Background

- Has been operating on the Belair site since 1895 and survived threats of disaster, including bushfires, for 120 years;
- Site hosts an Aged Care Facility – 92 beds, mainly high care residents + a Retirement Village, 105 Villas, 150 residents;
- With staff and volunteers, possible to have 300+ persons on the site, despite encouraging Village to “Leave Early!”;
- Woodcroft 83 beds mainly high care, 130 people on site;
- McLaren Vale 39 beds mainly high care, 70 people on site.
Risk Assessment processes include

- Continuing annual inspections of site with CFS and Council advisory staff and implement any recommendations;
- Dead wood and tree removal program reviewed every year;
- Review and update the Business Continuity Plan and the Business Impact Analysis to ensure supplier, staff and quantity information is current;
- Confirm MOU arrangements with peer aged care operators for the current summer season.
James Brown Memorial Trust
Kalyra Aged Care Belair

What we have done to mitigate risk?

- Participated in CFS’s RACF Site Bush Fire Risk Assessment program – site deemed viable to shelter in place.
- Implemented actions to reduce CFS site bushfire rating of medium by:
  - A review of the building by structural engineer to assess the buildings capacity to withstand Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) 12.5;
  - Regular site inspections, pruning, gutter clearing, etc. occur;
  - Gardens are kept wet on high fire danger days;
  - A structural engineer has assessed suitability of the refuge building;
  - Vents and weep holes secured and ember resistant.
James Brown Memorial Trust
Kalyra Belair Aged Care

What have we done to mitigate risk?

- Participated in an Emergo training session and;
  - Involved broad based multidisciplinary teams;
  - Plus representatives from other Kalyra sites;
  - And observers from other aged care organizations;
  - Developed evacuation knowledge from theoretical to the actual;
  - Developed *in-vacuation* as a strategy to assist in bush fire management;
What have we done to strengthen our processes?

- Revamped Emergency Procedures Manual;
- Rewritten Code Red – Fire / Smoke section of manual;
- Created Emergency Coordinator / Chief Fire Warden Checklist;
- Reviewed the Isolation of Services Policy;
- Created a Power Outages policy;
- Called tenders for Emergency Training for staff from selected providers;
- Included in-vacuation in annual staff training program.
Country Health SA
Local Health Network

- 65 public hospitals /residential aged care sites across country SA
- Approx 8000 staff
- Operations comprises 10 clusters
  > 1300 acute inpatient beds
  > 1400 residential aged care beds
Country Health SA
Local Health Network

What were our results?

First round of assessments – 9 facilities

- 4 Hospitals (including 2 with Aged Care)
  - Extreme Bushfire Risk Rating
  - Passive shelter in place is not viable
Country Health SA
Local Health Network

What did we do?

• Grounds maintenance
• Worked with neighbouring properties
• Ember Proofing own buildings (selective)
• Staff training and emergency exercises
• Reviewed our plans and changed these
• Updated BCP’s – communications, loss of power
• Considered invacuation and evacuation scenarios more vigorously
• Added fire protection into a re-roof of one site
Country Health SA
Local Health Network

Did it make a difference?

• Yes, we mitigated the risk at all Hospitals – only have one community health building (not hospital) which cannot be mitigated due to proximity to pasture lands.

• Currently considering our summer response for staff working at this site
What have we learnt?

- It’s complex
- Requires organisational leadership
- Invacuation is a legitimate option
- Evacuation is time consuming requires proper planning and is an important decision
- Catastrophic fire days, extreme heat and bushfire are entwined
Country Health SA
Local Health Network

Outcomes of recent exercises

• Real time exercises provide the best insight
• Multi agency exercises produce different results
• Defined command and control is essential
• Clear communication (internal and external) is critical success factor
• Staff need leadership and direction in times of crisis
• Residents and patients need re-assurance
• Debriefs are useful
Country Health SA
Local Health Network

Future activities

• Emergo train exercises
• Review our plans again before summer
• Maintain grounds and buildings
• Future capital upgrades to include fire protection/ember proofing
• Staff training and seasonal preparation
• Strengthen relationships with other agencies
Questions ?