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<b>I am making this submission as</b>	Resident
<b>Submission type</b>	Personal
<b>Organisation making the submission (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Your position in the organisation (if applicable)</b>	- na
<b>Consent to make submission public</b>	Public
<b>Your story</b>	<p>On the second of December I fell in the dark , trying to spread mulch on my dying beautiful garden. In the night I riled over and heard a snap. I broke my rib. Following day I fell breaking my arm. After four hours our local hospital finally saw me . The Xray machine closed for day, comeback tomorrow . Agonising night . No pain relief . Four hours later 27 hours after the break my arm was finally set . Smoke was getting worse. Husband of twelve years walked out , leaving me without food or driver, fires nightly getting worse - you could walk to the end of my road and see red glow . Then things started breaking down - air conditioning blew motor , vacuum cleaner blew up cause of dust , air conditioner in undrivable car wasn't working - third piece of equipment - I couldn't get anyone to fix these . I wore a mask every time I went outside. Inside it was stifling no aircon . The temperature rose . Finally my children were sick of worrying for me being without a car . I flew to Melboure 22 Nd of December . Xrays found I had the wrong cast on. So a month was wasted. X-ray found little</p>

healing . Misdiagnosis - arm fractured I three places . Wrist bone now secured and finally one month later finally out of pain!! A week later my daughter offered to drive me home . Became exhausted. Stopped at Mallacoota , as it seemed safer than lakes entrance . Left the morning of the big fire there. Horrified for those people, we had children with us . Played with children who were trapped a day later. Fire fear was all around . We made it to tathra, other daughters house. They evacuated to Bega show ground . Dark orange sky New Year's Eve . Evacuated to Tathra surf club . After a bad night watching the apps . We decided to make a run to canberra - seemed safer. We were forced back by fires and unsafe road to bodalla . We slept (well not really slept ) in my daughters turingal head home . We didn't know that was actually safer place because no fire came close . They had done cultural Koori burn after 20i18 fires . Tried to get through to canberra again. Masks every second outside . Terrible smoke , heard road was open . I wanted to get home . I could drive with one hand if necessary - evacuation centre close. Nearby . Got home / house had been broken into . Looters stole all my gardening gear , hose. Kicked in glass glazed door but couldn't get in . Freezer off two days fridge food spoiled. Arm still in cast , had to work but no one came for a week . Money was tight . Equipment missing or broken - no claim bonus . too expensive . Finally back at work - still not full lost kids burnt out gone out of area . Parents not paying or cut down hours work - Emotional reality . No husband , no car, no vacuum cleaner dust everywhere , no aircon, no tv , all in one month too much , missed mum's birthday 85 , chances are never have a birthday party again. Business - never been half empty before- horror month goes on now close to March and I'm struggling to replace stollen articles - can't enjoy my garden water restrictions still. My 90 year old neighbour was left behind when everyone evacuated . So we chat I help her if I can . Been the worst time of my life .

**1.1 Causes and contributing factors**

Hot dry Bush ,winds, not that much litter on ground black Trunks from recent fires still it long ago . Built up area near Bush. No clearing trees back .

**1.2 Preparation and planning**

Not clear hanging rock was closed due to Caravan camping Show . Not clear that it was safe . Was it safe ??

**1.3 Response to bushfires**

Aeroplanes and helicopters fantastic.

**1.4 Any other matters**

Stress in evacuation centres . Better people sleep in cars . No sleep other wise .

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