



FROM THE COAST

Helping Emergency Services

Our Emergency Services are vital to the Esperance community, and can be seen every day through ambulance call outs, storm clean ups, bushfires, sea rescues and lots of training to make sure a remote community like ours is capable of effectively dealing with emergencies. The bushfires last year were the kind of event that required all hands on deck and the community witnessed first-hand their neighbours, family members and other people they know risk their lives to protect ours.

Our Emergency Services include our local Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades, Surf Life Saving, Volunteer Marine Rescue, WA Police, St John's Ambulance, Bush Fire Service WA, WA Fire and Rescue, DFES and State Emergency Services. Many of these local heroes do their job on a completely voluntary basis.

It was particularly gratifying last week to see big business get behind our volleys when Business, Farm and Strata Insurance company WFI donated First Aid kits specifically tailored to treat burns to our local fire brigades as a practical way of thanking them for their work. Over the weekend we, as a community, had our turn to show appreciation for our Emergency services at an Emergency Services Fun Day held to recognise the importance of all the unsung heroes including the many behind the scenes volunteers that enable those on the front line to do their jobs.

It is so important for us all to take responsibility for minimising the risk of bushfires in our community. You can do this by being familiar with burning periods. There are currently no burning restrictions in place for the Shire of Esperance as the Unrestricted Burning Period has been extended til the 3 October. This means that fires can be lit at any time and no permit is required, but please remember to advise your neighbours when you are going to burn off and ensure appropriate measures have been put in place to prevent the spread of fire. This will be reassessed on the 3 October. Once we are in Restricted Burning Time a permit will be required to burn. You can find out how to obtain a permit in the Live section of the Shire's website. Unless otherwise notified from 1 November no fires at all are allowed to be lit in the open air until 31 January. Burning restriction periods can be altered at any time to suit conditions so please become familiar with the Shire website and particularly the Emergency Services section. Here you will find incident information, road and recreation site closures, as well as important information about fire breaks, harvest bans and our Local Emergency Management Committee.

By taking responsibility we can all help our Emergency Services and make sure we have a safe fire season. I can't think of a better way to thank them for all that they do for us.