



Shire of Northam
Heritage, Commerce and Lifestyle

Shire of Northam

Agenda

Local Emergency Management Committee

15 August 2019

NOTICE PAPER

Local Emergency Management Committee

15 August 2019

Committee Members

I inform you that the Local Emergency Management Committee meeting will be held at the Northam Regional Hospital, Robinson Street, Northam on 15 August 2019 at 3:00pm.

Yours faithfully



Jason Whiteaker
Chief Executive Officer



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Contents

1.	DECLARATION OF OPENING	5
2.	ATTENDANCE.....	5
2.1	APOLOGIES	6
3.	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS.....	6
4.	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	6
4.1	COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 21 MARCH 2019	6
5.	COMMITTEE REPORTS	7
5.1	AGENCY REPORTS AND ISG ACTIVATIONS.....	7
5.2	UPDATES / ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM MEMBERS.....	11
5.2.1	LEMC EXERCISE	11
5.3	CORRESPONDENCE.....	11
6.	MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN	11
7.	URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY DECISION	11
8.	SCHEDULED MEETINGS.....	11
9.	DECLARATION OF CLOSURE	11

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

2. ATTENDANCE

Voting Members:

Shire of Northam President	Chris Antonio
Shire of Northam Local Recovery Coordinator Executive Manager Development Services Community Emergency Services Manager (Executive Officer) Department of Fire and Emergency Service	Chadd Hunt Brendon Rutter Michael Lovell Colin Brown
WA Police, Northam (Local Emergency Coordinator)	David Hornsby
WA Police, Wundowie (Local Emergency Coordinator)	Jamie Cresswell
Department of Communities	Jo Spadaccini
Northam Regional Hospital	Jennifer Lee

Non-voting Members:

SEMC Secretariat	Yvette Grigg
Northam Airport	Matt Bignell Errol Croft
Australian Defence Force	Damian Powell
Arc Infrastructure	Clinton Lobb
Northam Bushfire Brigades (CBFCO)	Mathew Macqueen
Department of Agriculture & Food WA	Josh Smith
Department of Education	Laura Russ
Dept. Parks and Wildlife	Graeme Keals
Disability Services Commission	Ben Deverell
Housing Authority	Afilla Mencshelyi
Aged Care (Juniper)	Glenda Kirkman
Public Health Nurse	Anne Foyer
Main Roads WA Wheatbelt	Gren Putland
Fire & Rescue Northam	Greg Montgomery
Fire & Rescue Wundowie	Tyron McMahan
Australian Border Force	Sharan Brown
Red Cross	Erin Fuery
Salvation Army	Ben Day
Immigration Detention Centre	Shaun Horseman
Silver Chain	Claire Wall
St John Ambulance	Matthew Guile
Water Corporation	Larry Bailly
Western Power	Brian Smith
Northam State Emergency Service	Sarge Bottacin

2.1 APOLOGIES

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Item Name	Item No.	Name	Type of Interest	Nature of Interest

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 21 MARCH 2019

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee meeting held 21 March 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1 AGENCY REPORTS AND ISG ACTIVATIONS

For the committee to receive reports from agencies and discuss any issues on any emergencies that occurred since the previous meeting held on 20 September 2018.

Agencies listed may include: Shire of Northam Bush Fire Brigades, Northam SES, Northam Police, Wundowie Police, DFES, and Northam Hospital.

The Shire of Northam's Agency Report has been provided as Attachment 1.

The State Emergency Services Report has been provided as Attachment 2.



Attachment 1

2018/2019 Bush Fire Season

The 2018/2019 fire season finally came to a close with the Horton Rd Fire back in May.

The Horton Rd fire was a very prolonged and complex incident and one that burnt with such ferocity the fire ground resembled something you would expect to find during January/February. The fire behaviour was extremely erratic and serves best as a stark reminder that our seasons are getting longer and even though the weather, may be changing the prolonged dry conditions mean that fires of this magnitude have the potential to occur very late in the season, something we must be extremely mindful of as we head into the permit season following the prohibited burning period.

It is important to acknowledge all the volunteers who attended the Horton Rd fire but in particular the Inkpen & Bakers Hill members who maintained a consistent presence on the fire ground for 72 hrs post incident to monitor and deal with any re-occurring hot spots.

Fires such as this highlight how quickly we can be caught off guard, to have a level 2 incident in late May is not what most would expect however it is fast becoming a harsh reality of our changing climate.

For 5 days post fire the our Volunteer Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, the Deputy Chief and myself worked with the owners of the mulching facility to develop a strategy to initiate a controlled process for full extinguishment of over 30,000 cubic mtrs of mulch products at various stages of processing. Once restorative works were under way I would attend the site each day to liaise with the property owners and their staff, and in conjunction with ongoing advice from DWER and continuing air quality monitoring throughout the recovery works the site was able to be restored to normal operations.

The owner of the property tasked all of his staff each day to operate 5 x front end loaders, 2 x back hoes, and 3 x water carts that worked consistently to extinguish the mulch piles. There was approx. 800,000 ltrs of water used each day to achieve total extinguishment. Total size of this fire was 272 Ha and during the peak of the incident there was over 50 appliances and 175 personnel involved in fighting the fire.

The incident was finally declared closed by myself on Friday May 31st at midday

16 days after the fire started, the total loss to the business owner as a result of this fire is an estimated \$500,000 with an estimated \$10,000 - \$15,000 per day for the recovery operation.

The Fire investigations team had attended the incident and identified the point of ignition was on a neighbouring property, the cause is still being investigated however preliminary advice is that the cause is not suspicious.

Thankfully our season was once again relatively quiet with a total of 78 incidents within the Shire of Northam for the financial year.

Attachment 2

April

- Saw a number of requests for assistance in relation to storm damage and water damage, in most cases we have the ever continuing issues of blocked gutters, the only major fatality was a new house losing the entire roof the size of the task resulted in Toodyay SES assisting Northam.
- One business also had a sign come loose; this was a simple task off fastening it back before it blew away.
- We were also activated our water bomber reloading team to help with fire support

A regular and constant Request For Assistance we receive from public is water damage, where blocked gutters rate high as the main cause, structural damage caused by storms and wind are few,

Whilst we are forever advertising for all to be safe lack of maintenance is the main problem.

June

- Saw providing Fire support at a structural fire in Northam and was also asked to assist at a structural fire in York, with the assistance of York SES the job was attended too.
- We also attended to a storm damage call in Northam it is interesting to note that the callout was due to blocked gutters and water damage

July

- We received a call on a Sunday night to assist Toodyay SES in a land search for a missing person; the positive outcome was the person was found in the late hours of the night.

Unit members continue with regular training as the season is soon upon us we are now looking at reviewing our skills in Water Bomber reloading, ensuring all equipment is ready for use.

We have over the last couple of month said farewell to some members but we are happy to say the we have welcomed to the team new members.

5.2 UPDATES / ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION FROM MEMBERS

5.2.1 LEMC EXERCISE

The purpose of this discussion is to gauge what each organisation hopes to test from the exercise.

5.3 CORRESPONDENCE

IN:

1. Nil.

OUT:

1. Minutes from the Local Emergency Management Committee meeting held on 21 March 2019.
2. Notes from the Recovery Meeting held on 16 May 2019 and 20 May 2019.

6. MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil.

7. URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY DECISION

8. SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Meeting schedule 2019:
14th November 2018 – LEMC Exercise, Northam Recreational Centre

9. DECLARATION OF CLOSURE