



MEDIA RELEASE

NSW RFS declares start to Bush Fire Danger Period

28 July 2014

Friday 1 August will see the introduction of the Bush Fire Danger Period (BFDP) across the north east of the state and the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is urging residents to prepare for the fire season now.

The NSW RFS has commenced the danger period across the North Coast, Mid North Coast and the New England Tablelands due to continuing dry conditions, with fire permits required from 1 August in these areas.

NSW RFS Inspector Tim Butcher is urging residents to complete a Bush Fire Survival Plan and ensure all members of the household know what to do on days of increased fire danger and if their home is threatened by fire.

Residents should prepare their property by removing flammable materials from their yards, clearing gutters of leaves, checking hoses and, where appropriate, conducting hazard reduction activities.

"While it is important to continue hazard reduction we have all seen the devastation that bush fires can bring to a community, so I strongly urge people to exercise caution when carrying out these activities," Inspector Butcher said.

"Residents can ask their local Fire Control Centre for assistance in carrying out safe hazard reductions and for advice about whether they need a Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Certificate.

"With spring & summer conditions becoming more conducive to the spread of fire, people need to be extremely careful when using fire."

"Never leave a fire unattended and if a fire does escape, it is essential to call Triple Zero (000) immediately so that emergency services can respond accordingly and minimise the damage."

During the Bush Fire Danger Period any person wishing to light a fire will require a permit in the following local government areas:

- **New England & Northern Tablelands** - Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra, Glen Innes Severn, Inverell, Tenterfield Uralla & Walcha
- **North Coast** – Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Lismore, Kyogle, Richmond Valley & Clarence Valley.
- **Mid North Coast** – Coffs Harbour, Bellingen, Nambucca, Kempsey, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Greater Taree, Gloucester and Great Lakes

On days of Total Fire Ban all Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Certificates are automatically revoked. To check the Fire Danger Ratings for your area visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au or contact your local Fire Control Centre.