Chum Creek

Community Information Guide - Bushfire

Prepare · Act · Survive

Bushfire Rating: EXTREME

Fire Authorities have assessed Chum Creek as having an EXTREME bushfire risk. Local residents and visitors should be prepared for fire and have a plan for when the Fire Danger Rating is SEVERE, EXTREME or CODE RED.

This community information guide includes a map containing key elements of Chum Creek's bushfire risk. At the time of publication, there are NO designated Neighbourhood Safer Places – Places of Last Resort in Chum Creek.

Important community bushfire safety information is provided to help you make informed decisions about how to survive a bushfire, whether you're a local resident or a visitor to the area. Planning and preparation can save lives in a bushfire. Use this community information guide to help you and your family to prepare.

CFA

Prepare

It's important if you live, work and travel in this area, to plan what you will do if a bushfire threatens.

Understand your bushfire risk

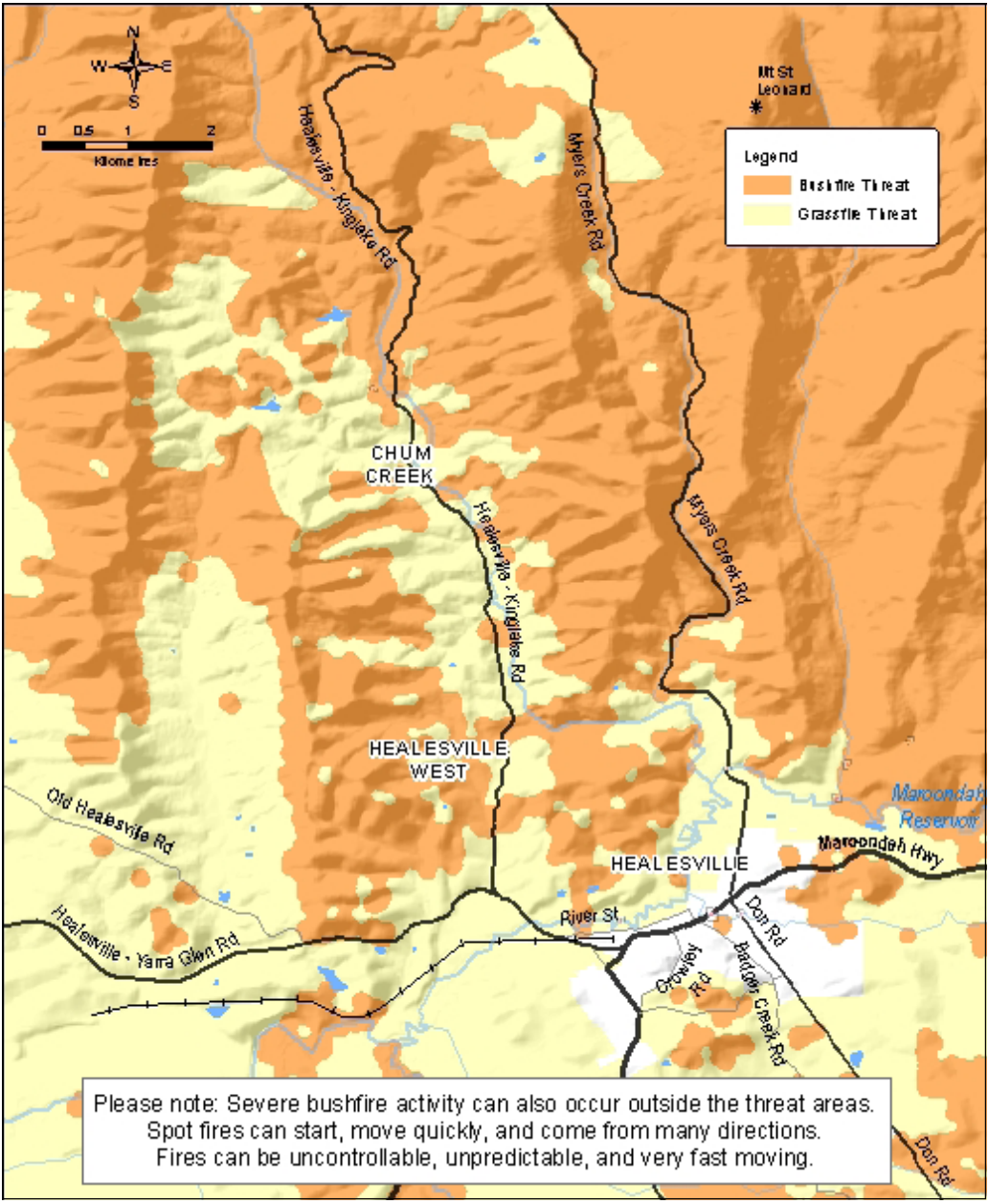
- Chum Creek has been assessed as having an EXTREME bushfire risk in accordance with the Victorian Fire Risk Register.
- Chum Creek sits along two northerly valleys with steep, forested ridges on both sides.
- The surrounding forests have dense vegetation with high fuel loads.
- Many side roads off Chum Creek Road are steep, unsealed and become dead ends when they meet the forest.
- The Chum Creek area has historically been impacted by bushfires. Most recently in 2009, many homes in Long Gully and Chum Creek were threatened or lost.
- Know the daily Fire Danger Rating in the district where you live or travel **www.cfa.vic.gov.au**

Reduce your bushfire risk

- Chum Creek is in the CENTRAL Total Fire Ban district, and is also located near the NORTH CENTRAL district. Be aware of both fire district forecasts.
- Clean up your property before summer arrives. Check with the Council on your property's zone and burning off guidelines and restrictions.
- Take advantage of the 'Bundled Branch (Green Waste) Collections' offered by the Council. You will be notified of your collection date.
- Prepare your home and property even if you are planning to leave early. Your home will have a much better chance of surviving.
- Phone the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on **1800 240 667** and ask for a copy of CFA's FireReady kit to be posted to you. It has information on how to prepare your property and home, and will help you develop your bushfire plan.
- **Develop and practise your Bushfire Survival Plan.**
- **You will also need to plan for your pets' safety.**
- You can attend or join:
  - A local Fire Ready Victoria meeting
  - A Bushfire Planning Workshop
  - A neighbourhood Community Fireguard Group
- **The Household Bushfire Self-Assessment Tool is available to help individuals assess the bushfire risk on their own property.**

You can download the CFA FireReady kit, containing the full Leaving Early Planning Template from **cfa.vic.gov.au**, or call **1800 226 226 (TTY 1800 122 969)**

Chum Creek Bushfire Threat Map



Prepare

FACT

It is your responsibility to prepare yourself, your family and your home for the threat of bushfire. You need to act decisively in accordance with your **Bushfire Survival Plan** when bushfires threaten. Your survival depends on your preparations and the decisions you make.

Leave early

Leaving early is always the safest option.

Leaving early is more important when:

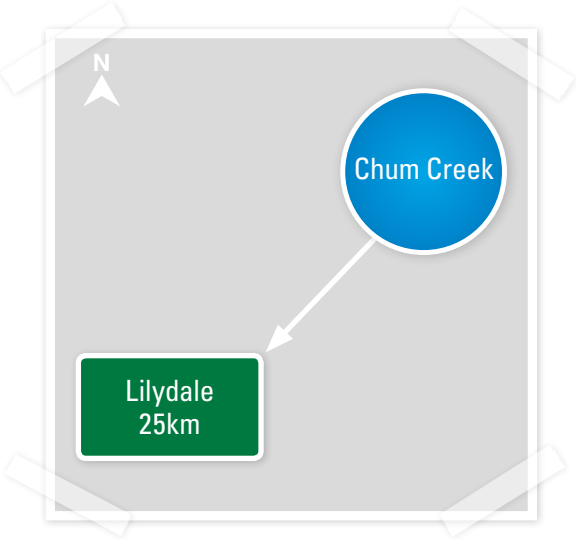
- The Fire Danger Rating is CODE RED. Homes aren't designed to withstand a bushfire during these conditions. Any fire that starts and takes hold will be so intense that you won't be safe to stay and defend your home – no matter how well prepared it is.
- There are children, elderly or disabled people in your home. People who are vulnerable due to age, health, or any other reason, should always leave early.
- You have not prepared yourself or your property to give you and your home the best level of protection from a fire.
- Your house is not defendable. Some homes are not safe to defend because of their location or construction.

If you plan to leave, then you should leave well before a fire reaches your area and well before you are under threat. Follow the actions recommended for the Fire Danger Rating of the day (see page 6 and 7). **Visit the CFA website www.cfa.vic.gov.au**

Where will you go?

- Is it a safe choice? You may choose somewhere that suits your personal needs and circumstances e.g. a family member's house in an urban area with a backyard for your pet, or shopping centre complex, or central business district of a large regional centre.
- If you don't have any other options, you may wish to consider the following township: **Lilydale.**
- Always tell someone that you are leaving and where you are planning to go.

If you - or someone you care for - will need help to prepare and leave early when there is high fire risk, obtain a Red Cross **Bushfire: Preparing to leave early guide** at **www.cfa.vic.gov.au** or request a copy by phoning the **VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226**



PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

PREPARE. You must make important decisions before the fire season starts.

ACT. The higher the Fire Danger Rating, the more dangerous the conditions.

SURVIVE. Fires may threaten without warning, so you need to know what you will do to survive.

- Chum Creek and Myers Creek Roads heading north towards Toolangi are windy, narrow, travel through extensive forest and are an EXTREME risk in a bushfire.
- Plan how you will leave early as part of your bushfire plan.
- Public transport may not operate on Code Red days.

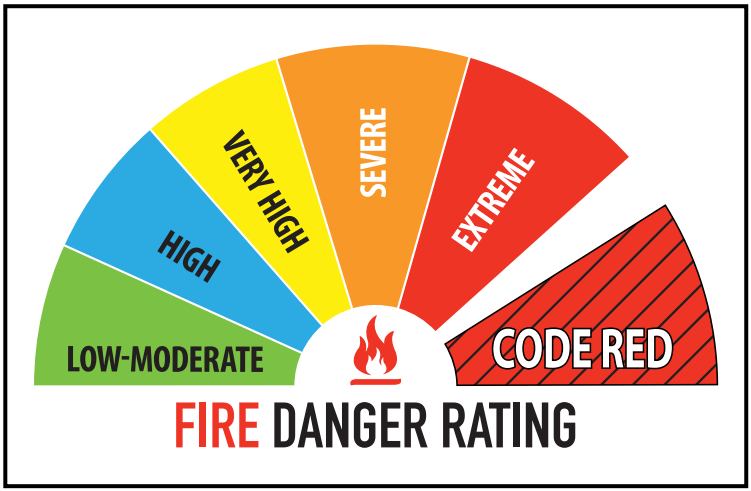
How you can stay in touch

- Bookmark the VicEmergency webpage (www.emergency.vic.gov.au).
- Follow CFA on Twitter (www.twitter.com/cfa_updates).
- Join the CFA Facebook page (www.facebook.com/cfavic).
- Access the CFA mobile website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au/mobile
- Download the VicEmergency app if you have a smartphone or tablet Apple (App Store) and Android (Google play).
- Beware, cordless home phones will NOT work if the mains power supply is cut.
- Wireless communications, internet and land lines may vary between service providers.
- Mobile phone coverage in and around Chum Creek is generally poor and may not be accessible during times of emergency and may vary between service providers.
- There is NO community-alerting siren operating in this township.
- Sirens sounding nearby are a trigger for you to seek information, as they may indicate fire activity in your area. When you hear a siren, further information may be available via ABC local radio, commercial and designated community radio stations, and SKY News TV (see page 16).
- Deaf, hearing or speech impaired? Contact the National Relay Service 1800 555 677.
- Mains power may be unavailable or fail – keep a battery powered radio available.

A written fire plan may save your life - would you remember a plan that's just in your head if your surrounded by smoke, heat, flame and noise?

Act

Note your district's Fire Danger Rating daily as your trigger to act.



Chum Creek is in the Central Fire District

Triggers

Actions

What does it mean?	What should I do?
These are the worst conditions for a bush or grass fire. Homes are not designed or constructed to withstand fires in these conditions. The safest place to be is away from high risk bushfire areas.	Leaving high risk bushfire areas the night before or early in the day is your safest option – do not wait and see. Avoid forested areas, thick bush and long, dry grass. Know your trigger. Make a decision about: –when you will leave –where you will go –how you will get there –when you will return –what you will do if you cannot leave
Expect extremely hot, dry and windy conditions. If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving. Spot fires will start, move quickly and will come from many directions. Homes that are situated and constructed or modified to withstand a bushfire, that are well prepared and actively defended, may provide safety. You must be physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.	Consider staying with your property only if you are prepared to the highest level. This means your home needs to be situated and constructed or modified to withstand a bushfire, you are well prepared and you can actively defend your home if a fire starts. If you are not prepared to the highest level, leaving high risk bushfire areas early in the day is your safest option. Be aware of local conditions and get information by listening to ABC Local Radio, commercial and designated community radio stations or Sky News TV, going to **www.cfa.vic.gov.au** or call the VicEmergency Hotline on **1800 226 226**.
Expect hot, dry and possibly windy conditions. If a fire starts and takes hold, it may be uncontrollable. Well prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety. You must be physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.	Well prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety – check your bushfire survival plan. If you are not prepared, leaving bushfire prone areas early in the day is your safest option. Be aware of local conditions and get information by listening to ABC Local Radio, commercial and designated community radio stations or Sky News TV, going to **www.cfa.vic.gov.au** or call the VicEmergency Hotline on **1800 226 226**.
If a fire starts, it can most likely be controlled in these conditions and homes can provide safety. Be aware of how fires can start and minimise the risk. Controlled burning off may occur in these conditions if it is safe – check to see if permits apply.	Check your bushfire survival plan. Monitor conditions. Action may be needed. Leave if necessary.

Act Planned Emerge

Understanding Warnings

- A warning will be issued when any type of emergency could impact you or your property.
- Warnings aim to provide you with the best advice and information on what is happening to help you make good decisions to protect yourself and others.
- Remember: don't rely on an official warning to leave. Emergencies can start quickly and threaten you within minutes.
- Always use more than one source for your emergency information.

Evacuation

You may be advised to evacuate by police or emergency services. In fast-moving situations, you may not always receive a warning or recommendation to evacuate. Stay informed, aware of local conditions and the Fire Danger Rating, so that you can plan ahead and make the right decision in a bushfire. Leaving early is always the safest option. Refer to 'Community Evacuation Information', available at **www.police.vic.gov.au**

Should a recommendation to evacuate be made, the following advice would apply:

- A fire is rapidly advancing.
- If advised, travel to the evacuation destination as advised by emergency services.
- Strictly follow all instructions and advice.

Community information

- A newsletter containing updates for communities affected by an emergency.
- Can also be used as notification that an incident has occurred but there is no threat to community.

Advice

- An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions.
- Can also be used as a notification that activity in the area has subsided and is no longer a danger to you.

Warning (Watch & Act)

- An emergency is developing nearby. You need to take action now to protect yourself and others.

Emergency Warning

- You are in immanent danger and need to take action immediately.

Prepare to evacuate/evacuate now

- An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.

ncy Service Actions

Fire Agencies

- Saving life is the highest priority
- Issuing of community advice and warnings
- Control and manage fire fighting activities
- Where safe to do so protect:
  - Identified community assets
  - Critical infrastructure
  - Residential property
  - The environment

Victoria Police

- Act as Emergency Response Coordinators (arrange requested resources for agencies)
- Keep people safe and property secure
- Assist with evacuation
- Coordinate traffic control and establish traffic management points

Chum Creek: Residents & Visitors

- Know your risk and act in accordance with the Fire Danger Rating triggers on pages 6 & 7
- Keep aware of conditions on bushfire risk days
- Make sure your survival is your highest priority

Yarra Ranges Council

- Open and manage Emergency Relief Centres to assist affected communities (as required)
- Coordinate ongoing Recovery Centres
- Support the community to recover from an emergency

NOTE: Code Red days may affect some services that are delivered by the council

Dept. of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

- Assess injured stock and provide advice
- Coordinate animal welfare support agencies
- Assess agricultural and livestock losses and needs of affected communities

Department of Human Services

- Coordinate Recovery activities for affected communities
- Coordinate interim accommodation after the emergency
- Coordinate emergency relief grants and material aid

Bushfire Survival

WHAT TO DO

Leave Early

- When the Fire Danger Rating is Code Red, leaving early is always the safest option
- Leave early destinations could include homes of families & friends who live outside the risk area, a nearby town or built up area

Always the safest option

Well Prepared

If leaving the high-risk area is no longer an option, there may be options close to where you are that could protect you. These include:

Your safety is

For more information on how to prepare your own

www.cfa.vic.gov.au **VicEmergency Hotline**

Options

- A well prepared home (yours or your neighbours') that you can actively defend on Severe & Extreme Fire Danger Rating days only
- Private Bushfire Shelter (bunker) that meets current regulations
- Designated community fire refuge

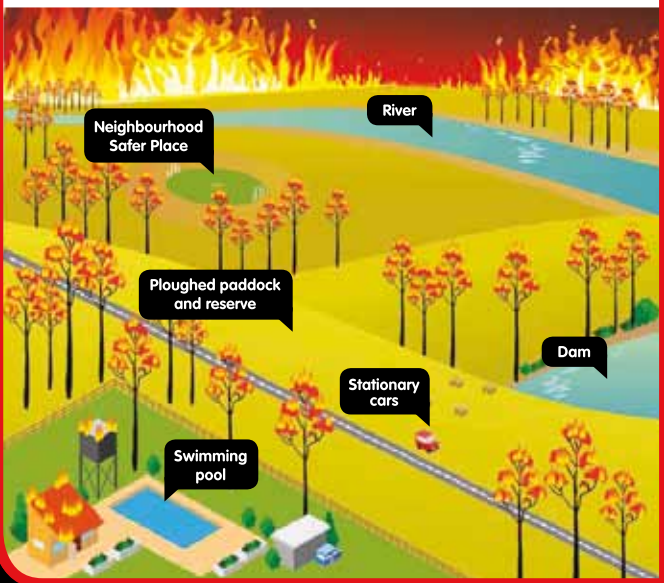
not guaranteed

Last Resort

In situations where no other options are available to you, taking shelter in one of the below may protect from radiant heat:

- Neighbourhood Safer Place (place of last resort)
- Stationary car in a clear area
- Ploughed paddock or reserve
- Body of water (i.e. beach, swimming pool, dam, river, etc.)

High risk of trauma, injury or death



Bushfire Survival Plan:
1800 226 226

Survive

Fire may threaten without warning so you need to know what to do to survive.

Community Fire Refuges

- A Community Fire Refuge is a purpose built or modified building that provides short-term protection from radiant heat and embers. Community Fire Refuges are designed to be a last resort option if your personal survival plan has failed during a bushfire event.
- There is **NO** Community Fire Refuge located in Chum Creek.

Activate your bushfire survival plan early

- Remember, bushfires can happen when least expected. Planning and preparation are essential.
- A last minute decision may cost you and your family your lives.
- **You may not receive an official warning about a bushfire.**
- Do NOT expect a fire truck at your property.
- Have a plan for all levels of Fire Danger Rating. Be aware of both Central and North Central district forecasts.
- Leaving early is the only option that will guarantee your survival.
- Many homes in Chum Creek will NOT be defendable.
- Do not consider staying unless you fully understand your risk, have prepared your home and property to the highest level, and have appropriate equipment and water.
- Staying and actively defending means risk of TRAUMA and DEATH.
- Have back up plans in case your original plan fails.

Leaving late is DANGEROUS

- Travelling on roads in this area during a fire is dangerous.
- You may be impacted by fire, and visibility may be poor due to smoke.
- The roads may be blocked due to falling trees, collisions or emergency vehicles.
- Roads in the area are narrow, steep, unsealed and will be dangerous to travel on during a bushfire.
- Roads out of Chum Creek may become congested or blocked. Leave early before there is a fire in the area, or you may be trapped on the road and endanger your life.
- Travelling north on Healesville-Kinglake Road towards Toolangi takes you through many kilometres of forest and is an EXTREME risk in a bushfire.

There is no Neighbourhood Safer Place – Place of Last Resort in Chum Creek

It is important that you plan to leave early (see page 4). Assemble a relocation kit.

Your relocation kit

Have a relocation kit with essential items already prepared and make sure it is stored in an easily accessible place.

Some of the things that you might like to include in your kit are:

Relocation checklist

- Protective clothing made from natural fibres ☐
- Woollen blankets ☐
- Water and medications ☐
- Toiletries and sanitary supplies ☐
- Mobile phone and charger ☐
- Important documents ☐
- First aid kit ☐
- Cash, ATM/credit cards ☐
- Valuables and photos ☐
- Battery powered radio ☐

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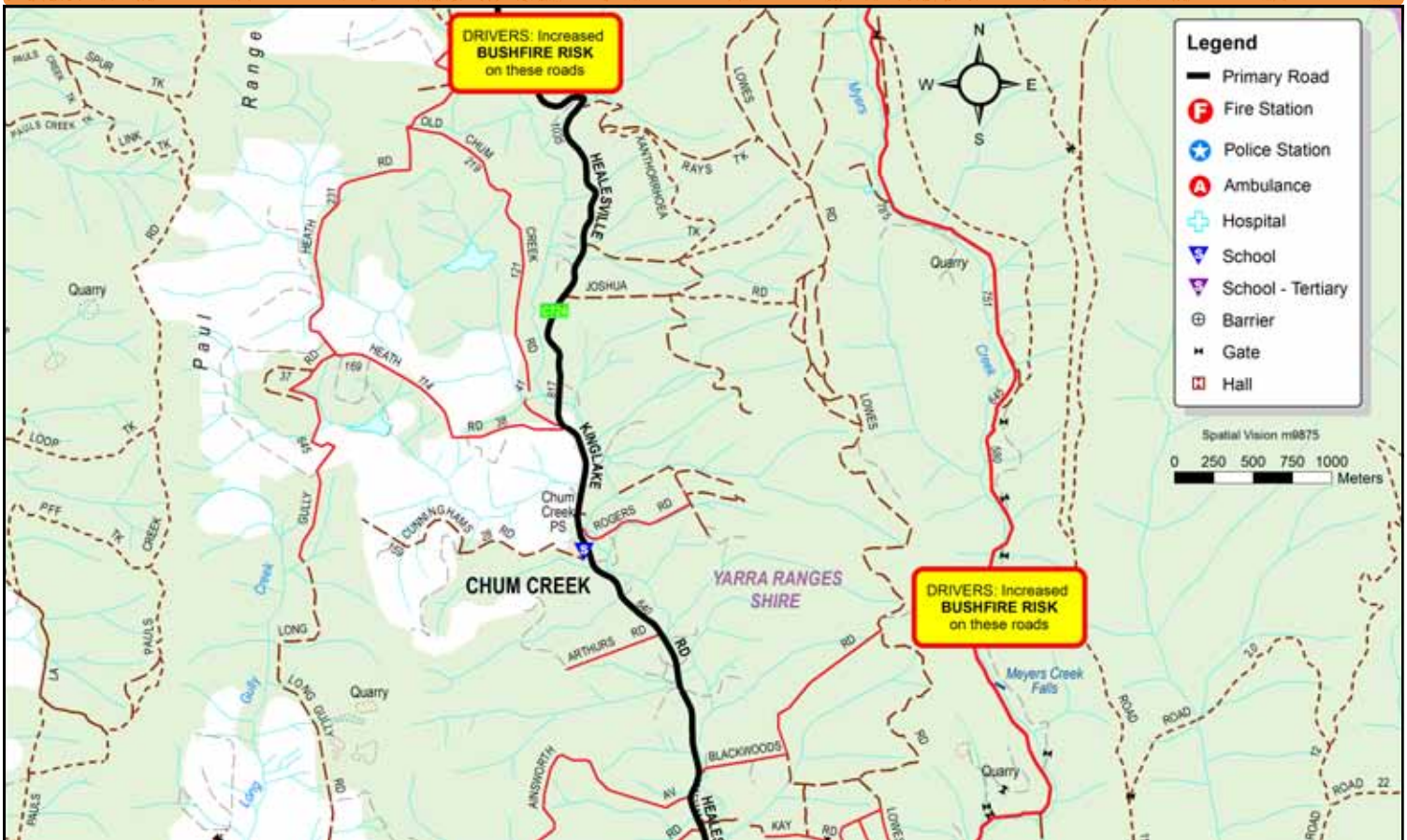
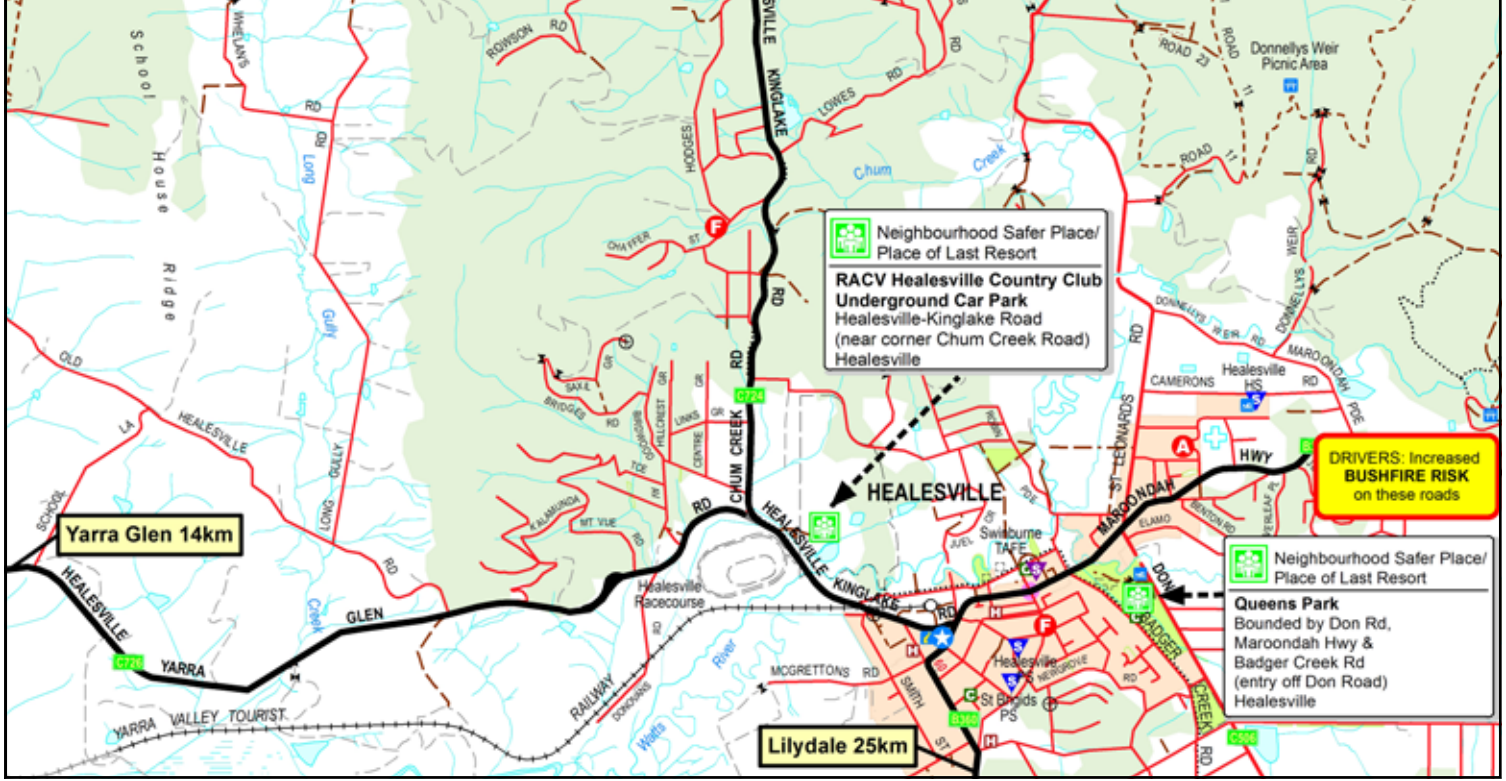
Chum Creek Community Map





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In EMERGENCY dial 000 (TTY 106)

Do not call Triple Zero for information or advice. Calling Triple Zero unnecessarily may put others who are in a genuine emergency situation at risk.

VicEmergency Hotline: 1800 226 226

Emergency Contact Information

Download the VicEmergency app, the official Victorian Government App for access to community information and warnings.

Monitor the VicEmergency App and tune into your emergency broadcaster and VicEmergency website (www.emergency.vic.gov.au) on days of high fire danger ratings is the most reliable way of staying informed. Mains power may be unavailable, or fail, during fire and emergencies – keep a battery powered radio available.

Emergency Broadcasters: Sky News TV, ABC 774 AM, FOX FM 101.9 FM, Triple M 105.1 FM, Gold 104.3 FM, Classic Rock 91.5 FM, Nova 100.3 FM, 3AW 693 AM, Magic 1278 AM, SEN 1116 AM, Mix 101.1 FM

Road closures:	13 11 70 www.vicroads.vic.gov.au
National Park, State Forest and Park closures:	13 19 63 www.parkweb.vic.gov.au
School, early childhood services and bus route closures:	www.education.vic.gov.au
24 Hour Wildlife Emergency:	13 000 WILDLIFE or 1300 094 535
24 Hour NURSE-ON-CALL:	1300 60 60 24

Bushfire Information:

VicEmergency website:	www.emergency.vic.gov.au
CFA website:	www.cfa.vic.gov.au
Follow CFA on Twitter:	www.twitter.com/cfa_updates
Join the CFA Facebook page:	www.facebook.com/cfavic
FFMVic website (Planned burning):	www.ffm.vic.gov.au

Further Information

Dept of Human Services:	www.dhs.vic.gov.au/emergency
Environment and Wildlife:	www.delwp.vic.gov.au/environment-and-wildlife
Weather:	www.bom.gov.au
CFA District Office:	(03) 8739 1300 **(non emergency calls only)**
Yarra Ranges Council:	1300 368 333 or www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

Deaf, hearing impaired or speech impaired? **Contact the National Relay Service on 1800 555 677** if you use a **TTY, 1800 555 727** if you use Speak and Listen, and then ask for: **1800 226 226**

Community Information Guides are dynamic documents which are updated regularly, please visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/guides to confirm the most up to date version.