



Circular 103:08:08

To: SW Region Club Captains SW Region First Aid Officers
SW Region Lifesaver Services Managers
Regional Officers

Cc: SW Region Club Presidents SW Region Club Secretaries
Bellarine District Officer South Barwon District Officer
Otway District Officer State Emergency Management Officer
State Lifesaving Communications Officer

From: Matthew Ponsford
Regional Officer – South West Region

Date: 27 August 2008

Subject: Wildfire Beach Evacuation Kits

Action: Read and follow below

In late 2006 lifesaving clubs in the Otways (between Anglesea and Apollo Bay) received a 'Wildfire Beach Evacuation Kit' which contained basic first aid supplies, water and Relief / Recovery information in preparation for an expected bad fire season, which fortunately did not occur in our Region. This was a joint initiative of the Department of Human Services Barwon South West Region and the South West and Far West Regions of Life Saving Victoria.

The kits are designed to be used by lifesavers in the event of a large wildfire where people evacuate to the beach. The kit could be used to assist with the treatment of minor burns and minor injuries until a Relief / Recovery Centre was established by the relevant Local Government Authority in the area. The kits are portable and can be easily transported onto the beach.

The above Clubs are to inspect their kits by the end of September for any items that are out of date (eg. Drinking water) and advise me so that DHS can order (and pay) to replenish your kit, in preparation for Summer 2008 – 2009.

DHS have now funded an additional 7 kits which will allow all remaining South West Region Clubs (and permanent outposts) from Queenscliff to Jan Juc to receive a kit in coming weeks.

The content of each kit includes:

Gloves, Burns Dressings, Glad Wrap (to cover large areas of full / partial thickness burns), Sodium Chloride Ampules, Sterile Water, Eye Wash Kits, Triangular Bandages, Roller Bandages, Crepe Bandages, Combine Dressings, Tape, Drinking Water and DHS Relief / Recovery pamphlets.

Please note that the kits must only be used in the event of a major emergency where people evacuate / congregate onto your beach. They are not to be used to treat every day first aid cases by your patrols or to 'top up club first aid rooms / kits'.

In coming weeks there will be some media activity related to the rollout of the additional kits and this proactive partnership between DHS & LSV.

Should you have any further queries about this initiative, please don't hesitate to contact me.

For additional detail on this Circular contact: Matthew Ponsford – Regional Officer, South West Region

Email mattpon@bigpond.net.au or by phone: 0419 525 258

Circulars are also available at www.lifesavingvictoria.com.au

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