



SASSAFRAS-FERNY CREEK FIRE BRIGADE

PO Box 5, Sassafras, Victoria 3787 Telephone 9755 1078 Fax 9755 3016 Email: sfcsec@pacific.net.au

In case of fire telephone 000

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Local bushfire safety booklet wins award

A bushfire safety booklet produced by a local CFA brigade has been recognised in the 2007 Emergency Management Australia Safer Communities Awards.

Living Safely with Bushfire, published by the Sassafras-Ferny Creek fire brigade, won the pre-disaster category for Victorian volunteer organisations. It will now be considered for a national level award later in the year.

The award was presented by the Victorian Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mr Bob Cameron, at a ceremony in Melbourne recently.

Brigade Captain John Schauble said the original idea for an area-specific publication came from long-term local resident after the devastating 1997 fires in the Dandenongs.

The idea behind it was to tap into specific local knowledge held by firefighters that could be passed onto residents to help them prepare and defend their properties against the bushfire threat.



Mr Schauble said the brigade booklet was designed to supplement rather than replace the excellent bushfire safety materials freely available from CFA.

“There’s now a wealth of information and assistance available to residents who want to be proactive in defending their properties and ensuring the safety of their families,” he said. “Our booklet aims to provide a very local context for the things you need to consider.”

Mr Schauble said now is the perfect time for residents to start thinking about preparations for next fire season.

“Residents really need to consider fire preparedness and prevention works on their property as part of an annual cycle, not just think about it when it starts to get warm and windy,” Mr Schauble said. “Our booklet is just part of that process.”

Publication of the 16-page booklet was made possible through a grant from the NRMA Insurance Communityhelp program. The new publication replaces an earlier booklet published in 2000.

A copy of the booklet was delivered to every household in Sassafras and Ferny Creek in June.

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Photo: Sassafras-Ferny Creek firefighters Simon Neill (left) and Karen Noonan check out the award-winning bushfire safety booklet.