

# Bonnet Hill Community Association Inc (BHCA)

In conjunction with Tas Fire Service (TFS)

## 2015/16 Bushfire Action Plan for Bonnet Hill

### 1. What should residents do now?

- Become familiar with the **TFS website** ... [www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au)
- On a high fire danger day, **locate a battery driven radio and stayed tuned to ABC – the national emergency broadcaster for all up to date information.** This is essential as the power supply may fail making internet access unavailable.
- Members of each household should now **make an informed decision** as to whether 'to leave early' or 'to stay and defend' your property. *Assess the severity of a fire your property is prepared for and that you are comfortable with.*
- **Write down your bushfire plan** as to whether you plan to leave early or stay and defend your property (P17 – 20 of booklet on TFS website). Plan your exit routes and locate your Nearby Safer Place.
- *Please note that the Channel Highway is the only exit route for most homes on the Bonnet. It is important to note the direction of attack of the fire, and exit via the Channel Highway away from the oncoming fire. **See map below that has been prepared specifically for Bonnet Hill residents.***
- In your plan, specify what you will do for **the safety of your pet(s).**
- **Communicate your plan** to your neighbours.
- **Leave your contact details** (including work numbers or places where you generally go during the day) with a neighbour (or placed on your street register) so you can be notified if there is a need to return home. TFS may also notify residents via SMS.
- Read the small print on your house insurance policy and ensure that your **house is properly insured.** It is too late to ring the insurance company when a fire threat is coming as most companies require 72 hours notice for the policy to take effect.

- Prepare what to take or what you will need if you stay using **the Checklist** (P16 of booklet).
- Take steps to physically **reduce the risk of fire** burning your house and property (P10 of booklet)

## 2. What to do if you decide to leave early. (P13 of booklet)

- **Plan your exit route** from Bonnet Hill. Refer to the **BHCA map** and decide your safest route depending on the direction of the oncoming fire threat, the winds and which roads are still open when you decide to leave.
- The **nearby safer places** as designated by TFS for Bonnet Hill residents are the Kingston Beach Golf Course and the area on Kingston main beach (not the dog beach) beyond the Browns River footbridge.

## 3. What to do if you decide to stay & defend your property. (P18 – 21 ).

- **Assess the severity of the oncoming fire.** (This may be found on the TFS website or through radio broadcasts (ABC 936FM) or the morning newspaper. *See Understanding Fire Danger Ratings at the end of this document.*
- It is the responsibility of each resident to make their own informed decision about this ... your decision should be made based on how well your property has been prepared and how well your physical and emotionally abilities will be able to withstand a potentially life threatening event.
- **If the severity of the oncoming fire is 'Severe' or greater (Fire Density Index greater than 50),** leaving early is the safest option, and only households with defence approved by the TFS should consider staying.
- Plan to have a designated 'safe house' in your street where those who choose to stay can retreat safely while the fire passes.

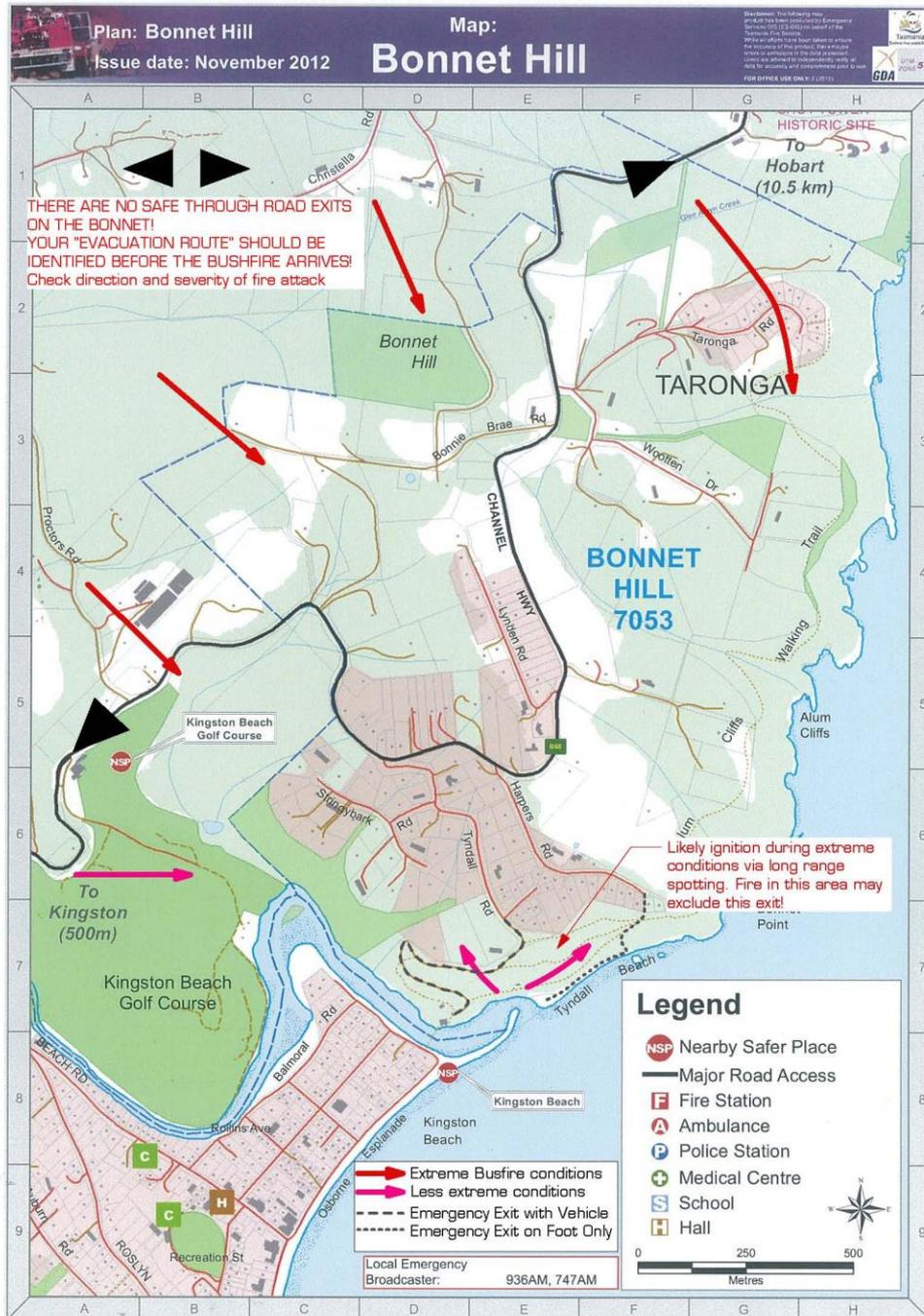
## 4. What to expect if a fire is coming: (See more P6 and 7 of booklet)

- While there is a power supply: Charge your phone (or in your car as you are leaving early).
- When the power supply is cut: Car radios, transistor radios and your mobile phone will be the only means of communicating and listening to fire warnings (ABC 936 radio). TFS website maybe accessible via your mobile phone.

## 5. What to do after the fire passes:

- Ideally residents should return to their properties to put out burning embers. With burning trees and the threat of the fire changing direction in the high winds, normal access roads on Bonnet Hill maybe closed. In this case residents should continue to listen to ABC Radio and access the TFS website.

**This map shows routes for safe evacuation from Bonnet Hill in the event of a bush fire:**



*If you would like further information, please email:*

**President BHCA .... Mark Florusse**  
**Secretary BHCA .... Rae Wells wells.rae@gmail.com**