

Community Information

Ravine Fire, Kangaroo Island

Update # 11**5pm Thursday 16th January 2020**

Bushfire situation

Current statistics:

- 211,255 hectares burned (unburnt islands have now been mapped)
- 612 km fire perimeter
- PIRSA confirmed at least 32,000 livestock lost on island
- 89 dwellings destroyed
- 296 outbuildings destroyed
- 276 vehicles destroyed
- 500 people approximately housed in the base camp including international assistance from New Zealand.
- 200 farm fire units actively working on Kangaroo Island
- 63 firefighting Vehicles
- Aircraft: 3 x firebombers, 2 x observation aircraft

What we are doing?

The Ravine fire continues to be listed uncontrolled and burning within the fire perimeter, however, the area burnt has not increased in size for a number of days. Firefighters are undertaking a number of activities in order to work towards establishing secure control lines around the perimeter of the fire, including;

Blacking out operations – Crews actively work to ensure the ground around the perimeter of the fire is cooled reducing the risk of flare ups when wind and temperatures increase.

Strategic Planning around ensuring the easterly and north easterly perimeter of the fire is secured to halt the spread of fire.

Strategic Backburn Planning – Planning is underway for a backburn to be conducted in an area of unburnt scrub and grassland to the west of Vivonne Bay, this burn will assist with the protection of the Vivonne Bay Community should there be a change in fire behavior in the area.

Road closures are being monitored, advice on changes will be provided as soon as possible after any changes are made. Closures are also listed on www.traffic.sa.gov.au

Australian Defence Force crews have been tasked to assist property owners with general property preparedness should another outbreak occur.

Strong winds are still causing flare ups on parts of the fireground, which crews are attending to very quickly.

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Seal Bay Conservation Park and Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Area have not been impacted by fire, ground crews are working to ensure we halt the spread the fire ensuring it does not enter into these National Parks.

What conditions are expected?

Temperatures are mild over the next few days, however winds have been fairly strong and consistently from the south south-east. It is currently predicted that there will be an increase in fire weather conditions by Wednesday next week.

Smoke is currently sitting within many valleys particularly around Parndana and Vivonne Bay, communities still need to remain aware and ensure exposure is limited wherever possible.

Park closure

For community safety, NPWS have closed Flinders Chase National Park and Kelly Hill Caves until further notice. The South Coast Road has recently reopened down to Seal Bay Conservation Park which is currently open. Please check <https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/know-before-you-go/closures-and-alerts> before you plan a trip to any national park.

What roads are open?

Road closures are in place on the western end of Kangaroo Island.

At this stage, Bark Hut Rd, Gum Creek Rd, Shackle Road and West Bay Road are all **Tier 1** closures.

Conditions on the roads are constantly changing due to active firefighting activities and other activities including restoration works. Whilst some roads have been reopened to public and residence we ask that caution is taken when travelling in fire affected areas due to the risk of further falling trees, wandering stock and wildlife.

Tiered Access Levels are as follows;

Tier 1- Emergency Services only;

Tier 2 Essential Services Assessment and restoration activities; media with escort;

Tier 3 Relief Recovery Services and Bona Fide residents & media.

Please check www.traffic.sa.gov.au but also the CFS website to look at road closures before planning your trip.

What you can do

It is important for the community to stay alert, monitor conditions and be ready to put your Bushfire Survival Plan into action.

This fire continues to be active and the community needs to stay alert and watch out for new fires in their area. For emergencies and to report new or unattended fires call Triple Zero (000).

Residents need be aware of potential new hazards on their properties and across the fire ground. Watch out for falling trees, burning trees and underground roots, damaged or blocked roads, fallen power lines, smoke, ash and possible asbestos contamination.

There are large patches of unburnt ground in the area and people need to monitor their surrounds for flare ups. Take action to stay safe.

Support agencies

There are many different agencies and organisations supporting the CFS. Lots of activities are happening across the fire ground and around Kangaroo Island. Many community groups are working hard to support fire affected people, including those community groups at Parndana.

The Australian Defence Force and SES have moved the large Base camp to an area near the Kingscote airport to support effective and timely transport of fire fighters. Defence are also helping landowners safely dispose of animal carcasses. Services are currently assessing damage to telecommunications, water and power utilities and it may be some time before these are returned to full capacity.

The **Relief Centre is open from 7am to 7pm** at the Kingscote Football Club, Centenary Avenue Kingscote. People directly affected by the fire are encouraged to visit the Relief Centre to apply for emergency grants and assistance.

For further information about a variety of Relief and Recovery services:

Disaster Recovery Hotline 1800 302 787.

For emergency assistance for livestock and animals:

PIRSA Hotline on 1800 255 556.

www.cfs.sa.gov.au

Bushfire Information Hotline 1800 362 361

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