Disaster Resilience Through Women's Eyes

**Plans**

Assist people to develop and practice plans; making sure plans cover different aspects of family life, different age groups & needs; informing neighbours and preparing emergency so friends, family and businesses are as safe as possible; encourage ‘Family fun preparation’ activities at beginning of holidays.

Develop more community fire plans; learn from Roseworthy, Hawly & Buckland Valleys plan.

Provide grants to local community organisations to: promote need for preparation; help each other prepare; obtain shared resources such as UHF, pumps, run inclusive neighbourhood/village gatherings.

**Information and communication**

Provide clear resilience information that people can be confident to use; trusted source; range of media; small group meetings; online, radio, market stall, door knock, agencies; make it locally relevant.

Produce and disseminate information about ‘what happens when disaster hits Alpine Shire’.

Provide professional ‘outside’ expert information; Rob Gordon style; responding to community needs.

TALK: get out to more people to understand threats; evaluate risk with community; ask ‘what works’ about building resilience and promote great ideas; bring a sense of humour.

Strengthen UHF radio networks; support hubs; leaders and deputies; encourage residents to practice using handhelds; keep phone trees up to date and use to meet each other; have leaders widely recognised.

**Emergency Management planning and leadership**

Develop method to effectively use local knowledge and skills; delegate local action to local people; listen to fire captains and more diverse knowledge including women and young people.

Get more about promoting broader roles in emergency organisations; not all roles require a basic training; become more women and young people; literally; meetings in different areas and listen to women who come off; develop meetings into existing meetings to save people’s time; more face-to-face; broader diversity in leadership - women, young people.

Strengthen support services: need somebody to do outreach, share a cuppa; help with filling out forms; give information re: financial assistance; case managers if needed; planning for vulnerable people/groups.

Increase family violence awareness: emergency services, case managers; enable them to detect signs.

**Personal & family resilience**

Support individuals and families to be responsible for their own resilience; provide information about different types of resilience; help people to identify vulnerabilities; risk and strengths; facilitate all hazards awareness and preparation; share great resilience ideas such as: farmers clean up day, 5 day self reliance.

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Resilience - What Needs to Change

**Resilient communities**

Foster locavore sense of belonging & healthy community; community activities that include newcomers, young people etc; helping neighbours.

Support women’s groups and organisations; support a range of groups to give women choices in participation; build women’s strengths in networking and coping for their families and communities; encourage women to broaden their emergency management roles; including leadership; recognising value of women’s only groups.

Learn from past disaster experiences: gather and share stories; inter-generational knowledge sharing.

Encourage community innovation: find what works; share positive ideas; particularly ask children and young people; learn from previous experience (older people, refugees); support ‘people power’ to raise issues.

Educate and listen to children about EM preparedness and resilience: school projects.

Innovate young people days like ‘Teenagers and Emergency’, market stalls, CFA activities and youth crews at times that work for local young people; strengthen pathways between CFA youth crew and adult crew/roles.

Support and encourage volunteering: service clubs, women’s groups, LandCare, guides, emergency services.

**State Government**

Create one emergency service system: standards EM regulations and training across Australia; EM agencies working together and sharing information; standard databases and equipment; closer delegation including regional and local levels.

Work with local community systems; ask local people what’s already working before setting up government resilience or recovery activities; bring common sense and political will to the problem solving table.

Provide financial incentives to be resilient: water tanks for farms; community grants.

Support personal assistance for all residents affected by one; outreach services; children’s care, indirect counselling and activities.

Review Fire Week - most women had not heard about it not been involved.

**Alpine Shire Council**

Arrange for Fire Levy to be paid at Municipal level; through rates, universal payment not through insurance.

Organise Resilience Week - ‘All Hazards All Agencies’, local community events, update contacts for phone trees, promote the need and opportunities for volunteers, publicise a clear process for spreading information, and describe how agencies respond to a crisis.

Encourage communities to stay connected and have that say. Really listen, follow up and report back.

Continue Community Resilience Committee; foster mutual understanding & effective working relationships across agencies; provide shared food at meetings.

**Financial**

Provide financial assistance to prepare for disasters; low interest loans, subsidies or incentives (rates, tax, insurance); include people who are renting; encourage shared community resources; help low income people.

**Infrastructure**

Keep improving community infrastructure: power, water, roads, telecommunications, fire trails, halls and warning systems.

Disaster Resilience insights and stories from 31 women, aged 14 - 80 years, who met in small groups across the Alpine Shire to share their experiences. (January - May 2012).

Further information: www.wxhealth.com.au
or www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au