

**Question on Notice No. 967, Wednesday, 1 September 2004**

**Mrs ATTWOOD** asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr Cummins) -  
With the bushfire season upon us, what sorts of activities are fire fighters offering in my area to raise awareness about fire safety?

**Mr CUMMINS:**

I thank the Member for her Question and would like to congratulate her on her ongoing strong support for Emergency Services within her electorate. The firefighters in the Mount Ommaney area are involved in the delivery of many fire safety and fire awareness activities.

Firefighters carry out fire awareness and education programs in local schools which includes an annual presentation on Fire Education given to Year One primary school students. The annual Lions Poster Competition, is distributed through Education Queensland for Year Four students, this activity is run in conjunction with Fire Awareness Week. Fire crews also attend school fetes to promote fire awareness and hand out promotional material.

Additionally, Local Scout Den, Girl Guide and Brownie Groups visit the stations as part of their training on fire safety. Operational observation of fire drills and evacuations are conducted with business and schools within the area, assisting them to assess their emergency procedures, which also acts as a reminder to the community for fire awareness.

Fire Awareness Week was held between 22-28 August 2004. Activities enabled firefighters to promote fire safety and fire awareness throughout the local community in locations such as shopping centres and more recently radio interviews. On 28 August the Mount Ommaney Fire Station recently held an 'open day' and invited members of the community to view the station and discuss any queries they may have on fire safety with the firefighters.

Operation Safehome provides free advice to the community on fire safety and the precautions that can be put in place for fire protection and early detection of fire. Firefighters can install smoke alarms during these visits if required. The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service work in conjunction with many community based groups and Neighbourhood Watch committees to deliver presentations on fire safety.

A promotional magnetised action guide has been handed out to the public itemising what preparatory steps homeowners can take in readiness for the pending bushfire season.

An example of the information provided to the community by the firefighters on bushfire safety is:

- Clear fuels around the house for at least 30 metres
- Keep grassed areas trimmed and well-watered
- Trim under fences and remove accumulated undergrowth
- Check that firefighting equipment is in reliable working condition
- Secure roof and clean gutters of dry leaf debris
- Store woodpiles, boxes, paper, outside furniture, flammable liquids etc well away from the house.

When a bushfire is in your locality;

- If a fire threatens, notify your local fire brigade. Do not assume someone else has advised them
- Fill all available buckets, hand basins and the bath with water
- Close all windows and doors
- Wet towel and block gaps between doors and floor
- Have buckets of water in the ceiling with a ladder at the manhole
- Block down pipes and fill gutters with water
- Keep watch for spot fires on or around the house
- Use a damp handkerchief as a mask. Keep it damp
- Wet down roof, house and garden, especially on the side of the approaching fire.