
Session Plan: Using apps to monitor bushfires near you (NSW, VIC and SA only)

Session overview:

This session will give learners the practical skills to be able to monitor the spread of bushfires near to them. This will help them in their emergency planning and allow them to make a more informed judgement about what to do. They will feel confident in knowing that the information they're seeing is from a reliable source.

Learning objectives:

To increase knowledge and confidence in using government-produced apps to monitor bushfires in their state.

Suggested session length:

30 minutes

Documents to prepare:

Prior to the session, print the tip sheet "Finding reliable information online during a bushfire emergency" for learners to take away from the session.

Prior knowledge:

Learners should have access to a device that can download and install apps. If learners aren't sure what apps are and how to download them, there is an entire topic on the [Be Connected Learning Portal](#) dedicated to apps with several courses for learners to complete.

Section	Timing	Activity	Assessment
Introduction and welcome	5 minutes	Welcome everyone to the session, ask them to introduce themselves to each other and connect to WiFi if they're using a tablet or don't have mobile data.	
Group discussion	5 minutes	Talk to the group and whether they've used map based apps before. Those that have will find the maps on their relevant app to be similar to those, however, instead of using them for things like getting directions, bushfire apps will only show information relating to bushfires.	
Demonstration	10 minutes	<p>Distribute the "Finding reliable information online during a bushfire emergency" handout. Make learners aware that each state has developed its own app, and that they should only download the one relevant to them.</p> <p>Open the relevant app store on the device you're using to showcase the apps. Search for the relevant app and download it onto the device. Explain that depending on what devices people have the app store may look different.</p> <p>Open up the app and showcase the relevant features:</p> <p>Fires Near Me NSW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show the map and how to tap on incidents to get more information • Show how to add a watch zone either using 	Give learners the opportunities to ask questions about the app relevant to them and what it can do.

		<p>your home address or that of a friend or family member. Advise that although notifications will be sent when a situation arises/changes, this is not to be trusted 100% as notifications may be disabled on the device etc and learners should check manually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show the emergency information section, go into the categories and show the steps the RFS recommends people take <p>VicEmergency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show to view information around Victoria by looking on the map • Go through the steps to create a watch zone. Advise that although notifications will be sent when a situation arises/changes, this is not to be trusted 100% as notifications may be disabled on the device etc and learners should check manually. • Show the different warnings people will be alerted to. • Show the menu and the different links out to the VicEmergency website for learners to have a read through for more information. <p>AlertSA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show the map and how to tap on incidents to get more information • Show how to add a watch zone either using your home address or that of a friend or family member. Advise that although notifications will be sent when a situation arises/changes, this is not to be trusted 100% as notifications may be disabled on the device etc and learners 	
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		<p>should check manually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show the emergency information section, go into the categories and show the steps the RFS recommends people take 	
Practical activity	5 minutes	Learners can now go onto their app stores, search for their bushfire warning app and download it onto their device. They can open up the app and set up watch zones, although they can do this at home if they'd prefer.	Learners should be able to download the app and set up watch zones.
Session wrap up	5 minutes	Remind learners that whilst the apps are reliable, it's important to make sure they're not solely relying on them. Local radio and other communication channels such as official social media channels should also be monitored if they're in a particularly troubled area.	Learners should feel comfortable with downloading and using the app to monitor the activity of bushfires in their areas.

Suggested next steps:

Good Things Foundation has two other session plans to help your learners understand what online resources are available to assist them during a bushfire. They are:

- [Using the internet to stay safe during a bushfire.](#)
- [Using Facebook to keep updated during a bushfire](#) (this session plan is only suitable for residents of NSW, VIC, SA, TAS and ACT only as other states don't utilise this method of communication).