

Tuesday 7 February 2012

Do you need help to leave early before a bushfire?

Mayor Cr Larry Goldsworthy is encouraging Indigo residents to help neighbours who need assistance leaving early before a high fire risk day.

For some people, leaving early before a Severe, Extreme or Code Red Day is the only option. These people may be older, have a physical disability, or have problems thinking clearly or acting quickly in a stressful situation. Not everyone has a local support network – so if you know someone who needs assistance, please talk to them about how you could help. This is about Indigo residents not just planning for their own bushfire safety, but reaching out to other community members who need their help.

Cr Goldsworthy said completing the Red Cross *Bushfires – Preparing to leave early* plan was the best way to put preparations in place.

The plan, produced by Red Cross and CFA, assists people who may need additional support to prepare to leave their homes early on fire risk days.

It sets out four steps that people can follow to prepare to leave early before a bushfire, and guides users through each step. The four steps are: 1) Be informed, 2) Make a plan, 3) Make a relocation kit, and 4) Know your neighbours.

Cr Goldsworthy said that Indigo residents who need help with planning to leave early had to reach out to others if they needed support.

The Red Cross *Bushfires: preparing to leave early* plan is available at cfa.vic.gov.au/redcrossplan. It can be filled out online or printed out to be completed. The plan is also available for free by calling the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667. For people who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment, call the National Relay Service on 1800 555 677.

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