



Rescue Service Ph: 1300 094 737

## BUSHFIRE ADVICE

When bushfires strike around the country WIRE is often inundated with calls from the public wanting to help. It is encouraging to know that people care about our wildlife.

Many calls we have taken are from wonderful people wanting to assist with the rescue of injured wildlife in a direct way and while these offers are appreciated at times of crisis, it is necessary for them to be licensed and trained before they are able to do this safely.

Only appropriately trained WIRE members are authorised to carry out such activities, and they must not attempt to enter fire areas until authorised to do so by local Fire Control Officers.

We would like to suggest that apart from donations, one of the most effective ways the public can help is to think about registering now to attend one of our volunteer training courses and become a trained WIRE rescuer or carer. Then if we are faced with catastrophic fires you would be in a position to actively assist injured wildlife in the most direct way.

It is important for people who live near areas where fires have gone through to remember:

Keep cats indoors and dogs under control wherever possible.

Leave bowls of water out for animals and birds escaping the fires.

Keep a cardboard box and towel in the boot of their car in case you find an injured animal.

If you rescue an animal that has been burnt, wrap it loosely, place it in a cardboard box, keep it in a dark, quiet and warm place.

Call WIRE or take it to a local vet for assistance as soon as possible.

Make water available.

Do not try to feed the animal.

Do not leave food out in the national parks for the wildlife.

Please remember WIRE is a registered charity and relies upon the generosity of the public to continue our work. Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible.

Further information is available on request from WIRE Head Office

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