



# SARG Wildfire Animal Rescue



## Contingency Plan Equipment Procedures & Guidance



# Wildfire Reptile Rescue – Wildfire Reporting

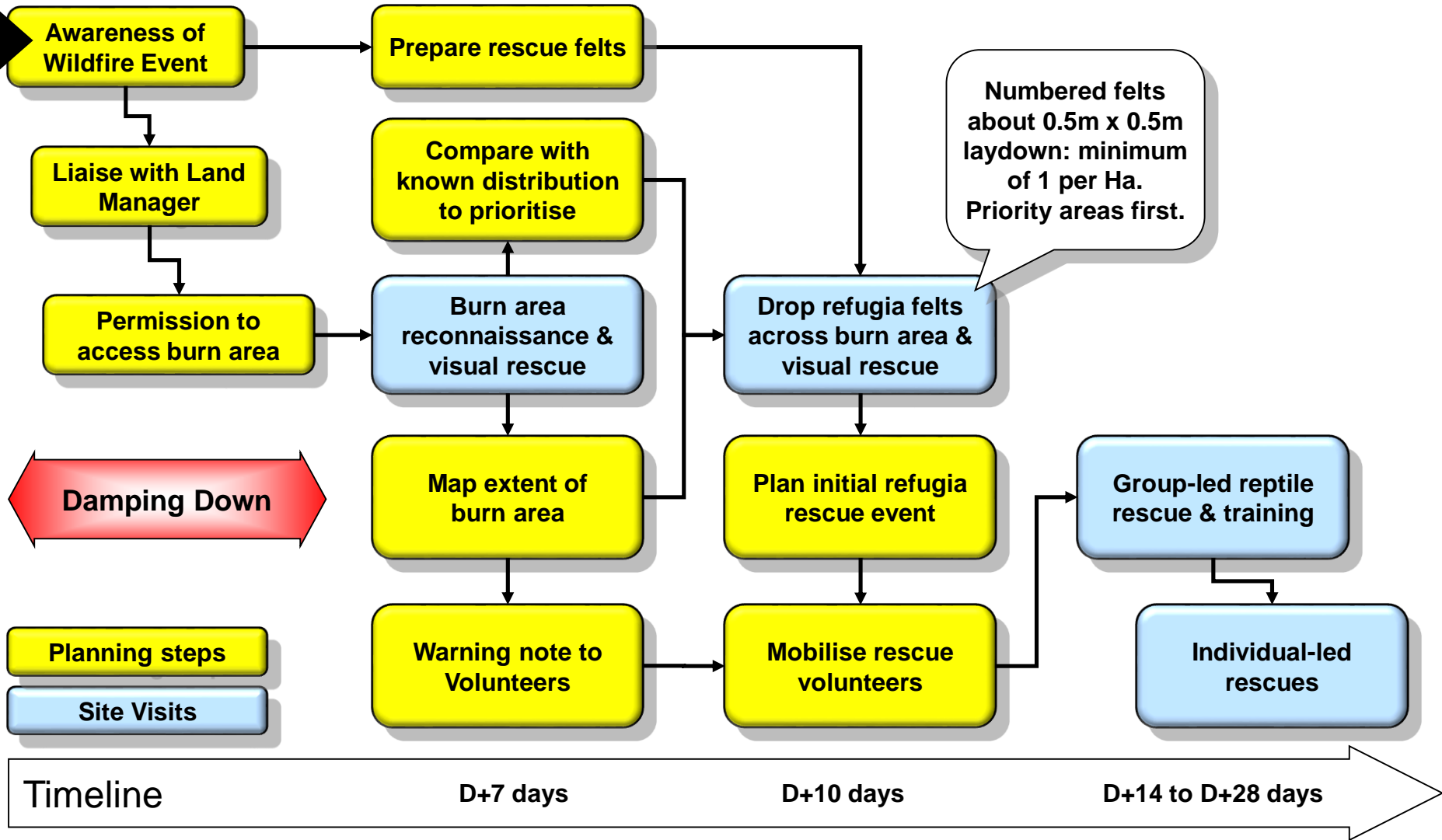
## If you encounter a wildfire....

- Do not attempt to tackle the fire yourself, you are wasting precious time.
- Call 999 and ask for the Fire Service.
- Provide an accurate location; name of closest road, visible landmarks, local names or a grid reference. Indicate access points if possible.
- Move to a safe area and contact the land manager if known.
- If the fire is at a remote location, meet the Fire Service at an access point to help guide them to the fire.





# Wildfire Reptile Rescue - Contingency Plan







# Wildfire Reptile Rescue - Equipment

**You will need....**



**A bucket for collecting animals. (A lid is useful for grass snakes) At least 10L capacity.**



**Some reptile-friendly volunteers. Wearing sensible footwear (no sandals).**



**Gloves are optional, but a useful safety measure (you can use hand wash instead)**



**Felt squares to provide refuges. Roofing felt cut into 0.5m x 0.5m mats.**



# Wildfire Reptile Rescue - Procedure

1. Walk the burn area, checking felts and likely hiding places.
2. Pick up any reptiles found and pop them in your bucket.  
It's best not to mix snakes with lizards, and to keep juveniles separately from adults.
3. Release the animals in the closest area of good remaining cover.

**Do not pick up adders, call over an experienced handler. Do not thrust your hand into places where adders may be hiding (such as under felts).**

There is no need to record locations, just species and numbers.

**Even lizards can bite, so careful handling is advised!**





# Wildfire Reptile Rescue - Notes

1. **Never attend a burn site until the Fire and Rescue Services have completed their damping down, and the land manager has provided access permission**
2. **It can be useful to have some water on hand in case of minor flare-ups**
3. **Adder handlers must wear appropriate PPE and if possible use hooks, grab-sticks or tongs**
4. **Best results happen from one week until one month from the burn date**

