

Shire of Victoria Plains

Spontaneous Volunteer FAQ



Spontaneous Volunteer Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do I have to be a registered Bush Fire Brigade Member to be covered by insurance at fires?

A: No, a Spontaneous Volunteer is covered by the Shire's insurance providing they make their presence known to the Shire's Incident Controller and the incident has been called into 000.

Q: If I attend a bush fire and do not have a Vehicle ID sticker, will I be asked to leave?

A: Yes, for your safety and the safety of all other volunteers, the Shire has a duty to ensure you are aware of how to operate safely within the combined response effort. Our Fire Control Officers will use the stickers as a fast and effective way to identify that you have achieved the requirements.

Q: If I have a fire and don't call 000, will I, and the other responders be covered by the Shire's insurance?

A: No, all assistance provided will be at your own exposure as the Shire cannot insure something they are unaware of. If an incident was to occur, under the *Work Health & Safety Act 2020* this would be your responsibility.

Q: If something happens at an incident before I call 000, will the Shire's insurance cover it?

A: No, under the *Work Health & Safety Act 2020* this would be your responsibility as the property owner. It is best to call 000 immediately to ensure you are provided all the support require rather than waiting until it isn't controllable.

Q: I notified everyone via WhatsApp, is this sufficient notification to the Shire?

A: No, requesting via a messaging app to community members directly is not the way to inform the Shire of an incident, all liability is then on yourself. The only way to inform the Shire is via a call to 000 immediately as an incident occurs. The also Shire does not accept calls directly to the Administration or Fire Control Officers.

Q: My vehicle isn't registered, can I get a vehicle ID sticker and drive it on the road to a fire?

A: No, all road traffic laws apply to any spontaneous volunteer response vehicle. If you break these laws, you maybe exposed under the *Road Traffic Act 1974* and subsequently charged by Police.

Q: What PPE do I need to wear as a Spontaneous Volunteer?

A: PPE requirements are set out in the Operate Private Equipment at Fire DFES Guideline that consists of natural fibre clothing, boots, gloves etc. – visit www.dfes.wa.gov.au for more information.

Although not required, it is recommended that a Spontaneous Volunteer invest in proper fire PPE.

For further questions, contact the Community Safety Officer, Shire of Victoria Plains 08 9628 7004

