



MEDIA RELEASE

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New bushfire warning system set to save lives in high-risk Brisbane community

Toowoomba-based bushfire specialists Bushfire Risk Reducers have demonstrated a new bushfire warning system – the first of its kind in Australia – at Mt Nebo, one of the highest bushfire risk areas in Queensland, just 25kms NW of Brisbane CBD.

Developed and implemented by Bushfire Risk Reducers (BRR) in conjunction with the local authority, Pine Rivers Shire Council, the emergency services and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, the new Emergency Warning System (EWS) is part of a new Community Bushfire Risk Management System (CBRMS) that will make it a lot easier for emergency services to plan how to deal with a bushfire and to communicate with local residents threatened by the fire.

The new CBRMS is an Australian first in that it brings together three elements to help emergency services and residents – 1) a unique Property Planning and Mapping System developed by BRR, which assesses and manages risk at an individual property level and gives emergency services much needed field intelligence at the property level; 2) a Community Bushfire Plan – giving local residents a clear idea of what they will need to listen out for and what actions they must take; and 3) the Emergency Warning System itself. The warning system has 5 components:

- A three phase warning siren
- A direct callout mechanism to mobile phones and landlines
- A roadside LED signage system showing bushfire incident status and other emergency information
- A 1800MTNEBO information line
- A network of trained and equipped street coordinators

Alistair Hill, Managing Director of Bush Risk Reducers says: "As a Rural Fire Service volunteer in my own time I understand how information of this quality is vital in forming a view on which properties and residents we have a better than even chance of assisting. Few or none of the services responding to an incident are aware of important variations at individual properties, with the exception of those properties which brigade members know first hand. The Property Planning and Mapping System gives us as firefighters the intel we need to do the job more safely and effectively in attempting to save lives and property."

The Emergency Warning System recently won a 2007 Safer Communities Award and the Property Planning and Mapping System developed by BRR is currently being implemented in two other Shires, with keen interest from high risk communities in NSW as well. Although developed with bushfires in mind the CBRMS/EWS has applications in many other natural emergency situations.

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The Development of the CBRMS/EWS

Pine Rivers Shire Council supplied and arranged funding for the CBRMS/EWS project through the Department of Transport and Regional Services and State Government Natural Disaster Mitigation Program and the project has been keenly supported by all emergency agencies – Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, Queensland Police Service, State Emergency Services, Local Counter Disaster Groups, Pine Rivers Shire Council and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

About Bushfire Risk Reducers

Bushfire Risk Reducers provides a range of products and services to individual property owners and government authorities. These range from design and construction solutions and bushfire management planning for large developments down to single dwellings, as well as the development of tailor-made community risk management systems for communities of hundreds of properties, down to single properties. BRR also supplies highly innovative products such as Barricade Fire Blocking Gel, which can save properties and lives. This non toxic biodegradable gel coating has been demonstrated to be highly effective in preventing ignition and in providing a thermal insulation layer against fire damage. For contact info go to www.bushfire.biz

To arrange an interview with Alistair Hill, MD of Bushfire Risk Reducers, or for more photos or information please contact David Bateson on 0402 332287



Mt Nebo Emergency Warning System



Alistair Hill, MD of Bushfire Risk Reducers with Rural Fire Service Volunteers on Mt Nebo