



**David Elliott**  
Minister for Corrections  
Minister for Emergency Services  
Minister for Veterans Affairs

## MEDIA RELEASE

Saturday, 12 September 2015

### FIRE UP FOR GET READY WEEKEND

Minister for Emergency Services David Elliott and NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons today encouraged the community to join “Get Ready” weekend and make a plan for the bushfire season.

The NSW RFS is planning more than 600 activities across the state this weekend, including community workshops, information and displays at Bunnings stores and Open Days at NSW RFS stations.

“Get Ready” weekend is an opportunity for families to meet firefighters and learn more about how to prepare themselves, their families and homes from bushfire.

Mr Elliott, Commissioner Fitzsimmons, and Member for Castle Hill Ray Williams visited Rouse Hill NSW RFS Brigade Open Day where families were able to check out the local firetruck.

“Recently we have seen the Large Air Tanker Hercules C130 *Thor* arrive in NSW to assist with bushfire preparation and the Very Large Air Tanker DC-10 will be flying in our skies next month but I urge the community to not be complacent,” Mr Elliott said.

“Do not expect a firefighter to knock on your door and tell you what to do. Make a plan today for what you will do to protect your family and property.”

The NSW RFS developed its new TV ad campaign *I Am Fire* in response to research following the 2013 NSW bush fires, including the fires in the Blue Mountains that claimed more than 200 homes.

“It found that while people living in bush fire prone areas have a general understanding that their area is at risk, they don’t personalise that risk,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“Put simply, people think a fire won’t happen to them – and it can.”

Mr Williams urged residents to think about the area they live in and prepare their home by doing general maintenance and checking insurance details.

“There are simple things you can do now, like having a conversation with your family about what you will do in a fire,” Mr Williams said.

View the new *I Am Fire* campaign at [www.myfireplan.com.au](http://www.myfireplan.com.au)

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