

Pinery Fire Recovery Newsletter



Government
of South Australia

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

Pinery Fire Recovery Centre

The Pinery Fire Recovery Centre is located at the TAFE Gawler Campus, 43 High Street, Gawler. The recovery centre is open from 7am to 7pm on Monday to Friday, and 9am to 12pm on Saturdays (closed on Sundays) until further notice.

The recovery centre provides long-term support to fire-affected community members who have registered at the emergency relief centre or through the recovery hotline. It is a central place for the community to meet, access information, advice and support.

Mobile recovery centres are being established at Kapunda and Hamley Bridge for those who are unable to access the Gawler recovery centre.

- Hamley Bridge: a mobile recovery service is available each Monday from 1pm-5pm at the Hamley Bridge Institute, Gilbert Street, Hamley Bridge
- Kapunda: another centre is available at the Light Regional Council, 93 Main Street, Kapunda, from 1pm-5pm each Thursday.

Emergency Relief Centre

An Emergency Relief Centre is located at the Gawler Recreation and Sports Club, Nixon Terrace, Gawler. Please note this centre will close at 7pm on Friday 11 December 2015.

Bushfire Recovery Hotline and Website

The SA Bushfire Recovery Hotline **1800 302 787** provides recovery information for people affected by the fire. The latest fire recovery information is also available online at www.sa.gov.au/recovery or the SA Bushfire Recovery Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SABushfireRecovery.

Septic Tanks

Residents **whose homes were destroyed** within Light Regional Council are eligible to have their tanks pumped out at no cost. Please phone the council office on **(08) 8525 3200** for details.

Dog Registration

Councils are required to maintain details of dogs in their area. Please inform your local council if your registered dog(s) has died in the fire or been re-located.

Building Planning Help

Members of the Planning Institute of Australia are offering pro-bono support to people needing council approval to re-build. The institute can provide advice or act on your behalf when replacing lawful buildings. For more information, phone Jodi Maurinic on **(08) 8361 3613**.

Register for a Fire Impact Card at the Gawler Recovery Centre

Anyone impacted by the Pinery fire is invited to attend the Gawler Recovery Centre to register. Once registered, you will be given a Fire Impact Card. Some businesses are offering discounts to people affected by the fire. Simply show your card to obtain the discount.

Assistance with Establishing New Haysheds

Chris Heinjus at Rural Directions has offered to form a “hayshed group” to help farmers through the development application process for erecting new haysheds. This process can be quite lengthy and needs to start as soon as possible to have sheds in place for next year’s hay. Chris has been through the process himself and knows what it is like. Rural Directions is offering this help free of charge. For more information, phone **(08) 8525 2300** or **0417 808 378**, or email cheinjus@ruraldirections.com.

BlazeAid

Ex-vineyard pine posts are being donated for use in fence re-building. Toyota Land Cruiser Club members are delivering them to BlazeAid and other likely users. Please contact BlazeAid volunteers Wendy Cope in Roseworthy on 0467 999 909, or John Lillico in Hamley Bridge on 0477 330 488. For more information including the locations of their camps, visit their website at www.blazeaid.com.

Landmark outlets in the area also have some donated posts available and are offering special prices on fencing materials and irrigation pipes.

Samaritan’s Purse

The team from Samaritan’s Purse has arrived in Gawler with a large load of tools to help with the clean up. They can help with general clean up, small tree removal, cleaning smoke-damaged homes and general tidy up. Phone **0490 314 552** to request some help.

Rural Business Support

Making decisions and following up important issues affecting your current and future status can be overwhelming. Rural Business Support can help with a number of services including:

- assistance with correspondence including applications and forms (Centrelink; ATO; State Emergency Relief Fund)
- reviewing debtors, creditors and short/long-term cash flow
- identifying government assistance
- assistance with insurance companies, banks and creditors
- prioritising what needs to be done
- preparing a budget
- recovery planning
- referrals to a range of professional service providers.

Appointments can be held anywhere convenient including in your home, at your business premises or in a Rural Business Support office.

The service is free, confidential and independent from government and any financial institutions. For more information, phone Deb Purvis on **0427 430 244**, Judy Goedecke on **0418 856 267**, or freecall **1800 836 211**.

Tax Assistance

The Australian Tax Office can help with fast tracking refunds, extending deadlines to lodge activity statements, and other benefits. Phone **1800 806 218** from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, or visit www.ato.gov.au.

Managing Waste

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is working with councils, landfill operators and other services to manage a range of waste issues. Phone **1300 623 445** for information about special waste issues including:

- animal carcasses
- CCA-treated timber
- damaged chemical containers
- asbestos
- demolition waste and building rubble
- septic tank wastewater disposal.

Landfill waste disposal

There are two cost components in the dumping of waste to landfill; the waste levy and the gate fee. The waste levy is government-imposed and the gate fee is the cost charged by private landfill operators.

For fire-affected waste which requires disposal to landfill, the waste levy component of landfill disposal has been waived. However, private landfill operators will require payment of the gate fee, which may vary between operators.

Waste from the Pinery fire, not including livestock carcasses, should initially be taken to a local Resource Recovery Centre in your area that is able to receive the waste. Contact the site directly for opening hours and advice on the waste you need to dispose. Site contact details and locations are available via the EPA website at www.epa.sa.gov.au.

Inkerman and Dublin sites will both accept all waste from the fire zone. Please call before attending either site and take your ID card provided by the relief centre so that the government fees are waived.

- Inkerman – (08) 8867 1355
- Dublin – (08) 8243 2644

Where can I take the chemicals from my shed?

For land owners and farmers with chemicals and containers affected by the Pinery bushfire, the Office of Green Industries SA (Zero Waste SA) is working with the four local councils to collect unwanted farm and household chemicals in containers that are bushfire damaged or otherwise unsafe to transport. Residents in fire-affected areas need to contact their local council by 16 December 2015 to register details of their disposal needs with respect to farm and household hazardous chemicals in damaged containers. Special collection services will be arranged and funded by the Office of Green Industries SA.

Residents with unwanted farm or household chemicals in containers undamaged by the fire can take them to the Office of Green Industries SA's Dry Creek depot for free. The depot is located on the corner of Magazine Road and Henschke Street, Dry Creek. Please note that business waste is not accepted. The depot is open on the first Tuesday of each month from 9am to 12pm. There is no phone at the Dry Creek depot. Details of this service can be accessed at the Office of Green Industries SA's website at www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au (click on 'At Home' > 'Hazardous Waste' > 'Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Timetables'). For queries about this service, contact Justin Lang at the Office of Green Industries on **(08) 8204 2634**.

Wastes accepted include pesticides, pharmaceuticals, cleaning solvents, paint thinners, paints, varnishes, stains, photographic chemicals, batteries (nickel/cadmium, mercury, lithium, and lead/acid), motor oil, coolant, pool chemicals, smoke detectors, yellow fire extinguishers and unknown chemicals. Wastes NOT accepted include explosives, ammunition, pressurised

gas cylinders, radioactive materials, empty containers, asbestos, and tyres. For explosives and ammunition, contact your local police station. For asbestos issues, phone the EPA hotline on **(08) 8204 2004** or visit www.asbestos.sa.gov.au.

Hay and Fodder Depots

Livestock SA is coordinating receipt and dispatch of hay and fodder. Depots are located at Mallala and Freeling. Phone **(08) 8297 2299** to request supply.

Military Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs is providing a counselling service for veterans. Please contact Kathy Michaels on **(08) 7422 4500** for details.

Coping Emotionally After Bushfires

The aftermath

Fires have a profound impact on the local community and it is normal to experience a range of emotions after such disasters. Some common reactions include:

- being more emotional
- being irritable, depressed, anxious or feeling helpless
- changes to eating and sleeping patterns
- feeling detached or withdrawn from people around you
- not being able to concentrate or function normally at work or school.

These reactions are expected and may be worse in the first few weeks but usually reduce over time.

Who may be at risk?

Stress or grief during a disaster or emergency can affect anyone. This may include people who have experienced an event personally, people whose family or friends are affected, people whose livelihood has been affected or those who have been caught up in the confusion and emotions of the event. Children also experience stress or grief and it is important for parents to help children with this. Parents can help by acknowledging their concerns, answering their questions simply and honestly, and helping them understand that they are loved and protected.

What you can do to cope?

- Get back into routines: familiar patterns of meal times, sleep, and rest.
- Talk with family and friends about your feelings.
- Support yourself, your family and your friends by sustaining strong relationships.

- Maintain physical health through exercise and regular meals.
- Take time out from work duties to relax and unwind.
- When tackling big projects or issues, break them into smaller practical tasks.
- Do not over-indulge in alcohol or comfort foods.

When to seek help?

You should seek professional assistance if:

- you feel very distressed, anxious or on edge much of the time
- you feel frustrated, irritated or angry much more than normal
- you feel depressed, hopeless or that you cannot go on
- you have trouble concentrating, are distracted and cannot function normally
- your child is withdrawn, very emotional or aggressive
- your child is having difficulties at school, sleeping or separating from parents.

Where to go for help?

The Northern Health Network has assembled a team of qualified mental health clinicians who can provide a free service for everyone affected. Please phone **(08) 8209 0700**. This service is available from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. For crisis mental health support, phone the SA Health Mental Health Triage 24 hours, seven days on **131 465**. Alternatively, you can seek help from your GP.

Further information is available from Country and Outback Health:

- Clare Office – phone **(08) 8841 4400** from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday
- Nuriootpa Office – phone **(08) 8565 8500** from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

Useful Contacts

General Recovery Information

SA Bushfire Recovery – visit www.sa.gov.au/recovery or phone the hotline 1800 302 787

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