

How Do the Groups Work

Each group is different and can essentially organise themselves how they see fit.

They may get together as a group on a regular basis, and some of our groups are part of a local resident's association which meet formally, or people may just meet casually with their Coordinator or Deputy.

It is essential everyone agrees a communication method. The Coordinators Group use WhatsApp for this purpose.

The Brigade looks to keep the Coordinators up to date with all fire news and this communication is two way so we can try to answer questions from the community.

During Gaspers Mountain Fire informal groups of residents found that keeping in touch helped provide collective emotional support during a very stressful period.

By working together, a lot is possible:

- Helping each other with fire prevention including understanding threats and helping to mitigate them
- Helping evacuate people and animals
- Sharing information
- Supporting each other

Involvement should not consume a lot of time ... but a small investment of time can deliver a huge reward.

Your Local Group

To join your local Group please contact your Coordinator below:

Name:

Contact details:

Your Brigade Contacts

The Brigade Community Engagement Officers are Julie & Jeremy Braithwaite. Contact them on:

kh.rfs.community@gmail.com

The Brigade Website is:

<https://www.khrfs.org/community>

Become a Volunteer

We're always on the lookout for volunteers within the Brigade and we run our own training programs to teach you all you need to know to become a Bush Firefighter and then advance within the service.

Its really rewarding!



GROUPS PROGRAM



KURRAJONG HEIGHTS NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUPS

"Helping Us Help You"

We need to prepare for the next Big One

Our last bad fire was Gospers Mountain Fire in 2019 and the one before that was the State Mine Fire in 2013.

Another big one is possible in 2026 and we all need to:

- Develop our Fire Plan as a family so everyone knows what to do and where to go
- Do a Property Plan and prepare our property to make it as fire resistant as possible
- Join a community group and start to work together with our neighbours to plan and prepare and help each other where required
- Communicate with our Brigade through our Group so we all stay informed

We started forming Brigade Neighbourhood Groups throughout the Heights in 2025 to help us all get ready and to support each other during and after a fire event.

There is some considerable urgency to prepare for the 2026 fire season with unprecedented fuel loads in the bush surrounding Kurrajong Heights as a result of the loss of canopy in 2019/20 and significant rains since then.

The Brigade has an active Hazard Reduction program in place ... but we need the community to properly prepare their properties too.

Do a Property Plan

This is a map of your property, and it shows all the Standing Water Sources and any major hazards.

This includes all sources of electricity which we may need to turn off to make your house safe.

The Property Plan is shared within your Group and is shared with the Brigade. The information on Water sources is critical to helping protect your property and is transferred on to a Firemapper map which can be accessed by any crew protecting your place.

You should also put hard copy in your meter box either in a zip lock bag or laminated.



List water sources, electricity switchboards, gas bottles, fire fighting tools and materials & hazards. Place copy in Electricity Meter Box. Questions to kh.rfs.community@gmail.com
SHARE WITH YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD COORDINATOR WHO WILL SHARE IT WITH THE RFS.

Share Your Fire Plan with Your Group

This allows you all to understand where you need help and where you can provide help to others. If you don't feel comfortable sharing it with the entire street maybe choose just your Coordinator or a couple of neighbours.

For sure your plan will only get better with some discussion.

Help the RFS to protect your Property

There is no guarantee on the availability of RFS resources but in 2019 we had a huge number of RFS tankers at Kurrajong Heights doing property protection as the Gospers Mountain fire approached.

Providing clear access for our tankers, clearly marked water sources and a well-maintained place help us to help you.

You may qualify for the RFS AIDER program to help you prepare your place if it's all got away from you.

