

Bushfire Victim to Survivor NEWSLETTER

October 2007

The Newsletter** that promotes the need to create bushfire safe properties and neighbourhoods

Our aim is to make Australia safe from severe or large bushfires. Please join us

Open letter to Councillors and Residents in bushfire areas

Join us in our aim to make Australia safe from severe or large bushfires.

Don't wait for the Fire Agencies to save you in severe or large bushfires. They need you to save yourself. So, take the initiative. Learn to self-protect. The Fire Agency is a bit like a mother with lots of kids. She can't dote upon each one all the time. If one takes the initiative and learns new skills, she is pleased and relieved.

Municipalities, townships, neighbourhoods and private properties need to learn how to use new knowledge and skills to self-protect against severe or large bushfires. **We can't outfight these fires, but we can outsmart them.** The knowledge is available. It is scientific and effective. Why not make use of it and apply it now?

Fire Agencies need our help. We all know that Fire Agencies do a great job against smaller bushfires. But at this stage in history, they cannot guarantee individual bushfire-safe areas. They are big picture protectors. Some tell us to decide to stay or go. When we learn to create our own bushfire safe areas, we can stay and defend with confidence.

The self defence system has been freely available on our web site for a few years. You can readily learn how to establish and maintain and monitor bushfire-safe areas. Books are available for those wanting a more scientific background. See www.redeagle.com.au. Let's make use of this knowledge. Once learned, never forgotten.

The core ingredients for a bushfire-safe neighbourhood are simple - people with vision and determination armed with the right knowledge and skill. Even the laws of the land are adequate to enable neighbourhood self-protection.

If your constituents want to live in a bushfire safe environment, here is an option

Your first decision is simply to designate a bushfire safe area. Then, you are ready to learn and act. Until you make this decision, the area will have no reliable protection against severe or large bushfires.

When you decide to designate a bushfire-safe area, let us know. Tell us about the issues and the outcomes.

So, join us in our aim to make Australia safe from severe or large bushfires.

** This NEWSLETTER promotes the Red Eagle self defence system, which can be shown to be effective on a designated area against all bushfires, provided its application complies with damage-related fire behaviour principles, and adequate resources are on site to control stationary flames.

Learn to self-protect and become bushfire safe

Beat the Bushfire Enemy with Knowledge
www.redeagle.com.au/beatthebushfire.html

Do not fear bushfires again
Discover the fascinating world of the science of bushfires and learn how to distinguish fact from fiction

The Science of Bushfire Behaviour
www.papyrus.com.au

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The dilemma of Fire Agencies

The choice of Fire Agencies in a major bushfire is either to stop perimeter spread or to defend neighbourhoods. They cannot do both.

If they draw resources from one, the other is weakened. If they protect neighbourhoods, the bushfire grows larger and more neighbourhoods are threatened. If they attack perimeter spread, they have no resources for individual neighbourhoods, but overall, fewer neighbourhoods will be threatened.

So does it not make sense that if neighbourhoods are self-protected, fire agencies are then freed up to attack perimeter spread?

You can now help them and help yourselves at the same time.

This lone voice has shown how neighbourhoods can scientifically and systematically self-protect without the need for fire agency troops. If the troops come, it is a bonus.

Listen to the logic of the self defence system. See how to out-smart the bushfire.

- **To protect an area from bushfire, use knowledge to keep the moving flame away**
- **Then manage the stationary flames caused by spot fires**
- **People can do this themselves. They don't need fire trucks and helicopters**
- **Fire agencies are then freed up to stop perimeter spread**

By the way, there are many survival stories where fire agency troops have not been present. There will be many more when people know how to purposefully self-protect.

Learn from the principles and practices of bushfire suppression and risk management

The Science of Bushfire Risk Management

www.redeagle.com.au/sciencerrisk.html

Aim of the NEWSLETTER

To promote the belief that bushfire damage is preventable, not inevitable
To promote self-protection of properties, neighbourhoods and townships
To promote the understanding and practical use of science and logic in bushfire protection
To promote policies and practices that create and maintain bushfire-safe areas

What will this achieve?

Create bushfire safe areas in bushfire prone areas
Decimate the nation's bushfire toll and associated distress
Decimate the nation's fire suppression bill

Red Eagle Bushfire Protection Services

Balance and effectiveness in bushfire risk management

www.redeagle.com.au

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POSTSCRIPT

California – CALINFERNIA

Can you stop a raging bushfire?

- Fire chiefs say - no, too dangerous
- We say - yes, we determine beforehand where the moving flame will stop

How do you stop a raging bushfire?

- Fire chiefs say - impossible with our knowledge, our technology, our traditions
- We say - apply knowledge with strategy, enact and enforce via legislation and education
- apply relevant bushfire behaviour and risk management knowledge

Avoidable tragedy?

By tradition, fire agencies are strong on suppression. Despite knowing that suppression cannot stop raging bushfires, they persist with the traditional. They realise that collateral damage is inevitable. They have a policy of **damage minimisation**. This is why they implicitly tolerate damage and losses. They also command high budgets. Unfortunately, the common outcomes are tragedies. This is why some 1500 homes can be destroyed in California in a couple of days. It is not their fault because they practice what they know. By default, they are weak on damage prevention by non-suppression means. It is not part of their tradition.

Property owners, on the other hand, believe government agencies will protect their interests. **They expect damage prevention**. But clearly, this is not happening.

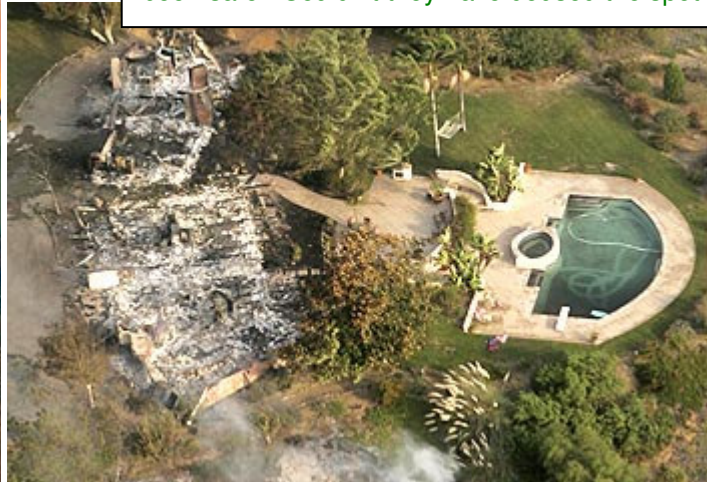
Thus there is a huge gap between public expectation and on-ground delivery. It can only be filled by systematic application of a **damage prevention** strategy like the self defence system. Only then will the public and all the agencies have a methodology for application and a standard for monitoring. It will also reduce fire suppression budgets.

Look at these pictures. They reveal some telling evidence about the cause of and solutions to these tragedies.



Where is evidence of the raging bushfire here?

The neighbourhood has been evacuated.
But everything is green - only the house is burnt.
What if the owners had been present? Wouldn't they have been safe? Couldn't they have doused the spot fires?



Here, the flames were too hot, too close

No defensive preparation.
Not even safe for fire fighters to help.

What if the site was prepared to minimise the surface flames and keep them at a safe distance? Wouldn't it have been safe to defend? Wouldn't the house be intact now?

Fire Agencies provide the lead in dealing with bushfires. But only when Fire Agencies include effective **damage prevention** strategies into their traditions, will such mega-bushfire disasters be prevented. Until they do, the best options for the public are to either over-insure and evacuate OR learn how to self-protect properly.