

Shire of Lake Grace

Bushfire Advisory Committee

Minutes

26 March 2024

Meeting Commencing at 4.00pm

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Minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held at the Newdegate Country Club, Waddell Street, Newdegate on 26 March 2024 at 4.00pm.

1 OPENING & ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Chairman Ross Chappell declared the meeting opened at 4:17 pm.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I begin today by acknowledging the Ballardong people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.

3 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Members	Delegate	Y/N	Deputy	Y/N
Councillor	Cr Ben Hyde	Y	Cr Anton Kuchling	Y
CESM	Mr Matt Castaldini	Y	Nil	
CBFCO	Mr David Roberts	Y	Nil	
DCBFCO	Mr Brad Watson	N	Nil	
Senior FCO – West	Mr Kevin Naisbitt	Y	Nil	
Senior FCO – Central	Mr Peter Walker	Y		
Senior FCO – East	Mr Hugh Roberts	Y		
Lake Grace North BFB - FCO x 1	Mr Evan Wyatt	Y	Mr Ross Chappell	Y
Lake Grace South BFB - FCO x 1	Mr Scott Strevett	N	Mr Kevin Naisbitt	Y
Newdegate North BFB - FCO x 1	Mr Bill Lloyd	N	Mr Ian Lloyd	Y
Newdegate South BFB - FCO x 1	Mr Geoff Richardson	Y	Mr Wes Hall	Y
Newdegate Town BFB - FCO x 1	Mr Cal Tonkin	N		
Varley BFB - FCO x 1	Mr Ben Hyde	Y	Mr Craig Newman	Y
Lake King - FCO x 1	Mr Jason Sugg	Y		
Mt Madden / Dunn Rock BFB - FCO x 1	Mr Anthony Teale	N	Mr Lindsay Brownley	N

Other Attendees:

Dean Rintoul
Amanda Giles
Dwight Ness
Craig Shalders

Apologies:

Anthony Teale
 Lindsay Brownley
 Rhys De Landgraft
 Tyson De Landgraft
 Scott Ball
 Scott Strevett
 Brad Watson
 Aaron Guelfi

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

BFAC Resolution:

That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on 17 October 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: David Roberts
 Seconded: Hugh Roberts

CARRIED

4.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

An update will be provided by relevant responsible person for each item.

Meeting Date	Brigade / Report Title	Details of Required Action	Resp. Officer	Current Status	Action Completed
17/10/2019	Service Medals	Medals to ordered for 3 members. Ceremony to be organised.	Doug Dunham, Brad Watson and Cr Chappell to coordinate the event with the CEO.	Medals arrived, at the Shire. FCOs to decide who gets medals. 26/3 – CBFCO FCOs to finalise after this meeting.	Ongoing
02/07/2020	Radio communication issues	Ongoing liaison regarding tower location.	DFES GS/ Operational Communications	Project no longer going ahead. DFES investigating alternative technologies	Ongoing

2022	Shire BFB Life Membership	Proposal to establish a Shire BFB Life Membership for recognition of outstanding service.	CBFCO/CESM	Initial discussion. Criteria: CBFCO/DCB FCO/FCO/Captains extended or exceptional service. Timber board to be established at the Shire office. A shire magnet Name Badge or small trophy suggested.	Ongoing
29/03/2023	Change Prohibited Burning Time	BFAC endorse extending the PBT from 31 Jan to 28 Feb.	CESM / DFES Legal	Completed	Remove
17/10/2023	BFBs to have Meetings	CBFCO Roberts requested that all BFBs need to have meetings to engage the community with local FCOs. Brigades to each get a WhatsApp group to help facilitate coordination.	Captains	WhatsApp groups setup and are used.	Ongoing
17/10/2023	Map of Weather Stations	Matt noted it would be beneficial to have a map showing the location of private and DPIRD weather stations.	CESM		Complete - Remove
17/10/2024	BEATs – Automatic mobilisation	CESM created polygons to represent response areas as discussed. Associated paperwork completed to get it entered into CAD (computer aided dispatch) which is used following a 000 call.	CESM		Complete - Remove

5 DISCUSSION – Fire Weather Officer(s)

CESM: Discussed Fire Weather Officers;

When the AFDRS came in, we all looked at the FBI 40 threshold thoroughly, but didn't look at the Permit threshold the same. The Bushfire Act allows a Gazetted Fire Weather Officer to validate a permit when the FDR is forecast to be High.

As a guess from discussions over the last few years there have been several days where it would have been ideal to burn between 8pm – 6am but the forecast was HIGH OR it was only just HIGH but we would have traditionally burnt in those conditions previously.

If as a group we can come up with a consensus permits could be issued and validated by a FWO in conditions that are appropriate for burning.

REMINDER:

- The FCO/FWO is responsible for applying appropriate conditions to the permit to ensure the application of fire is done safely.
- It is the responsibility of the PERMIT HOLDER to comply with the conditions, including checking the weather and FBI number before starting.

Consensus: We will discuss an appropriate threshold out of session and we will appoint a FWO and DFWO per Zone in the Shire.

The Designated FWO(& FCO) will be the primary permit issuer for the Zone.

6 REPORTS

6.1 CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER

Very Quiet summer with only 1 big fire.

Well done to the FCOs who went to Dragon Rocks, I only heard good feedback
Thanks – New FCOs
Thanks Ross going to ROAC.

Thanks Matt, we appreciate your efforts.

Rocket to email.

6.2 DEPUTY CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER(S)

Nil

6.3 BRIGADE CAPTAINS

Lake Grace North BFB (Farm Response)

Nil

Ross Chappell:

Lake Grace had Loan Fire Truck over harvest. We had a run down one morning which was good. We negotiated to store it in the old Ag department sheds east of town so it was centrally located.

We had a meeting combined with LG South with bacon & eggs, issued PPC and discussed several things with a great turnout.

Lake Grace South BFB (Farm Response)

Uneventful Harvest period which was good. We joined the combined meeting prior to harvest which was good.

Lake Grace Town BFB

We took the loan fire truck out for a few runs to represent the brigade.

Newdegate North BFB (Farm Response)

Peter Walker:

It was disappointing that people were still harvesting when the Doug Giles fire happened. Even people a couple of paddocks away. We need to continue discussions about pulling up and helping, as well as applying an HVMB sooner.

Dragon Rocks Nature Reserve Bushfire, great result and effort put in by all crews. We had some challenges with crewing the fire truck and the requirement for training. We will need to work through those challenges ahead of the next season.

Thanks to Matt, Evan and the attending FCOs for your efforts at Dragon Rocks, we had a great result.

ACTION: FCOs to provide a situation report (SITREP) so the CBFCO/CESM/Shire can send out a HVMB message for the relevant zone.

Newdegate South BFB (Farm Response)

Wes Hall:

Also agree with the comments about people continuing harvesting with the Doug Giles fire.

We need to better coordinate Mop Up as it wasn't very well organised, with only a few people left to do all the work.

The Newdegate area needs more PPC, especially hearing that Lake King, Mount Madden, Lake Grace have all received some.

CESM: We have some allocated in the current period for Newdegate, I will work with FCOs after to prioritise names.

Other than the Doug Giles fire, there were only a couple of small fires, out within 20mins.

Newdegate Town BFB

Nil

Varley BFB

Ben Hyde:

Varley has established its WhatsApp group and it is working well.

Kulin had a loan truck at Holt Rock from DFES, which was utilised well.

Lake King Town BFB

Jason Sugg:

We have been fairly quiet, and working on getting more members in town to support the town response. We have provided support for a few vehicle accidents in Lake King lately.

Mount Madden/ Dunn Rock BFB (Farm Response)

Anthony Teale: (Sent with CBFCO)

We had a quiet season, only 1 larger incident. Big thanks to the volunteers who attended incidents and meetings.

6.4 DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Attached

6.5 DBCA PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE



Department of **Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions**



Mitchell Davies Regional Operations Manager Wheatbelt Region

Bushfire Mitigation

Parks and Wildlife Service, Wheatbelt Region completed four of its planned burns and partially completed another 4. The majority of the burns completed were in the Northern Wheatbelt or the Southern Rangelands east of Hyden. We did commence a burn in Dryandra and North Tarin Rock.

We completed the mitigation works (Scrub Rolling) planned in Lake Magenta, Silver Wattle and the UCL south of the Newdegate – Ravensthorpe Road in the Shires of Kent and Lake Grace.

Reporting Fires to Parks and Wildlife Service

All fires effecting or threatening Parks and Wildlife Service managed land in the Wheatbelt needs to be reported to the Duty Officer on **9881 9200**. This number is available 7 days a week.

The Wheatbelt Region continues to provide bushfire resources that are available on a roster system throughout the bush fire season including weekends and public holidays.

6.6 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER

As mentioned by Rocket, I have secured the role of Area Officer Midwest in Geraldton and will be finishing up here on 19 April.

It has been a pleasure working with you all and helping to build your capabilities around fire management. We have had our challenges but we have also gotten a lot done. I am confident that there are a number of things that we have simplified or made more efficient to ease the burden on the CBFCO for coordination.

I will miss you all and seeing you continue to learn and grow in your journey as FCOs. I wish you all the best and thank you for having me.

6.7 REGIONAL OPERATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Matt & Ross attended the ROAC on 07 March 2024 in Narrogin.

There were some really good presentations and discussions at the ROAC meeting including; LGGS (Local Government Grant Scheme), LGIS (Local Government Insurance Scheme) and Safety.

The LGGS team shared that DFES receives roughly \$440m from ESL and ~\$34m of that is allocated to BFB and SES. Of that the significant amount goes on annual operating expenses and the balance is divided amongst capital expenditure requests for buildings and new trucks. Good discussion was held about volunteer PPC/E availability and the challenge to get sufficient funds to meet our WHS requirements. Mr Garry Kravainis requested that all Shires submit their gap of PPC when submitting their LGGS responses so they could gather data on that. The committee requested that DFES seek funding from the State to bridge the PPC/E gap for all volunteers.

It was discussed that due to LGIS being a mutual fund and that there have been a few significant and tragic incidents lately, insurance premiums were set to rise from ~\$105pp to ~\$135-145pp for the upcoming financial year. This presents a significant impact to low budgets through LGGS.

The CBFCO of Cuballing reported they had a significant burn trauma occur to one of their volunteers before Christmas. On reflection he wanted to stress to everyone that we only have one chance at safety. In the blink of an eye a normal situation can go to a traumatic or potentially tragic one. We need to do better with compliance on PPC/E and training to protect our people.

7 NOMINATIONS FOR ROLES

We now declare all roles vacant and proceed to nominations for roles.

7.1 NOMINATION FOR AND ELECTION OF PRESIDING MEMBER

As per the Terms of reference, BFAC members are to appoint a presiding member. The presiding member can be any of the members of the committee.

All nominations will be voted En Bloc.

Presiding Member	
Nominee:	Ross Chappell

7.2 NOMINATIONS FOR FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS

NOMINATIONS FOR FCO

Legal Implications

S.38. Local government may appoint bush fire control officer

- (1) A local government may from time to time appoint such persons as it thinks necessary to be its bush fire control officers under and for the purposes of this Act, and of those officers shall subject to section 38A(2) appoint 2 as the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer who shall be first and second in seniority of those officers, and subject thereto may determine the respective seniority of the other bush fire control officers appointed by it.
- (2A) The local government shall cause notice of an appointment made under the provisions of subsection (1) to be published at least once in a newspaper circulating in its district.

The presiding member to call for nominees to the role of Bush Fire Control Officer.

Fire Control Officers		
District:	Name:	Call Sign:
Lake Grace North	Evan Wyatt	Lake Grace North 11
	Brad Watson	Lake Grace Deputy 1 <i>(Lake Grace North 12)</i>
	Ross Chappell	Lake Grace North 16
Lake Grace South	Kevin Naisbitt	Lake Grace South 22
	Scott Strevett	Lake Grace South 24
Lake Grace Town	Chad Stanton	N/A
Newdegate North	Bill Lloyd	Newdegate North 30
	Ian Lloyd	Newdegate North 32
	Aaron Guelfi	Newdegate North 35
	Dean Rintoul	Newdegate North 36
	Craig Shalders	Newdegate North 38
Newdegate South	Peter Walker	Newdegate North 39
	Dwight Ness	Newdegate South 40
	Geoff Richardson	Newdegate South 42

	Wes Hall	Newdegate South 44
Newdegate Town	Callan Tonkin	Newdegate Town 1
Varley	Scott Ball	Varley 51
	Ben Hyde	Varley 52
	Craig Newman	Varley 53
Lake King	Jason Sugg	Lake King 54
	Hugh Roberts	Lake King 57
Varley Town	John Zurnamer	N/A
Mt Madden	David Roberts	Lake Grace Chief (<i>Mt Madden 60</i>)
	Lindsay Brownley	Mt Madden 62
	Anthony Teale	Mt Madden 63
Dunn Rock	Rhys De Landgraft	Dunn Rock 70
	Tyson De Landgraft	Dunn Rock 71
	Amanda Giles	Dunn Rock 72
Shire of Lake Grace		

NOMINATIONS FOR CBFCO & DCBFCO

Legal Implications

S.38. Local government may appoint bush fire control officer

- (1) A local government... shall subject to section 38A(2) appoint 2 as the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer who shall be first and second in seniority of those officers, and subject thereto may determine the respective seniority of the other bush fire control officers appointed by it.
- (2A) The local government shall cause notice of an appointment made under the provisions of subsection (1) to be published at least once in a newspaper circulating in its district.

The presiding member to call for nominees to the role of Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO) and Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (DCBFCO).

Note: The CESM role is appointed as a DCBFCO, annual voting is not required.

Chief & Deputy Bush Fire Control Officers		
Role	Nominee	Callsign
CBFCO	David Roberts	Lake Grace Chief / LG Chief
DCBFCO	Brad Watson	Lake Grace Deputy / LG Deputy

NOMINATIONS FOR SENIOR FCO

The presiding member to call for nominees to the role of Senior Bush Fire Control Officer.

Senior Bush Fire Control Officers	
Senior Fire Control Officer - West	Kevin Naisbitt
Senior Fire Control Officer - Central	Peter Walker
Senior Fire Control Officer - East	Hugh Roberts

NOMINATION OF FIRE WEATHER OFFICERS

Legal Implications

A Fire Weather Officer may authorise a person who holds a permit to burn, to carry out that burn if the fire danger forecast is “catastrophic”, “extreme”, or “high”.

38. Local government may appoint bush fire control officer

(8) An approved local government may appoint to the office of fire weather officer such number of senior bush fire control officers as it thinks necessary.

(17) A fire weather officer of an approved local government ..., may authorise a person who has received a permit under section 18(6)(a), to burn the bush ... notwithstanding that for any day, or any period of a day, specified in the notice the fire danger forecast issued by the Bureau of Meteorology in Perth, in respect to the locality where the bush proposed to be burnt is situated, is “catastrophic”, “extreme”, or “high”, and upon the authority being given the person, if he has otherwise complied with the conditions prescribed for the purposes of section 18, may burn the bush.

Fire Weather Officers & Deputies	
Fire Weather Officers:	Deputy Fire Weather Officers:
Z1: Brad Watson	Z1: Evan Wyatt
Z2: Scott Strevett	Z2: Kevin Naisbitt
Z3: Ian Lloyd	Z3: Craig Shalders
Z4: Geoff Richardson	Z4: Dwight Ness
Z5: Hugh Roberts	Z5: Jason Sugg
Z6: Lindsay Brownley	Z6: Anthony Teale
Z7: Rhys De Landgraft	Z7: Amanda Giles

Acceptance and Resolution

BFAC Resolution:

That the Bush Fire Advisory Committee nominates to the CEO for the 2023/2024 bush fire season the persons listed as successful nominees in the Minutes of this meeting to be appointed to the positions of:

- Presiding Member
- Fire Control Officers
- Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
- Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
- Fire Weather Officers

Moved: Evan Wyatt

Seconded: Jason Sugg

CARRIED

7.3 NOMINATION OF AUTHORISED OFFICERS

Officers Authorised to issue Clover and Proclaimed Plant Burning Permits

Authorise the following persons, under s.24 of the Act, to issue clover and proclaimed plant burning permits in conjunction with the closest available Fire Control Officer to the person making the application:

Officers Authorised to issue Cover and Proclaimed Plant Burning Permits
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Chief Executive Officer
Community Emergency Services Manager

NOTE: This has been changed to a perpetual nomination of the above roles, rather than an annual nomination. Appointments can be changed at any time as required.

Bush Fire Control Officers Authorised to issue Harvest & Vehicle Movement Bans

Authorise the following bush fire control officers, under r.38A of the Bush Fire Regulations 1954, to prohibit the or operation of any engines, vehicles, plant or machinery during the prohibited burning times or restricted burning times, or both, where the operation of such machinery is, in the opinion of the officer, likely to cause a bush fire, or would be conducive to the spread of a bush fire:

FCOs Authorised to issue Harvest & Vehicle Movement Bans
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer(s)
Chief Executive Officer
Community Emergency Services Manager

NOTE: This has been changed to a perpetual nomination of the above roles, rather than an annual nomination. Appointments can be changed at any time as required.

Authorised Officers - Acceptance and Resolution

BFAC Resolution:	
That the Bush Fire Advisory Committee nominates to the CEO that the roles listed in the Minutes of this meeting to be appointed to the positions of:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clover and Proclaimed Plant Burning Permits Authorised Officers; and • Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban authorised officers. 	
Moved:	David Roberts
Seconded:	Kevin Naisbitt
CARRIED	

CBH Liaison Officers

The following bush fire control officers are authorised to liaise with CBH regarding ceasing of operations when a Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban has been declared for the relevant district:

Harvest Ban – CBH Advisory Officers	
Mt Madden	
Lake King	
Varley	
Newdegate	
Lake Grace	
Dunn Rock	
Shire of Lake Grace	

Discussion: NOT REQUIRED, remove from future agendas.

8 GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Water Requirement – Harvest/Agricultural Activities

CBFCO – There are an increasing number of farmers with more than 1 header in the paddock, but only have a 600L fire unit. We need to change the requirements to better address the risk.

r38B. Equipment powered by internal combustion engine, power to prohibit operation of

- (1) Where, in the opinion of the bush fire control officer, the operation of any power saw, bag loader or other plant or equipment activated by internal combustion engine on any land in the district may constitute a fire hazard, he may, by wireless broadcast from a radio station giving broadcast coverage to the district, by publication in a newspaper circulating in the district or by written notice or oral direction given to any person or persons, subject to such direction as may be given by the local government, prohibit the operation of any such power saw, bag loader or other plant or equipment, until further notice, unless the operator has first —
- (a) provided, at the site of operation, such firefighting equipment, supply of water and other means of extinguishing fire as the bush fire control officer may, by the same means, direct; or
- (b) fitted to the engine by which the power saw, bag loader or other plant or equipment is activated a spark arrester of a suitable design, maintained in a clean, sound and efficient condition.

BFAC RESOLUTION:

Proposed wording for water requirement:

Pursuant to Bush Fires Regulations 1954 S.38B (1) (a) undertaking the below-listed agricultural activities shall have the following conditions;

- Provide an operational mobile firefighting unit with no less than 600 litres of water **per harvesting unit** (recommended 1200 litres),
- Minimum 6 metres of hose (recommended 30 metres) with a controlled nozzle,
- All portable fire unit shall be able to draw water (suction)
- Be located in the paddock where operations are occurring
- Self-propelled fire units are preferred with trailer units being accepted only if connected to a tow vehicle at all times.
- Mobile firefighting unit GVM and/or GTM shall not be exceeded pursuant to WHS legislation to maintain a safe work environment.

Specified activities;

- Grain harvesting
- Hay bailing
- Reefinancing
- Stubble crunching
- Rock raking
- Other activities as broadcast by the CBFCO, CESM or CEO.

Moved: David Roberts

Seconded: Jason Sugg

CARRIED

All voted in favour of including this new wording.

8.2 Membership Check/ Updates

- Brigade lists will be available to be reviewed after the meeting.
- If anyone has moved on and needs to be removed, please let the CESM know. It costs ~\$135-145 per active member for insurance which adds up.

8.3 Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) Grant

An offer of \$66,490.00 was received and a counteroffer of \$184,000.00 is being provided, noting the system does not have the allowance to provide this.

Our insurance is forecast to be \$58,310.00, leaving \$8,180.00 to cover everything else which is unrealistic.

We are also applying for 2 appliances, One each for Lake Grace North and Lake Grace South, and a secondary request in lieu of the two appliances, for a single appliance for the Lake Grace Town brigade.

8.4 Brigade Meetings

CBFCO – Reminded the Captains that all brigades need to have a meeting pre-harvest this year. (Late Sept/Early Oct)

8.5 General Business from the Floor

DFES/ DBCA Listed Contractors

Hugh Roberts: Requested a list of contractors for this area be provided.

Riding on Utes and Trailers

Jason Sugg: There is no need for people to be riding on trailers and utes anymore. All FCOs agreed to no riding on utes and trailers. CBFCO directed FCOs to strongly encourage all brigades that they don't want to see this happening in their interactions with brigade/ community members. Also, FCOs to raise this in pre-harvest Brigade meetings.

Riding on fire trucks with enclosed crew deck areas is ok when suppressing fires due to the enclosed nature and the ability for crews to duck and shelter from radiant heat.

Note: Concern was raised about insurance coverage if someone was injured and this direction was embedded into policy. At this stage, it will remain a unanimous consensus of the BFAC and a verbal direction to all responders in the Shire of Lake Grace.

Formal Vote of thanks for Matt.

Ross Chappell:

On behalf of the BFAC I would like to thank you for your hard work in coordinating training, building our compliance and improving our fire management culture. You have made a mighty effort. We have had CESMs for many years but Matt has brought significant change and improvement to where we are today. Thank you.

Moved: Ross Chappell
Seconded: David Roberts

CARRIED

9 MEETING CLOSED

Presiding member Ross Chappell congratulated the appointees and closed the meeting at 6:12pm.

10 CERTIFICATION

I, _____ certify that the Minutes of the Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting held on 26 March 2024 as shown were confirmed as a true record.

Presiding Member Signature

Date



Lake Grace LEMC Report

14 March 2024

BUSHFIRE SEASON SUMMARY – to date

- The WA Large Air Tanker was scheduled to begin operations on 1 December but was brought forward to 4 November.
- The two Black Hawk helicopters based in Serpentine and two Helitaks based in Gingin were activated almost three weeks ahead of schedule while Helitaks in Busselton were activated a month early. The State Government funded aerial fleet consists of more than 30 rotary and fixed-wing suppression and aerial intelligence aircraft and is jointly managed by DFES and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.
- There have been 3757 bushfires across the State since October, an increase of 33 per cent for the same period last season (2816 bushfires between 1 October 2022 – 24 Feb 2023).
- In Our Region we had some early significant fires at Corrigin, Shire of Pingelly and Cuballing including a run of deliberately lit fires commencing early in October 2023.
- Grain Harvest Strategy with forward basing of fixed wing bombers into Narrogin was once again successful – DBCA will discuss the results.
- Header Fires record through Incident Reporting System this season in Upper great Southern stand at 15 with a further 11 from other machinery. A correlation to a brand or cause is not evident in our data
- The regional staff and volunteers supported many deployments during this season. These were for fire, cyclone and flood events. Especially towards the Metropolitan area, Great Southern, Kimberly's and Midlands/ Goldfields.
- Closer to Lake Grace was the Dragon Rocks Fire, Grillis Rd Fire, Esperance fires and Green Range fires in Albany. Local crews, those many who support including the CESM Matt are to be congratulated on for their comprehensive work and partnership with agencies to keep the community safe.

Key Learnings/ Considerations

Three areas of learning for us as an LEMC to consider post this season

- **Safety** – There was a tragic incident resulting in loss of life in Esperance and in our own region several injuries. The importance of good training, PPE and safe practise to keep all responders safe is continued to be significant.



Lake Grace LEMC Report

14 March 2024

- **Weather Event – Power disruption** – there was a significant event earlier this year that caused us to consider emergency communications and their importance when power and comms are lost for long period of time and how that plays on service delivery.
- **Fire Risk season continues:** It is probable that April 2024 is hotter than normal, and likely that it is drier than normal based on seasonal outlook even though we have had some patches of rainfall in the UGSR.

Other Bushfire Statistics of interest

- DFES' aerial fleet has flown more than 1640 hours across 152 incidents, dropping 12,262,946 litres of water and retardant on firegrounds.
- Large Air Tankers have flown 74 hours and dropped 856,372 litres of water and retardant on firegrounds this season

Upcoming Events

Storm Season: Storms can happen anywhere, any time. Make sure you know the risks and understand the importance of preparing for storms. <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/hazard-information/storm>

Newdegate Field Day Sept 2024: Partnering with the Shire of Lake Grace Display from a community preparedness perspective but aware of the influx of roadway movements.

Many thanks,

Gavin Stevens

Area Officer Narrogin East

0475 224 640

AOEastUpperGreatSouthern@dfes.wa.gov.au