

# FIRE FIRE

*adapting to change...*

## > FIRE

Fire, both planned (prescribed) and unplanned, is an increasing reality in South Australia. Local Governments are faced with many challenges when dealing with fire management in their area and in regard to community safety.

## RURAL SOLUTIONS SA



### THE CHALLENGES

Fire can cause devastating risk on communities including the loss of human life, a loss in biodiversity, complete extinction of a local species and/or losses in infrastructure. The challenges we face in effectively reducing these risks include:

- Fire management planning
- Understanding the fire history and fire potential of a region
- Understanding fuel loads
- Understanding the effect of fire on plants and animals

### THE SOLUTIONS

Our consultants have established networks and relationships with regional bodies including fire agencies, NRM boards and community groups. Our consultants have expertise to assist in all aspects of fire management including risk assessment, preparedness, native vegetation management and recovery.

We can provide the following solutions:

#### UNPLANNED FIRE / BUSHFIRE

- Bushfire education and safety training
- Fire Management plans that encompass prevention, preparedness, response and recovery aspects
- Preparation of fuel reduction strategies
- Fire history mapping

#### PLANNED FIRE

- Native vegetation and fuel load assessments
- Fire Management plans that encompass sub regional community planning and native vegetation management
- Ecological burning strategies (reduce the risk of species loss and enhance biodiversity regeneration)
- Production of educational tools: fact sheets and handbooks
- Pre and post burn monitoring
- Fire history mapping

### CASE STUDIES

Ask a Rural Solutions SA consultant to provide more information on the following case studies and others that are relevant to your needs:

- UNPLANNED FIRE: Fire Management Plans
- UNPLANNED FIRE: Bushfire safety skills for women
- PLANNED FIRE: Using prescribed fire to boost biodiversity and reduce fire fuel hazards.



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### CASE STUDIES

#### UNPLANNED FIRE: Fire Education and Training for Women

Research shows an increase in the number of women dying in bushfires over the past 30 years. In the Wangary fire on South Australia's Eyre Peninsula in 2005, nine lives were claimed, seven were women and children.

**Solution:** provide women with basic skills and confidence in bushfire safety through 'Fiery Women' Workshops

Rural Solutions SA has:

- Designed, delivered and evaluated the workshops, in partnership with the SA CFS.
- The workshops provided the women with bushfire knowledge and skills to enable them to confidently prepare their own bushfire survival plans.
- Fifty women attended the pilot workshops on Lower Eyre Peninsula.
- The program is now being extended state wide.
- Designed workshops that are easily adaptable to deliver tailor made training to other groups and organisations.



CFS educator showing a workshop attendee how to operate a pump

#### PLANNED FIRE: Using prescribed fire to boost biodiversity and reduce fire fuel hazards

Burning of vegetation can be crucial in reducing fire fuel hazards and can assist in promoting ecological regeneration. Numerous landholders have expressed a desire to use planned for these purposes but are unsure how.

**Solution:** provide landholders with the tools for safely undertaking prescribed fires.

Rural Solutions SA has:

- Developed fire history mapping using aerial photographs and satellite imagery
- Been able to identify the influence of historical fires on habitats
- Assist in developing subregional community based fire management plans
- Developed educational tools including a guidebook and fact sheets
- Conducted community based fire management planning workshops.
- Equip landholders with the tools needed to undertake prescribed burning.
- Enhance community understanding of ecological burning.



Prescribed burn



## Environmental Solutions

Positive environmental impact

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