SUMMER IS HERE

“I am glad I now know that the bathroom is not a safe place to shelter in during a fire?”

This project is an initiative of the Alpine Shire Council’s Community Resilience Committee and is funded by emergency management grants.

Did You Know?

During a bushfire you should not shelter in a room that has only one exit and has no windows, such as the bathroom (a bathroom can be useful in a cyclone).

You should be watching the fire as it progresses and have more than one door for escape after the fire front passes.

Alpine Shire Council

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FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Fire restrictions are now in force for all of the Alpine Shire for the summer. This means you cannot light a fire in the open air unless you have a permit or comply with certain requirements. If you don’t obtain a permit, you could be breaking the law and may be prosecuted.

Residents should prepare their property for the fire season by:

• Keeping grass short and reducing the volume of “fire fuels” – such as long, dry grass, fallen leaves and twigs;
• Clearing leaves out of gutters, removing dead undergrowth and fallen branches, and keeping wood piles away from the house;
• Ensuring homes, sheds and garages are free from overhanging branches.

WHEN AN EMERGENCY IS HAPPENING IT IS TOO LATE TO DO THIS WORK.

WHY WE NEED TO BE PREPARED?

Did you see the Catalyst Special Program on ABC1 Sunday night? A December titled “Don’t Panic – Surviving Extremes”? It is well worth watching and if you missed it is still available on iView – www.abc.net.au/iview

It is important that we all have formal written plans to cope with emergencies because in an emergency our adrenalin levels increase dramatically, which shuts down some parts of our brain. This can result in:

• Loss of our language skills so we cannot speak clearly
• Not recognising visual cues
• Not being able to function as normal

This can result in us making bad decisions and panicking when we should be calm and organised.

A written and well-rehearsed emergency plan will enable you to cope with an emergency much better than if you are unprepared.

Useful planning templates can be found on the following websites:

• www.ses.vic.gov.au
• www.cfa.vic.gov.au