



## SASSAFRAS-FERNY CREEK FIRE BRIGADE

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# Fire Safe Cycling in the Dandenongs

**THE three “ridge top” CFA brigades of have joined to help cyclists better understand the risks of cycling in the hills on days of high fire danger.**

Sassafras-Ferny Creek, Olinda and Kalorama-Mt Dandenong have helped develop a wallet-sized information card that explains the fire danger ratings and tips for safe cycling during the bushfire season.

Kalorama-Mt Dandenong Rural Fire Brigade Community Safety Officer Virginia McCallum told the *Free Press Leader* that last January the brigades spent a weekend surveying cyclists in the hills about their knowledge of bushfire safety – and the responses alarmed members.

Ms McCallum said that cyclists were particularly vulnerable on high bushfire-risk days during summer.

“Most cyclists in the Dandenong Ranges are from out of the area,” Ms McCallum said.

“The risks are serious because during a bushfire it goes dark and cyclists will have nowhere to shelter and would be overcome by smoke.”

Sassafras-Ferny Creek Captain John Schauble, himself a keen commuter cyclist, said bike riders had everything stacked against them on a high fire risk day. “Not only the extreme heat, but even the clothing cyclists wear is going to be a problem for them,” he said.

“If you have to ride on those sorts of days, head for the suburbs or the sea,” he said.

The card will be available in local cafes and businesses, including the Ferny Creek General Store.

Links: <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/leader/east/hills8217-fire-brigades-urge-cyclists-to-avoid-the-dandenongs-on-high-bushfirerisk-days-during-summer/story-fngnvlxu-1226726257436>

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