Swifts Creek Community Emergency Plan

Swifts Creek is a hub for surrounding areas including Bindi, Brookville, Cassilis, Tongio, Tongio West and Doctors Flat, in the southern part of the Omeo region. It is a social place for meeting with an IGA, bakery, cafe and pub, and also an emergency precinct when need, hosting the Swifts Creek Incident Control Centre (ICC), Bush Nursing Centre, Hall and Rec Reserve.

This **Swifts Creek 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, often before state and other agencies can physically attend.

Emergency information

STAND Satellite/Wi-fi/charging (back-up generator) capability at Hall. (03) 5159 4477

Local community radio 97.1AM
ABC FM 720

UHF Channel 40

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

Community Action	Expectation of agency(s)

Fire season commences

- Individual responsibility to keep water tanks supplied, pumps working, generator maintained, properties clear
- Locate local static water tank(s) for times of emergency
- Farmers to check their own slip-on / spray unit
- List of skills / structure for managing spontaneous volunteers (eg. barber/ hairdresser, spreadsheet skills, remedial massage for emergency workers, make tea, clean kitchen, food prep / heat meals, community radio)
- Reach out to new neighbours / locals who have moved in during the pandemic
- Prepare list of who has satellite phone/internet

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- Highlight ‘Knowledge for newcomers’ (eg. community-based and mental health services available)
- Bulk purchasing arrangements through agencies, such as Landcare, e.g., encourage people to have spray units for own use on property, or Bush Nurse for air-purifiers/filters for those with breathing challenges
- Access to fire preparedness training (off farm)
- Air purifier / filters for Hall
- Navigate privacy implications for community registers, eg., volunteer skills, satellite phone and evacuation registers

Smoke/fire in landscape

- Local operators to operate machinery (eg. a nominated responsible person(s))
- Community Hall as central place to take respite and then go back to attend animals/property
- Kids to run around in hall/ community centre (to socialise)
- Keep well-stocked pantries and fuel
- Look out for each other
- Refer to Swifts Creek **LIMP**

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- Grade around township to prepare a fire break
- Use local fire crews, who know the tracks and the conditions
- Access to water at Rec Reserve
- Cassilis Historic site “H1940” to be protected

Communication

- Darby’s (Swift Creek IGA) and Hall have Wi-fi
- Local ‘responsible’ person to fill generator to power Comms
- UHF radio – Ch 40
- Local community radio (97.1AM) for news updates on a loop (eg. when convoy is leaving/arriving)
- Great Alpine Gallery and Community Centre – valuable spaces for social connection

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- Two points of comms for DELWP daily report – Hall and the IGA (need volunteer to relay info sheet every couple of hours)
- Regular and accurate Agency information (official apps are hours behind / lack required detail)
- ICC to record audio of community briefing and remotely relay via Community Radio (requires a volunteer with skills)

Community Action	Expectation of agency(s)

Power out

- Many have own generators and are self-sufficient, but not everyone
- Big cook-ups (when all freezers emptied)
- Hall is generator-ready (switchboard)
- When Mill closes, an organised casual workforce becomes available

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- Power back-up on communications tower needs to be more than a day
- Local technician to support refuelling generator **or** AusNet dedicated High Country resource
- Unlock the transfer station
- Provide generators (x3) to service station, pub and community centre

Key road closures (eg. Great Alpine Road)

- Locals carry proof of address, eg. 2nd wallet (ID, Property Identification Code number and/or rates notice)

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- Timely information about access routes (websites are out of date (if able to access))
- Prioritise food/fodder deliveries and stock transport
- Those enforcing road incident control protocols need to be properly briefed about local hazards, conditions and to allow locals through

Goods and fodder delivery

- Communal carpool for supply-trips to Bairnsdale
- Distribution of goods to those in need with advice from Bush Nurse

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- Prefer money or vouchers, not donated goods.
- Volunteers to help with distribution, unloading water, also identifying who has extra beds

Meals

- Cooking meals / catering from the pub and bakery (support local business)
- Chef can deliver up to 400 meals/day

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- Local freezer vans and cool rooms

Pets / Livestock

- Cages / pens for own pets (people can’t seek respite if can’t bring their animals)

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- Prioritise permits (easy process) to allow stock and fodder transport (road access)
- Prioritise vets to access area
- Large wire cages available for larger animals

Evacuation

- Evacuate early when taking pets and animals
- If choose to stay, make neighbours/locals aware
- Let your neighbours know when evacuating

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- Older and mobility restricted people may seek respite (and clean air) at Bush Nursing Centre
- Where no family support at home, require laundry service, meals, support for wellbeing
- Respect preference not to leave livestock