

**Attachment 7.2 Report to the City of Busselton Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) meeting to be held on 12 September 2023**

**Agency:** City of Busselton/Department of Fire & Emergency Services

**Officer Representing:** Matt du Plessis, Community Emergency Service Manager (CESM)

**Matters to be reported:**

**Significant Incidents**

- Nil

**Deployments**

- Nil

**Statistics update**

The incident summary details all incidents responded by both DFES Volunteer Fire & Rescue Services and the City of Busselton Bush Fire Brigades. Nil bushfires experienced (down by 30% on the 5-year trend) but a 60% increase of vehicle fires and 93% increase of road crashes.

**Incidents: Year to Date Comparison: July 1 to September 7**

Incident Type	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	Average Excluding 2023/2024	% TREND this year
Called Off - No Attendance	9	1	1	0	5	2.8	81.82%
False Alarm - System Initiated	7	10	7	16	13	10.0	30.00%
False Call - Good Intent	16	12	8	7	10	10.8	-6.98%
Fire - Bushfire (lge)	0	0	0	1	0	0.0	0.00%
Fire - Bushfire (sml)	8	5	4	3	0	4.3	-29.41%
Fire - Other/Rubbish/Vehicle	7	3	2	3	6	3.8	60.00%
Fire - Structure	3	3	4	4	4	3.5	14.29%
General Service Calls	0	1	2	1	1	1.0	0.00%
Hazardous Situation	3	1	1	3	1	2.0	-50.00%
Natural Hazard	0	6	28	8	19	10.5	80.95%
Rescue & Medical	5	6	4	7	3	5.5	-45.45%
Road Crash & Rescue	4	9	5	9	13	6.8	92.59%
Search	3	2	0	2	1	1.8	-42.86%
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>62.5</b>	<b>28.00%</b>

% TREND compares this FY to the Average.

**Hectares lost to Bushfires within the City of Busselton**

Size of fires is not always available; fires less than 1 hectare are not included.

NIL

**Bush Fire Brigade Memberships**

There has been a steady increase of members with a total of 356 active and 28 non-operational volunteers with a 58% majority been under 55 years of age.

Volunteer Summary for LGIS	Age Group					
Volunteer Position	<=18	<=55	56-65	66-70	71+	Total
Junior or Cadet Rank	1	0	0	0	0	1
Active Operational	3	204	64	44	41	356
Non-Operational	0	11	7	8	12	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>395</b>

## Mitigation Works

The City employs a number of methods to mitigate the risk of bushfire in the region. Mitigation activities include building firebreaks, chemical and mechanical treatments, as well as reducing fuel loads and planned burns (also known as hazard reduction burns) to minimise the potential risks of fires.

- Mitigation Activity Fund 2023-24 – **Received \$352,000.00 for Round 1**
- Work Scheduled/Completed to date include:
  - Mechanical Clearing along Hemsley Road verge
  - Mechanical Clearing along river front adjacent to Meadow View
  - Mechanical Clearing along fence line of reserve adjacent to Fernbrook Way
  - Mechanical clearing along College Avenue
  - Mechanical clearing in reserve either side of Patterson/Vasse Hwy
  - Mechanical Clearing either side of road verge along Vasse Yallingup Siding Road
  - Chemical Spraying Siesta Park
  - Chemical Spraying on road verge in Ambergate Reserve – in progress
  - Chemical Spraying follow up chemical spraying in Vasse Yallingup Siding Rd being considered
- Planned burn Eagle Bay – planning stage
- Planned burns are being considered for this year conditions permitting (Yoongarillup Hall Reserve, Meelup Reserve, Wyadup Road, Creek View Road, Bird Cres)
- Other mitigation treatments
  - Dunsborough Waste Facility – Grass tree and targeted flash fuels where successfully treated in August. It was observed that the area still had a considerable amount of waste / plastics throughout and as a result of the potential risks of burning this material to Volunteers it has been recommended that burning was not the best course of action. It was recommended that further mechanical clearing – removal of dead trees, creation of more breaks would be the preferred mitigation method at this time.

## Appliances

- Introduced DFES A, B and C servicing requirements:
  - Completed DFES B services in May 2023 – August 2023.
  - Appliance Checklists
    - Need to streamline process from receiving Appliance Checklists and completing outstanding orders from the checklists. Working on improving the process
    - Fleet are following up on some outstanding works on vehicles

## Training

- Training gap analysis
  - 2024 training requirements to be reviewed.
    - BFB Trainers to be consulted.
    - Review/develop Qualifications guide for BFBs and/or region.
- Courses Completed:
  - 8 Jul: Train the Trainer – all CoB BFB trainers (accredited and non-accredited)
  - 15 – 16 Jul: Bushfire Safety Awareness

- 19 – 20 Aug      Bush Firefighting Skills
- Upcoming Training:
  - 16 – 17 Jul:      Bushfire Safety Awareness
  - 23 Sep:            Ground Controller (Ambergate)
  - 14 – 15 Oct:      Bush Firefighting Skills (Witchcliffe)
  - 4 Nov:              Ground Controller (Karridale)

**Grants:**

- Local Government Grants Scheme (ESL) received for 2023-24
  - BFBs      \$390,000.00
  - SES        \$38,390.00

**Orders:**

- PPC – Ongoing
  - Supply issues with wait times in other regions, CoB to order surplus to eliminate wait periods
- Shelving units for Brigades