



CLEMATIS RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

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PRE SUMMER CHECKLIST

- Rake up dry leaves, trim grass and cut back overgrown shrubs and tree branches. If you can't afford expensive equipment like chainsaws or scrub-cutters to clear overgrown areas, hire the gear you need.**
- Clean out gutters and down pipes.
- Remove all rubbish from around the house.**
- Regularly recycle newspapers and cardboard. Don't store piles of recycling material close to the house.
- Store flammable liquids and paint away from the house. LPG gas bottles should have the valve facing away from the house.**
- Pool chemicals can ignite if placed near other flammable liquids so they are best stored well away from all other potentially dangerous chemicals.
- Make sure you have a fire extinguisher and fire blanket (available from hardware stores) and know how to use them.**
- Keep a torch and portable radio with spare batteries.
- Understand the impact a power failure can have - cordless phones and automatic garage doors won't work. Plus your mobile phone may not work during the emergency.**
- Keep garden hoses connected to outside taps and make sure they reach all parts of your home and garden.
- Keep a ladder handy on site that can reach the roof, together with basic tools like a rake, spade, axe and saw. Ensure that the ladder and tools are locked away in your garden shed or garage.**
- Put spark guards in your chimney and clean your chimney every year.
- Don't park cars in long grass. Fires can start when grass comes into contact with a hot exhaust system.**
- If you live in a bushfire-prone area, put fire-resistant mesh screens under verandahs or any areas where burning debris could enter.
- Clearly mark all water sources and keep access to them clear. In Clematis you can call the Fire Brigade to register your pool, dam or water tank with the Static Water Supply (SWS) marking system for use in fire fighting. You'll benefit from knowing the local brigade is aware of your property and from other fire safety measures that will be carried out to ensure access to your water.**
- Check that you have your emergency kit ready for if you need to evacuate. Use a strong bag that's easy to carry for your valuables, important documents, photos and things of sentimental value (plus your children's favourite toys). Include food and water, first aid kit, pet food and any essential medication.