



Teenagers in Emergencies



Plan – Act – Respond



Teenagers In Emergencies

Plan-Act-Respond

Teenagers can provide valuable assistance during emergencies such as fires and floods. This booklet is designed to assist teenagers to cope in an emergency situation.

In recent times our district has been involved in major fire and flood events.

As teenagers helping our families to protect our homes, we have learnt many valuable lessons. We have also interviewed and surveyed other teenagers and students who were involved in these emergency situations and gained an insight into what they need to do to better prepare for future emergencies.

This is a guide that can help you and your family. It is meant to complement existing emergency planning documents published by emergency agencies such as the CFA and SES.

Emergency Contacts

For Emergency Calls

 **000 or 112 for mobile phones**

(Police, Fire, Ambulance) (Operator will ask what service you need. Give clear instructions when connected ie: address/type of emergency/contact details)

State Emergency Service (VIC SES)

Emergency flood/storm assistance

 **132 500**

 **www.ses.vic.gov.au**

VIC SES Flood and Storm Info line

 **1300 VIC SES or 1300 842 737**

Country Fire Authority (CFA)

Victorian Bushfire Information line

 **1800 240 667**

 **www.cfa.vic.gov.au**

Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)

 **1300 659 217**

 **www.bom.gov.au**

BOM Weathercall Voice Service

 **1900 955 363**

Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE)

 **www.dse.vic.gov.au**

Department of Human Services (DHS)

 **www.dhs.vic.gov.au/emergency**

Sentinel hotspot website

 **sentinel1.ga.gov.au**

ABC Radio Stations

 **<http://www.abc.net.au/reception/freq/>**

VicRoads (Reporting traffic hazards)

 **131 170**

 **www.vicroads.vic.gov.au**

Kids Help Line

 **1800 55 1800 (free call for kids 5 to 25)**

Bushfire Emergencies

Preparation is essential with fires.

You can be involved in protecting your house and property.

- Fighting a bushfire will be mentally and physically exhausting. Therefore you need to decide well in advance whether you will stay and defend or leave early.
- Find out the **fire history** for your area, particularly if your house or property is in an area which has been burnt before. This information can be obtained from your local CFA units.
- CFA conducts **fire awareness** and **preparation programs** in local communities and distributes booklets such as: Living in the bush, bushfire survival plan workbook. This is a valuable tool for families.
- CFA is also active in recruiting and training new members. This would give you valuable skills for protecting your property. Members are accepted from sixteen years of age.
- As a family prepare a **fire plan** for your house or property. This can be done in a CFA publication or as your own computer document and updated as needed. Name family members and tasks they are to be given and have a list attached. Begin outside the house, then inside and include care of pets and other animals. For a checklist see <www.cfa.vic.gov.au/residents/home/checklist.htm>. Put together a contact list of your immediate family and willing neighbours.
- In the event of a bushfire you and your family need to **decide very early** whether you will stay and defend your home or whether you will leave (**if you can see flames, it is too late to leave**).



Bushfire Emergencies

- On days of high fire risk you must be alert. Have a plan and be aware that the first warning of the fire may be smoke or the approaching flames.
- Listen to the **ABC Radio** for emergency updates. A battery radio is important in case of power failure.
- CFA and other emergency agencies will update communities via ABC radio and possibly community meetings.
- You can communicate with neighbours and local residents. Text messages via your mobile will allow you to pass on and receive updates.
- Monitoring the fire's progress provides valuable information. This can be done through the CFA, DSE or Sentinel websites (see page 3).
- In a bushfire emergency, you must be self-reliant (you cannot expect a personal warning or a CFA tanker to come to your house or property).
- Preparing your home for bushfires is an ongoing process. It takes time to maintain pumps, remove dry leaves and branches and organise roles.



Preparation

There are many things you need to do in preparing for a fire:

- If you and your family are planning on leaving, then leave early and let neighbours and family know. Leave phone numbers where you can be contacted.
- If you are staying, make sure you have your fire plan ready and that all family members know what their roles are.
- Check your water sources – you will need an adequate supply of water if you plan to defend your house. Remember, you may lose power. Petrol pumps or a generator may be needed.
- It is essential you drink lots of water while preparing for and fighting fire. Radiant heat can cause dehydration.
- Make sure your mobile phones are fully charged. Have a battery operated radio, UHF radio, torches or head torch and spare batteries ready.
- Take photos, important documents, cards and computer hard drive to a safe place.
- Check with family if insurance policies are current.
- Consider safety of your pets and other animals.
- Put together a fire survival kit, include woollen blankets (see flood section, page 14)
- Listen to ABC radio for weather and emergency updates. Check internet sites such as Bureau of Meteorology <www.bom.gov.au>, CFA <www.cfa.vic.gov.au>, DSE or Sentinel websites (see emergency contacts).



Clothing

One of the most important things when dealing with a bushfire is clothing. **Radiant heat** is the big killer, so don't just wear a shirt, shorts and thongs. You should be wearing clothes that cover all of your bare skin and sturdy boots. Preferably woollen (or cotton) clothing as it is a natural fibre and it will counteract the heat.

At the beginning of every fire season organise a designated fire bag or box with appropriate clothing for each member of the family. Make sure everything still fits!

Here are some examples of clothing that you should wear.

- Long sleeved overalls, jeans or long sleeved shirt and pants in cotton or wool
- Protective eyewear (not swimming goggles)
- Beanie, balaclava, wide brimmed hat
- Protective gloves
- Leather boots
- Smoke mask or cotton handkerchief or scarf
- Protective clothing from the CFA, if you have it
- You should wear these clothes when preparing, fighting and cleaning up after the fire front has passed



Looking after younger siblings

As in floods, this can be a valuable contribution while your family prepares for fires.

- Make sure children have appropriate clothing and footwear.
- See that they get plenty of fluids and have snacks ready for them.
- Get them to help you look after pets and other animals.
- Reassure them and keep them occupied.
- Help them to put together a kid's survival kit, with their favourite toys, books, games etc.
- Be aware of where they are at all times.



The best way to look after your animals is by moving them out of the path of danger. If they are remaining with you, remember it is the radiant heat that will kill an animal, not the direct flames.

- Move stock (cows, sheep, horses, goats) to a safe place like a heavily grazed paddock with enough food and water until the fires have passed.
- If you have birds, rabbits or guinea pigs, place them in smaller cages, put a towel or woollen blanket over the cage and put them in a shed or the house, if it is protected. Make sure they have plenty of water and food.
- If you have cats and dogs put them in the house with you. Make sure they have plenty of water available and keep them cool. Keep a lead and some feed inside the house for them.
- If you are taking pets with you in a car make sure they are restrained or in a cage.
- Remember to take registration and vaccination records with you.
- Leave some water supplies outside for native birds and animals.



Act: Around your house

These steps are essential if you are planning to stay and defend your house.

- Clean up all rubbish and leaves from all around your house.
- Remove all leaf matter from the gutters. Stops used for downpipes can be pieces of foam wrapped in plastic bags, so you can fill gutters as needed. Remember to have supervision and correct footwear when using ladders.
- Cut grass around your house, rake around tree bases and remove timber mulch from gardens near the house.
- Remove all wood, gas bottles (store upright), petrol, paint and flammable liquids well away from your house. Shift garden furniture away from the house.
- Keep ladders and hoses close to the house. Have hoses that will reach every part of your house and garden.
- Set up water systems around the house and garage and on top of the roof if possible (sprinklers and hoses). Get the family trained in operating the pump.
- Does the family have a petrol fire fighting pump in case the power goes out and do they know how to start it?
- Fill all water containers, for example rubbish bins and metal buckets, and position around the house.
- Have mops, rakes, hessian bags, towels handy to damp down embers.
- Hose down walls and gardens on sides facing the fire and watch for spot fires from flying sparks or embers.



Your house

If properly prepared your house will offer the best protection during a fire front.

- If time permits cover outside windows with an aluminium builder's insulation.
- Turn off all gas items. Put doormats inside. Close the vents, windows, doors, and block gaps from the inside with wet towels.
- Fill the bath half full with water and always have buckets of water ready for use.
- Have wet towels and blankets around doors and windows to block gaps so embers and smoke are prevented from getting into the house.
- Have a ladder, torch and water sprayer ready to check the roof space for fire or embers (a 'super soaker' is ideal).
- Move furniture away from windows. If you have lightweight curtains remove and replace with woollen blankets.
- Fill drink bottles and containers full of clean water in case your drinking water becomes contaminated or your power fails.
- You will need extra fluids as it is very easy to become dehydrated in a fire event.
- Wearing proper clothing is essential.
- Consult your fire plan and tick off jobs as they are done.



Respond:

- Continue to remain alert and keep checking around the house for embers and spot fires.
- Keep communicating with family members so everyone knows where each other is (walkie talkies are handy).
- Remember there will be lots of smoke and it will be hard to see, so keep your goggles and mask on. Wear a head torch if visibility is poor.
- When the fire front is approaching, shelter with the family inside until the front has passed.
- The noise of the fire and wind will be extremely loud.
- When it is safe, return outdoors, hose down the house and roof, put out any spot fires and check around the house, roof space, garage and out buildings.



Clean up:

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- Continue drinking water throughout the event.
- Check that everyone helping is alright and not injured.
- Check on your pets and livestock. Make sure that they are hydrated and settled.
- Beware of snakes and other creatures around the house, trying to escape the fire.
- Continue to be alert for smouldering vegetation or more spot fires – these can occur long after the fire front has passed.
- Family members should take it in turns to patrol and rest as this will be a long process.
- Following the event if a storm or rain is forecast, disconnect your downpipes from tanks, so ash does not contaminate your rainwater.



Home emergency kit for flood or fire

1. Battery powered radio with spare batteries (not re-chargeable). A car radio or hand held UHF radio can be another emergency backup.
2. Torches, lanterns or head torches with spare batteries.
3. Mobile phone and charger.
4. Important documents in water proof container (passports, bank statements, insurance documents, photos, address book, computer hard drive if possible).
5. Money, credit cards and spare keys. ATMs don't work when the power is down.
6. A first aid kit, including bandaids and antiseptic lotion/ointment. Medications (including repeat prescriptions).
7. Tissues and toiletries, toothbrush and toothpaste.
8. Baby needs if required – nappies, bottle, cans of food, blankets (including fire blanket) and warm clothing.
9. Requirements for older or disabled members of your family – hearing aid and batteries, reading glasses, dentures. Check what else they may need.
10. Spare clothing wrapped in clean garbage bags.
11. Sleeping bag, camping pillow (if relocated, relief centres usually provide these).
12. Strong plastic bags (to use as internal sand bags).
13. Books, toys, cards and games.
14. Strong leather gloves, rubber gloves and strong boots or shoes.
15. Non-perishable food and clean water that will last your family for 72 hours.
16. Tarp and rope for emergency repairs.



In a flood situation preparation is vital. There are many things that you can do to help prepare your house when you know a flood is coming. Even if your house does not flood, you could be isolated or cut off if roads and bridges are cut.

- Find out the **flood history** for your area and particularly if your house has been flooded before. This can be obtained from your local council or catchment management authority. Sometimes they have interactive maps on the internet for your town or rivers.
- As a family, prepare a **Flood Plan** for your house or property. This can be done from an SES Action Guide booklet or on the SES website as a computer document and updated as needed. Give everyone tasks to do during the emergency, have a check list attached. Begin inside the house, then move outside and include care of pets and other animals. Put together a phone contact list of neighbours and relatives who you may want to contact during the flood.
- You and your family need to **act early** and follow any official evacuation advice. If your property is circled by floodwaters it can be dangerous to leave as conditions can change rapidly and roads may close.
- Listen to **ABC Radio** for information and emergency updates (a battery radio is important in case of power failure). SES will try to notify communities of events and you can keep in touch with neighbours and local residents. Text messages via your mobile will free up the family phone and enable you to pass on updates.
- **Monitoring the water level** during a flood is very important. Pay attention to the water levels, as they could rise faster than you expect.



Car survival kit

When leaving the house make sure somebody knows where you are going and your route. Do not travel at night unless absolutely necessary. It is very easy to get lost or stranded.

Remember, the police are in charge of evacuations with the assistance of the SES, so if you are unsure contact these agencies for assistance.

These items could help you and your family be safer on the road:

- Mobile phone, car charger and the car radio tuned to the ABC.
- Your Home Emergency kit (see previous page)
- Food and water – more than you thought you would originally need.
- Waterproof gear, warm spare clothes and if available a suitable lifejacket.
- A whistle, compass and map, if you are unsure of the area.
- Check the car has plenty of petrol before leaving and windscreen wipers are working.
- Drive to suit the weather conditions, slow down and turn headlights on. If visibility is poor, pull over to the side of the road in a safe area, clear of streams, trees and powerlines.
- Stay away from fallen powerlines as electricity passes through water easily.
- If flood indicators are in place, check water levels before proceeding. If your car stalls in rising water, abandon it immediately and seek shelter above the floodwater.
- Be alert and watch for hazards on the road and do not put yourselves or others at risk.



Prepare your house for floods

- Get photos and important documents out of the house to known higher ground.
- Put together a Home Emergency kit in case you need to evacuate quickly.
- Listen to ABC radio for weather and emergency updates.
- Look after younger siblings, while your family prepare. (Collect some favourite toys and books).
- Check internet sites such as Bureau of Meteorology <www.bom.gov.au>. They have flood and river height information in real time.
- Elevate to bench height or above:
 - Curtains and blinds
 - Clear out contents in lower drawers, shelves and cupboards
 - With help from others disconnect and elevate electrical appliances, including computers (see tips on page 18)
- Half fill a heavy duty plastic bag with sand and seal it. Then turn off the water to toilet, flush toilet and place sandbag inside bowl, close lid and place heavy object on top. This technique can also be used for the shower and bath plug outlets.
- Fill jugs and containers with fresh water (water may become contaminated by sewage, chemicals, poisons and dead animals).
- If flood waters begin to come into the house check the family has turned off the electricity (including generators), water and gas supply. Have torches ready.
- Consult your flood plan and tick off jobs as they are done.



Tips for elevating heavy items

- Assist family members to elevate furniture and heavy items. Work as a team.
- If moving large items, it is important to use the right lifting techniques, otherwise you could injure yourself. Remember to bend at the knees and not your back.
- Make sure when lifting or moving large items to use trolleys where possible.
- When lifting a large item, such as a fridge or mattress, never try to lift on your own. Make sure there is at least one person or more helping you.
- Heavy duty plastic crates with open sections are good for elevating furniture.
- Also use beds, trestles, tables, chairs and anything which will be above the flood line to elevate your possessions.




Caring for siblings

- If you are left in charge of younger children while your family are making preparations, NEVER allow them to walk, swim, ride or play in floodwater or near creeks or drains.
- Make sure that they stay well away from flood waters and are ALWAYS supervised.
- They may try to play in the flood water and cannot see the dangers. It is very easy to be swept away, especially if there are deep holes, dangerous undertows, pipes, debris, electrified water and sewage.
- Make sure they have appropriate warm clothing and gumboots or solid footwear. Thongs are not safe footwear in flood waters.
- Allocate them special tasks and make it a game to keep them occupied if possible.
- Reassure them that all is well and keep up the snacks and drinks. Always wash hands with known clean water before eating and make sure the food hasn't been contaminated.
- Always know where the children are.



Prepare your animals and pets for floods

- In a flood situation, you may need to assist your family to move cattle and stock onto known higher ground. Be aware of rising flood waters, move animals early and don't put yourself in danger. People and animals drown in floods.
- NEVER let stock loose onto the road.
- Pets are best moved to a safe area (friends or relatives) before the floods. Otherwise, bring them inside. You may need leads or cages.
- Animals that you know will not move well, such as cats, birds and rabbits, will need to be put into a cage or vented box and covered for transport purposes. Make sure you have a lead and muzzle ready for dogs.
- If you relocate to a relief centre, keep in mind many may not take pets except guide dogs. Those that do need pets to have name and ID identification tags. If dogs and cats have to be relocated to boarding kennels they will require a current vaccination certificate, including kennel cough (keep this with your documents).
- Have supplies of pet food and water ready for your pets and provide livestock with feed and water.
- For more info on managing animals in emergencies visit EMA
 www.ema.gov.au.



Outside the house or garage

(Use safe lifting techniques)

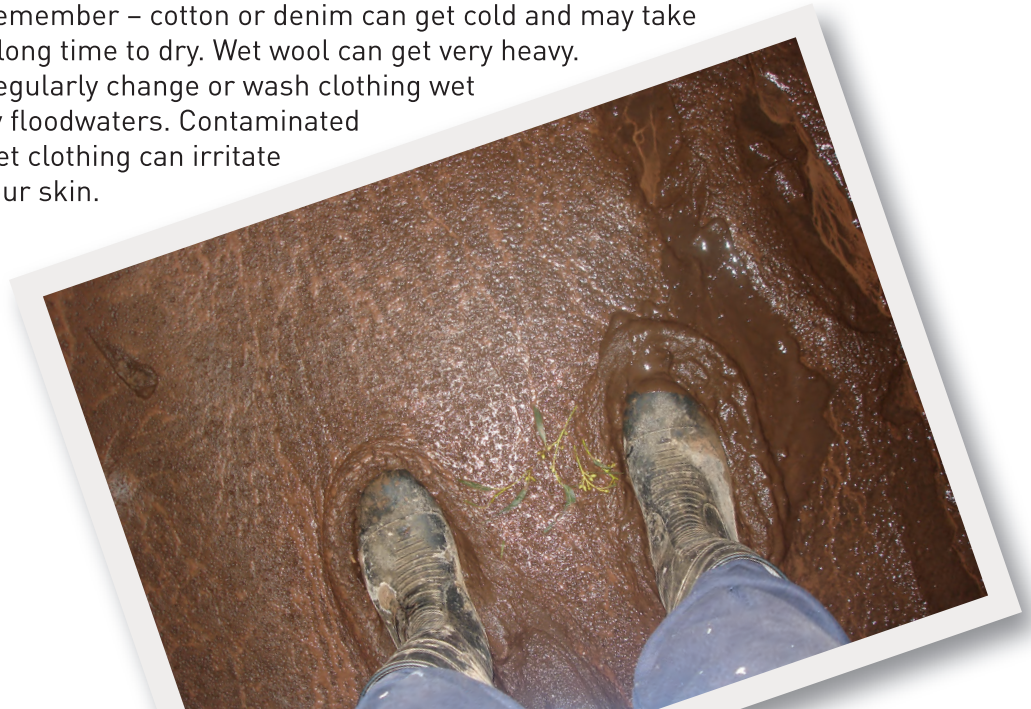
- With supervision, elevate or securely tie down harmful chemicals (make sure lids are on tight) and loose objects.
- Help secure portable gas cylinders and items around verandas, gardens and sheds.
- Check that downpipes and gutters are clear – have a family member present to help secure the ladder, remember this isn't the time to get yourself injured.
- Help fill sandbags (see sandbagging section, page 23) and place around doorways, vents and entrances.
- Use trolleys and equipment to move larger objects.
- Assist in moving small machinery such as lawn mowers, welders and motor bikes to higher ground.
- Assist the family to pack valuable possessions in the car, which can then be driven to higher ground or your designated safe house, by a family member.
- Place measuring sticks into areas that are visible from the house so you can monitor water levels.



Clothing

Protective clothing:

- Wear polar fleece and thermals, as they dry fast and are warm.
- Waterproof shoes (gumboots are best, but only for shallow water).
- Beanies and thick socks.
- Plastic gloves and strong leather gloves over the top, for protection against cuts or contamination when working in flood waters.
- Spare dry clothes.
- Remember – cotton or denim can get cold and may take a long time to dry. Wet wool can get very heavy.
- Regularly change or wash clothing wet by floodwaters. Contaminated wet clothing can irritate your skin.



Sandbagging

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To make a sandbag you need hessian bags (potato sack), sand and a shovel.

A small supply of sand bags can be arranged before the event through your local council.

During a flood, the local council depot or local SES HQ will have a supply of sand bags (these need to be kept dry until filled) and sand. These may also be delivered around the area to strategic sites. SES may also deliver filled sandbags to your property.

Part of your flood plan would be to estimate how many sandbags may be needed for your house. Your local SES and experienced local residents may be able to assist you to estimate this.

A few easy steps to fill a sandbag by two people:

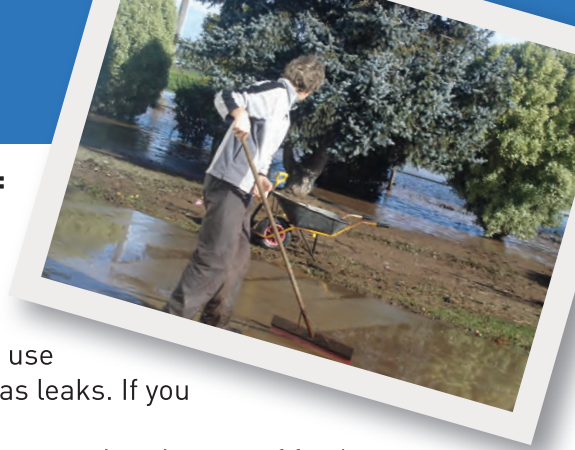
- One person holds the mouth of the sandbag wide open, the other shovels in the sand.
- Keep going like this until the bag is 2/3 full. Then start a new bag. Flatten each bag, pack the next in tightly and lay in a brickwork pattern. See diagram to the right.
- If you live in a brick house, you need to place sandbags over the gaps (vents) in the bricks on the bottom layer of the house which is about every 4th or 5th brick along.
- Sandbag the toilet, bath and shower plugs using the plastic bag technique as described in the preparing your house section on page 17.



Cleaning up

When cleaning up after a flood, you need to:

- Ensure electricity is turned off.
- Watch out for snakes and dangerous creatures – they will also be looking for safe ground.
- Check on damage to your house. NEVER use matches or any naked flame in case of gas leaks. If you need help from the SES call 132 500.
- Keep listening to ABC radio and emergency services in case of further flash flooding or health warnings following the main flood.
- Once warnings have been lifted, remove sandbags from areas they were blocking, e.g. toilet and turn water on. Remember flood waters may be contaminated.
- Make sure livestock and pets are safe, provide water and clean feed.
- Beware – there may be dangerous objects that have washed down with the flood.
- Take care not to injure yourself – cuts can become infected with contaminated water so it is important to wear gloves when cleaning up.
- Do not drink tap water until you are sure it is safe. Dispose of any food or medication that may have been contaminated.



Relief and Recovery

Don't be afraid to ask for help!

- Red Cross can provide 'Single Incident Emergency Assistance', even if only one house or family has been affected. Contact council's Recovery Manager or the Red Cross on 03 9411 5100
- A **relief centre** (sometimes called an evacuation centre) may be set up by council at a safe local hall during a major flood or fire event for people who have left their homes and have nowhere to go. They provide: Red Cross registration, emergency food, meals, sleeping accommodation, information about the event and a friendly face. When set up, the location is advertised over ABC radio or contact your council. You can also register your evacuation at any 24-hour police station. Register even if you don't need accommodation – that way friends and family can find out you are OK.
- A **recovery centre**, is a 'one-stop-shop' that will usually be set up by Council after a major natural event. Information and advice will be available and services offered including: clean-up, health, financial, grants and rebuilding advice, counselling and emotional support.



Australian Red Cross

THE POWER OF HUMANITY

Recovery... getting back to "normal" life

If your house has been flooded, these are some things you need to be aware of:

- Your parents should contact the insurance company as soon as possible (if you are insured).
- An electrician should check appliances exposed to water such as an air conditioner.
- A gas fitter or plumber should check the gas cylinders and all gas appliances.
- Septic tanks may need cleaning out –seek advice from your local council. Insurance agents will arrange an inspection.
- Take care of yourself. Treat any small cuts and wounds in case they become infected. For example, by the Bairnsdale ulcer, which is a flesh eating bacteria.

Keep talking with family and friends about the event and any problems.

They may be feeling overwhelmed as well. Counselling is available if needed.

You can also call the Kids Helpline, ask counsellors or welfare teachers at school.



These are some general tips if you are caught in a flood situation:

- Keep in contact with the neighbours, local residents and emergency services for updates.
- Keep listening to ABC radio.
- Check with your school for their disaster plan and if needed, bus arrangements and timetables during floods.
- If emergency services arrive, make sure you follow their instructions. They are qualified and will know what to do.
- Stay alert and monitor the flood waters the whole time you are in a flood situation.
- Don't put yourself in unnecessary danger. Remember someone else may have to risk their life to rescue you.
- Use your common sense and look out for each other as it can be a frightening experience.



Basic first aid includes

BURNS	Place the burn site under or in cool water (not ice) for at least 15 minutes. For minor burns cover with a sterile dressing.
DEHYDRATION	Signs of dehydration include dizziness, lack of concentration, fatigue and lack of sweating. If you have a dry mouth you are already dehydrated. Re-hydrate by drinking lots of water and splashing water on your face. Don't drink fizzy drinks.
SMOKE IRRITATION	Itchy or runny eyes, coughing and sore throat are signs of smoke irritation. These should pass once the smoke has cleared. To reduce exposure stay indoors and wear protective gear.

Seek medical assistance if concerned

This is the **Teenagers in Emergencies, Plan-Act-Respond** booklet.

We hope this information may help you to cope with fire and flood emergency situations.

For further information consult emergency planning brochures published by the SES, the CFA, the Red Cross and other emergency service agencies.

Remember, in all emergencies it is important to evaluate the situation, make sure you aren't in any danger, contact an emergency agency and assist where possible and safe to do so.

'TEENAGERS IN EMERGENCIES SURVEY' 2008 (130 surveys returned)		
	Numbers	%
Male	63	50
Female	61	48
Involved in fires – 2006–07	106	83
Involved in flood events – 2007	94	74
FIRE QUESTIONS		
Did you have a fire plan for your house or property? (Yes)	77	61
Your role in preparation of your house or property		
General clean-up duties	83	65
Preparation of buildings	43	34
Clearing of gutters	60	47
Preparation of pumps and hoses	49	39
Pets / livestock	70	55
Keeping others notified	34	27
What things did you pack in case you had to leave?		
Photos / documents	40	31
FLOOD QUESTIONS		
Has your property ever been flooded before?	51	40
Did you have a flood plan for your house or property? (Yes)	26	20
Did you have time to prepare?	54	43
What was your role during the flood?		
Attempting to stop water entering the house	23	18

Assisting with sandbagging	15	12
Helping family and neighbours escape flood water	30	24
Helping family elevate furniture and belongings	29	23
Keeping the family pets/livestock safe	60	47
Monitoring water levels	37	29
Communicating with family and friends	52	41
Were you involved in the clean up process?	59	46
Helping to clean up house	31	24
Supplying food to those affected	12	9
Helping repair/replace fences	30	24
Looking after pets/animals	33	26
Helping to comfort people	17	13
COMMUNICATIONS FOR BOTH FIRE and FLOODS		
Family/neighbours	85	67
Local radio	109	86
CFA / SES	47	37
CB radio / scanner	15	12
Community meetings	44	35
Phone / text message	67	53
Internet / emails	33	26
TV	76	60
Did you have contact with your peers during the event? How?	93	73
Email	17	13

Text message	66	52
Phone calls	63	50
Face to face conversation	38	30
At community meetings	17	13
Did you feel well informed as to what was going on?	100	79
Did you have a phone tree/communication plan?	20	16
Do you feel you received enough help?	99	78
Would you be interested in making an emergency plan for home?	72	57
WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING NEW SKILLS		
Basic first aid	71	56
Care of pets in traumatic situations	53	42
Basic pump maintenance	42	33
Communication skills	33	26
Sandbagging techniques	35	28
Correct clothing for emergency situations	33	26
How to put together a survival kit	57	45

This booklet has been produced by four Year Nine students from Maffra Secondary College as their Community Learning Project, for part of their entry to the Alpine School at Dinner Plain for Term 2, 2008.

The students are Jess Bedgood, Amy Foster, Tim Liddell and Sam Montague.

As teenagers they were all involved in protecting their homes, minding siblings and helping others during the fire and flood events of 2006 & 2007 in Gippsland.

A survey of local teenagers affected by these fires and floods was conducted by the students prior to their time at the Alpine School.

We would like to thank all our sponsors, with special appreciation to the Foundation for Young Australians, the Maffra and Macalister Valley Lion's Clubs, Maffra Rotary Club, Johnson Street Clinic, Wilmour Motors, Southern Rural Water, Maffra Community Sports Club and local businesses.

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