

Pinery Fire Recovery Newsletter



Government
of South Australia

Issue 1 | November 30 2015

These newsletters will be an important source of information for community members as you work through the recovery process.

Vince Monterola, an experienced emergency services and recovery services professional, has been appointed as the Local Recovery Coordinator for the Pinery fires. He commenced in the role on Friday 27 November 2015. One of his first tasks will be to establish a local structure to support the recovery of all impacted communities.

Emergency Relief Centres

Emergency relief centres are open to provide support to affected families. The relief centres are located at:

- Balaklava Sports Club in the Ralli Park Showgrounds, Werocota Road, Balaklava - open from 7am to 7pm until further notice
- Gawler Recreation and Sports Club, Nixon Terrace, Gawler - open 24 hours a day until further notice.

Bushfire Recovery Hotline and Website

The SA Bushfire Recovery Hotline **1800 302 787** is providing recovery information for people affected by the fires. The latest fire recovery information is available online from the Government of South Australia at www.sa.gov.au/recovery or the SA Bushfire Recovery Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SABushfireRecovery.

Recovery Community Meetings

The Local Recovery Coordinator will set up a series of community meetings. The locations, dates and times will be advertised widely.

Road Safety Update

SAPOL has advised that all roads within the Pinery fire ground are open, however the public is asked to be mindful that emergency personnel are still working in the area. To ensure the safety of emergency service personnel working along the roadsides around the Pinery fire ground, road users are reminded that the speed limit is 25 kilometres per hour when passing emergency vehicles with flashing lights operating.

Insurance Advice

The Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) has formally declared a catastrophe for the Pinery fire. The ICA has activated its disaster hotline – **1800 734 621** – helping residents if they are unsure which insurer they are with, or have general inquiries about the claims process.

How can you receive help?

Financial Assistance and Grants

People affected by the Pinery fire may be eligible for a number of grants, financial and other assistance. For more information, contact the SA Bushfire Recovery Hotline on **1800 302 787**.

Emergency Grant

This grant provides \$280 per adult and \$140 per child, to a maximum of \$700 per family, to assist those who evacuated their principal place of residence and are unable to meet their own needs, for example food, clothing, toiletries or medication. Please visit a relief centre to discuss this grant.

Disaster Recovery Assistance

People who have lost their homes or suffered injury as a result of the disaster can access a one-off payment of \$1000 per adult and \$400 for each child.

People eligible for the Disaster Recovery Allowance can access income assistance for up to 13 weeks, equivalent to the maximum rate of Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance. This assistance is designed to help employees, primary producers and sole traders recovering from the Pinery fire to get back on their feet.

Claims can be made online at **www.humanservices.gov.au** (click on 'Help in an Emergency') or by phoning the Commonwealth Government Information Hotline on **180 22 66** from 8am to 5pm local time, Monday to Friday.

Health

Care should be taken when cleaning up asbestos materials after a fire as some fibres may remain in the ash. Wet down ash and debris and wear personal protective equipment including an appropriate mask, or contact a licenced asbestos removalist to do the work.

If you experienced a power failure during the fire, there are several steps you can take to limit the amount of spoilage to refrigerated and frozen food. Appearance or smell is not always a reliable indicator. Please check the link below to ensure you are not placing yourself at risk by consuming something that may already be spoilt.

Water supplies will be in high demand over the next few weeks. Homeowners who use rainwater for drinking should consider disconnecting their rainwater tanks, flushing out their

gutters and downpipes and rinsing off their roofs, then reconnecting the rainwater tanks. If the water quality or taste is still of concern, access further information at the link below.

For more information relating to asbestos, rainwater quality, bushfire smoke, mental health and food safety, visit www.sa.gov.au/recovery (click on the 'Returning Home' tab) or phone the SA Bushfire Recovery Hotline on **1800 302 787**.

For mental health support, phone the Northern Health Network on **(08) 8209 0700**. The service operates from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Outside of those hours, callers will be referred to the after-hours service.

Livestock

For advice on injured livestock and livestock disposal, phone PIRSA's Stock Assessment Hotline on **(08) 8207 7847**. Livestock SA and Primary Producers SA have a register for livestock owners needing fodder or agistment for cattle and sheep. This register relies on offers of assistance. Phone **(08) 8297 2299** from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday to be placed on the register or to offer assistance.

How can you help?

State Emergency Relief Fund

The State Emergency Relief Fund provides gifts donated by the community to individuals who have been affected by the bushfires. Donations to the SA Pinery Fire Appeal are tax deductible and can be made by credit card, cheque, cash or bank transfer. For more details, phone **1800 302 787** or visit www.sa.gov.au/recovery (click on the 'Pinery Fire Appeal' tab).

Volunteering SA & NT

Volunteering SA & NT is coordinating volunteers to help people, communities and animals affected by the fire. You can register your interest to volunteer with the recovery effort at www.volunteeringsa.org.au. Alternatively, you can phone **1300 135 545** from 9am to 5pm to register.

Useful Contacts

General Recovery Information

Local Councils

Wakefield Regional Council – visit www.wakefieldrc.sa.gov.au or phone (08) 8862 0800

District Council of Mallala – visit www.mallala.sa.gov.au or phone (08) 8527 0200

Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council – visit www.claregilbertvalleys.sa.gov.au or phone (08) 8842 6400

Light Regional Council – visit www.light.sa.gov.au or phone (08) 8525 3200

Agriculture and Livestock

PIRSA Stock Assessment Hotline – (08) 8207 7847

Livestock SA and Primary Producers SA – phone (08) 8297 2299

Insurance

Insurance Council of Australia Hotline – 1800 734 621

Disaster Recovery Assistance

Commonwealth Government Information Hotline – 180 22 66

Health

Northern Health Network – phone (08) 8209 0700

Counselling Services

Beyond Blue – phone 1300 224 636

Youth Beyond Blue – phone 1300 224 636

Lifeline – phone 13 11 14

Mens Line Australia – phone 1300 789 978

Kids Helpline – phone 1800 551 800

Volunteering

Volunteering SA & NT – visit www.volunteeringsa.org.au or phone 1300 135 545

Waste Management

Environment Protection Authority – phone (08) 8204 2004 or 1800 623 445

Business Support

Rural Business Support – visit www.ruralbusinesssupport.org.au or phone 1800 836 211