

AIDER PROGRAMME

Assistance for Infirm, Disabled and Elderly Residents



THE AIDER PROGRAMME

The AIDER Programme is a key part of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) focus on hazard reduction activities and special programmes to help communities prepare for bush fire.

Not everyone is able to treat hazards in the same way, some people may not find it easy to trim trees or clear gutters or fuel from around their yards. Some people may be more vulnerable to the impact of bushfire on their house.

The RFS will provide FREE assistance in doing fuel reduction works on private property of infirm, disabled and elderly residents who live in a bush fire prone area. This basic property preparation includes work like:

- clearing gutters,
- thinning vegetation,
- removing leaf and tree debris
- trimming branches from around and overhanging the home.
- Mowing or slashing long grass

WHAT AIDER WILL DO

The AIDER Programme will assist vulnerable people in the community who have limited domestic support available from family, relatives or friends, including:

- Senior citizens;
- People with physical or mental disabilities;
- People who are recipients of recognised community assistance programmes such as Meals on Wheels, Home and Community Care, Home nursing etc;

AIDER services can be provided to a single household, as well as at a group home or facility.

AIDER will increase the level of passive fire protection to vulnerable people living in bush fire prone areas to support living safely and confidently in the community.

WHO CAN GET AIDER SERVICES

During the 2009/2010 year, the RFS will provide support services to around 400 infirm, disabled or elderly residents in bush fire prone areas across NSW.

The AIDER program is a FREE service, and is *not* Means Tested. However, it is expected that the AIDER Programme will be in strong demand, and not all requests for service will be able to be met.

If a property is rented, it is the landlord's responsibility to repair that property. Therefore privately rented properties may be considered a lower priority for AIDER services.

There are vulnerable people in all communities across New South Wales. The AIDER programme will be delivered in areas of highest risk and where there are relatively high numbers of vulnerable people.

The RFS will work closely with the Department of Disability, Ageing and Home Care, Department of Community Services, other government agencies and non-government agencies that provide services to vulnerable people.

While the AIDER service is a "one-off" for a house or property, the RFS will work with government agencies and organisations to ensure that the vulnerable person is linked in some way to local community services.

ELIGIBILITY AND ENTITLEMENT

Even though a person or group may fall within the AIDER Programme eligibility, AIDER, is not an entitlement programme and there is no guarantee of the RFS providing services. The steps to obtaining AIDER services are:

- Application for AIDER services made, or vulnerable people or groups identified
- Assessment of whether works are needed and whether the works are in the scope of the AIDER programme
- Priority for AIDER works made
- Work undertaken when RFS resources available

For further information or to apply for AIDER Programme services, contact:

AIDER Programme Coordinator (02) 8741 5419