



16 December 2015

### **Esperance Fire Victims Encouraged to Apply for Assistance**

Esperance residents who lost their home in last month's devastating fires will be among the first to receive assistance from donations made to the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund (LMDRF).

Chair of the Board, Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi, will visit Esperance tomorrow to issue relief funds to Category 1 fire victims, and to encourage all eligible members of the community to apply for financial assistance.

"While we can never replace what people have lost, the generosity of others to donate to the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund will provide some financial relief in the lead up to Christmas," Ms Scaffidi said.

"The Shire of Esperance has made contact with next-of-kin of the four fire victims, and the objective is to have those funds distributed by Christmas."

Financial assistance from the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund supplements insurance cover, and people requesting relief funding should first claim from their insurance company and establish how much of the loss or damage incurred will be covered.

"The Board is encouraging all people who may have suffered personal hardship and distress arising from the fires to make an application to the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund," Ms Scaffidi said.

"We want to ensure normal living conditions are restored as quickly as possible.

"The Board is continuing to process applications received by the Shire of Esperance."

Seven categories of assistance have been developed.

For more information regarding grant assistance categories or for online application forms, visit [www.appealswa.org.au](http://www.appealswa.org.au)

People can also access an application form directly at the front counter of the Shire of Esperance.

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