

Disaster Response Protocols

Attention All members

As you all know fires and other disasters can happen at any time in our area and the impact on our wildlife is enormous. The NATF^{Inc} Disaster Team is looking to improve communication and information to members at short notice.

The process will be

1. A **“DISASTER STANDBY ALERT”** will be emailed to all members, outlining the type of disaster (bushfire, oil spill, heat stress event etc.) and location. At this stage, members are asked to prepare the mandatory safety clothing and equipment listed below. For personal comfort please bring a spare set of clothes and a change of shoes.

For bushfires, the Rural Fire Service is responsible for ensuring the area is safe and at such time will give permission to the Disaster Coordinator to enter the area for search and rescue of injured wildlife (this may be one or more days after the fire).

2. A second email titled **“WILDLIFE SEARCH & RESCUE”** will be forwarded to all members indicating where to meet; time and date.
3. Members willing to assist can contact Lisa Lowe, Disaster Team Communications Officer directly on 0455021779 to register their intentions to participate in the Search and Rescue event. Due to the short time frames involved, I can only contact **members who respond to each “Wildlife Search & Rescue”** email.
4. Members are then required to download and print a **“NAT Disaster Operations Volunteer Identification Information** form, complete the personal information and bring the form on the Search & Rescue day to the Disaster Operations staging area for registration.
5. All members ages 18 years or over are welcome to participate in Search & Rescue activities, under the authority of the NATF^{Inc} Hunter Wildlife Rescue Disaster Team. In-situ search and rescue training will be provided for members who have not worked in a disaster before. All care is taken for the safety of members.

At no time can a member enter a bushfire affected area without the permission of the Disaster Coordinator.

Mandatory **safety clothing and equipment** required for Disaster Search & Rescue response:

What to Wear	What to Bring in a Small Backpack
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Long heavy duty trousers (jeans)• Long sleeve shirt, preferable with a collar (white is best)• Covered shoes, preferable leather work boots, no joggers• Leather gloves• Hat• Disposable mask• Small hand towel (to wet and keep cool)• Torch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drinking water• Sunscreen• Phone (emergency contact only for coordinator)• Fruit or snacks to keep up energy levels• Personal medication if required• Binoculars• Pillowcases and small towels for catching wildlife• Small packet of tissues
For personal comfort please bring a spare set of clothes and a change of shoes.	

This information will go out by post to those members without email access. Thank you and I hope to not have to see you all in a disaster situation!

Regards

Lisa Lowe

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