

# Bushfire recovery toolkit

March 22, 2024

## Bushfire information

The Red Hill bushfire was reported at 12.39pm on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 and has burnt almost 700ha in parts of Red Hill, Millendon, Herne Hill and Baskerville.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services has deemed the cause of the fire to be accidental.

Thanks to the incredible efforts of firefighters and air support crews, no homes have been lost. However, some properties have sustained damage to sheds and fencing.

Sadly, the blaze destroyed a cottage in Wandoo Heights which was gifted to the City in 1988. Residents are urged not to visit the cottage site because of the presence of hazardous materials, including asbestos. Removalists will clear the material as soon as possible.

The City is very mindful that the fire has impacted sensitive environmental and cultural areas, including Wandoo Heights. It is expected that a plan will be developed to manage these areas.

## Property information

### Insurance

If your property has been damaged, you should contact your insurer and lodge a claim as soon as possible. You may want to take photographs of the damage to support your claim. Any issues or complaints about your claim can be referred to the Insurance Council of Australia.

Visit [www.cityofswan.social/insurance](http://www.cityofswan.social/insurance)

### Asbestos

If your property has been damaged and you suspect asbestos may be present, you should contact your insurer and lodge a claim as soon as possible. You may want to take photographs of the damage to support your claim.

Visit [www.cityofswan.social/fire-damaged-asbestos](http://www.cityofswan.social/fire-damaged-asbestos)

### Western Power

If you were affected by power outages lasting 12 hours or more, you may be eligible for a service standard payment.

Visit [www.cityofswan.social/westernpower](http://www.cityofswan.social/westernpower) or call **13 10 87**.

### Pets and livestock

It is common for fencing to get damaged during fires, meaning pets and livestock can roam. Residents are urged to check their fencing and animals to make sure they are safe. Please report stray animals to the City by calling **(08) 9267 9267**.

### Fire retardant

Fire retardant is a mix of water and chemicals which help slow the spread of fire. It is often coloured pink to mark where it has been applied. If your property has been impacted by retardant, make sure you use safety glasses, disposable gloves and a face mask when cleaning surfaces. If you or your animals come into contact with retardant, wash the affected area with a mild soap and cold water.

Visit [www.cityofswan.social/use-of-retardant](http://www.cityofswan.social/use-of-retardant)

### Rainwater tanks

If fire retardant has impacted areas of your property that collect water, disconnect any downpipes that connect to water tanks. This will stop more retardant being washed into tanks. Wash down your roof and let the first rain flush through before reattaching the roof runoff to the tank. If the retardant enters your water tank, do not drink it. High levels of retardant in water will make it smell terrible and taste salty, but it can still be used for irrigation and firefighting. The tank should be drained and thoroughly washed out, then rinsed with fresh water before use.

Visit [www.cityofswan.social/rainwater-tank-contamination](http://www.cityofswan.social/rainwater-tank-contamination)

### Need some help?

#### City of Swan Local Recovery Coordinator

Ian Robinson, City of Swan Emergency Management and Crime Prevention Officer, has been appointed to coordinate local recovery efforts. For any recovery-related enquiries, please call **(08) 9267 9022** or email [ian.robinson@swan.wa.gov.au](mailto:ian.robinson@swan.wa.gov.au) during business hours.

#### Looking after yourself and others

It is normal to feel upset, unsettled or overwhelmed after a traumatic experience, such as a large bushfire. Time and the right support can help people cope with the stress of such a situation. If you want to speak to someone, your GP is a good person to have a conversation with.

In a crisis, call Lifeline on **13 11 14**.

#### After The Disaster podcast with Dr Kate Brady

Tune in to the ABC's After The Disaster podcast to hear practical tips and evidence-based advice on handling recovery.

Visit <https://ab.co/3MkiiXP>