



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



MEDIA RELEASE

Bush Fire Season Ends and Hazard Reduction begins

Friday 27th March 2015

The Bush Fire Danger Season comes to an end across the Canobolas Zone area on midnight Tuesday 31 March 2015 after 6 months of activity across the Central West.

The season commenced on October 1 2014 amidst warnings of a dry and hot summer prompted by threats of an El Nino influence across eastern Australia.

The first three months of the season saw record temperatures and limited rainfall events and these conditions led to a very active period for our local volunteer Brigades. Fortunately the new year period brought some welcome rainfall which decreased the fire danger significantly for a number of weeks particularly during that holiday.

Very little rainfall has been experienced by many of our Districts in the past two months and the grasslands areas are again very dry, however with cooler temperatures, lighter fire fuel loads and shorter days the decision to wrap up the Bush Fire Danger Period at the end of March has been taken.

Whilst Fire Permits will no longer be required for landowners wishing to use fire for practical purposes, all persons wishing to burn off are legally required to give 24hours notice to their neighbours and the NSW RFS by calling 63636666.

The end of the Bush Fire Season also heralds the arrival of our Hazard Reduction burning program. All fire agencies and land management agencies have a role to play in managing the community fire risk and across the Canobolas Zone area there is around 7,000ha of low intensity hazard burns planned by the RFS, ForestCorp NSW and National Parks and Wildlife Service.

All planned hazard burns are managed events and residents can check these by visiting the NSW Rural Fire Service public website or by using the "Fires Near Me App on the phone or mobile device.

We ask that people wishing to use fire check with their local Fire Control Centre prior to any ignition.



**For more information contact Brett Bowden Canobolas Operations Coordinator
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For current incidents or major fire updates visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au