# Benambra Community Emergency Plan

**Benambra is a connected community. Our solidarity, shared experiences and trust in local knowledge and networks keeps us resilient and prepared for emergencies.**

This **Benambra Community Emergency Plan** sets out how we respond as a community in an emergency. Our community actions below are key activities taken at the beginning of the season and during an emergency, and in some cases before state and other agencies can physically attend.

**Emergency information**

STAND Satellite/Wi-fi/charging (generator to be installed) at Benambra Neighbourhood House (BNH)

(03) 5159 9208

ABC FM 828

UHF Radio Ch40

https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/

| Community Action | Expectation of agency(s) |
|---|---|
| **Fire season commences**<br>• (Pre-season) **Benambra-dedicated** operators to be certified to operate machinery with bush specs<br>• Check that slip-ons (~12) are operational<br>• Discuss with older/less mobile residents about evacuation options and community impact if choose to stay<br>• Locate local static water tank(s) for times of emergency | • Coordinated mental health and wellbeing support services established (preventative steps)<br>• Volunteer(s) / bushfire liaison agency staff to attend BNH from start of season to get to know locals / provide wellbeing support at networking events<br>• Reinforce importance of handover processes shift change of agency personnel and keeping the local community informed<br>• With agency collaboration, inform community of Neighbourhood Safer Place, refuge centre and local procedures and information available at BNH |
| **Smoke/fire in landscape (eg. Bogong High Plains)**<br>• Local certified operators to operate machinery (eg. a nominated responsible person(s))<br>• Central place at BNH to take respite between tending to animals/property<br>• Keep well-stocked pantries and fuel<br>• Look out for each other<br>• Refer to Benambra **LIMP** | • Open communication channels with partner agencies from the north (i.e. Corryong)<br>• Certify local operators to operate machinery<br>• Heavy machinery and required attachments available locally<br>• Grade around town and assets incl. houses, hay/woolsheds<br>• Strike teams to use Rec Reserve as basecamp (close to CFA, DEWLP accommodation)<br>• Use local fire crews, who know the tracks and the conditions |
| **Communication**<br>• Informal community telephone tree to check on everyone<br>• Use UHF Radio Handsets - channel 40<br>• BNH is the information and communication hub with technology and generator<br>• Community discussion at pre-Summer briefing that outlines LIMP and local \an (in conjunction with local agency) | • Up to date, accurate and detailed agency information (also via official apps)<br>• Community to access communications at BNH where agencies (and other communities) provide updates via video-link<br>• Satellite, internet and wi-fi calling enabled at BNH<br>• Provide CFA with back-up power and back-up communications<br>• UHF Radio Handsets made available for community use |
| **Power out**<br>• Maintain own generator (where relevant)<br>• Local electrician and mechanics certified for refuelling any specific generators in an emergency<br>• Store owner equitably distributes fuel amongst community | • Require fuel drops<br>• Larger (temporary) generators required and to be situated at Benambra Turn off (near Rodger Connley's house) and Benambra Hotel<br>• AusNet provide dedicated High Country resource<br>• Power back-up on communications tower where power is out for more than a day |

| Community Action | Expectation of agency(s) |
|---|---|
| **Key road closures (eg. Omeo Hwy, Great Alpine, Corryong)**<br>• Locals carry proof of address to access, eg. 2nd wallet (ID, Property Identification Code number and/or rates notice) | • Timely information about access routes when open and when convoys in/out (incl via website)<br>• Prioritise food/fodder deliveries and stock transport<br>• Those enforcing road incident control protocols need to be properly briefed about local hazards, conditions and to allow locals through<br>• Closure signage at corners (not 40km down road) |
| **Goods and fodder delivery**<br>• Pack boxes and enable equitable distribution (to those in most need first) to community from BNH (cool room once built)<br>• Independent and informed person to equitably distribute resources (avoid making assumptions) | • Donated goods (food/water) to be offered to community and stored at BNH<br>• Documented process for communicating and managing donated goods to be put in place with support agencies (Lions, Rural Aid, Salvos, etc)<br>• Require volunteer(s) (jobshare) or relief agency staff to attend BNH during an emergency event<br>• Require vermin proof distribution shed (under grant application) |
| **Meals**<br>• Coordinate a list of locals who can help cater (requires succession planning)<br>• Register kitchen at BNH (once built) | • Local freezer vans and cool rooms |
| **Pets / Livestock**<br>• Equitable fodder delivery prioritised to burnt properties<br>• Cages / pens for own pets<br>• Yards at Rec Reserve for larger pets (tbc) | • Prioritise permits (easy process) to allow stock and fodder transport (road access)<br>• Prioritise vets to access area |
| **Evacuation**<br>• Self-declare to BNH when evacuating<br>• If electing to stay, complete "Do Not Evacuate" form<br>• Older and mobility restricted people are evacuated to BNH for respite, as required | • Clear, correct and concise information provided the community about evacuations, convoys and road opening times<br>• Respect individual preferences not to leave livestock |