

MARCH 2015

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Getting to know your neighbours is an important step in creating a **resilient community** that responds effectively in an emergency situation. Communities that are well connected can **work together** to identify community concerns & help each other prepare and respond to emergencies. Building relationships with your neighbours can create **safer, healthier & more supportive communities**. It can also promote **tolerance, respect and understanding** & protect the elderly, vulnerable and disadvantaged within our community.

How you can prepare for emergencies with your neighbours?

Invite your neighbours to meet to discuss local risks & concerns & decide on a plan of action;

Exchange contact numbers or set up a phone tree to communicate with each other during an incident;

Include your neighbours in your Emergency Survival Plan; and

Consider how you can share equipment & supplies during an emergency.

Get involved in Neighbour Day on Sunday 29th March

Coordinated by Relationships Australia, Neighbour Day is Australia's annual celebration of community, bringing together the people next door, across the street or on the next farm for a chat, a barbie or just a cuppa.

For more information or to register to receive a free e-kit to help you plan and promote your event, visit the Neighbour Day website at <http://www.neighbourday.org/>.



Join your local Bushfire Ready Group!

Bushfire Ready is a community based program that encourages and supports local residents to work together in **preparing their properties** and **protecting their families** from bushfires. The program aims to build the resilience of communities by providing the opportunity for neighbours to network, share ideas and information and develop and implement strategies to reduce their bushfire risk. Contact your local government to find out about Bushfire Ready groups in your area or visit the DFES website for more information.



For additional information and resources:

- Visit the DFES website. www.dfes.wa.gov.au
- contact DFES Community Engagement on 9395 9816

