fire bans or emergencies in your area, by visiting Emergency WA website, or simply scan the QR code.

