



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

Get ready now for high temperatures and increased fire danger

17 December 2021

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is urging residents in the state's west to prepare now as hot, dry and windy conditions are expected to increase the fire danger this weekend.

The forecast weather conditions combined with high grass and crop fuel loads will elevate the fire risk in western parts of the state, particularly in the Riverina area.

NSW RFS Commissioner Rob Rogers said some areas are likely to experience Very High to Severe fire danger this weekend.

"Temperatures are forecast to reach the mid-40s and this coupled with strong, dry and gusty winds will lead to the highest fire risk for the season so far," Commissioner Rogers said.

"Total Fire Bans are likely to be declared for some areas on Saturday and again on Sunday, so I urge landholders, homeowners, businesses and holidaymakers to consider their risk and what they will do if threatened by fire this weekend."

The NSW RFS recommends people living in bush fire prone areas to get ready now:

- Make or review your bush fire survival plan – decide now what you'll do if a fire starts near you
- Check the fire danger for your area – look out for the roadside signs and know the fire danger rating
- Stay up to date on fires in your area – check the NSW RFS website or the Fires Near Me app for fires in your area and set a Watch Zone.

Commissioner Rogers said while firefighters are ready to respond, the community needs to play its part to help prevent and minimise the impact of bush and grass fires.

"Particularly in western NSW where there has been an increase of vegetation growth due to recent rainfall, the risk of grass fires is above normal. Grass fires spread quickly and threaten lives and livelihoods with little warning," Commissioner Rogers said.

"Preparation is the key and we need families and households to review and discuss their bush fire survival plan so everyone knows what they need to do in the event of a fire.

"With the holidays upon us, if you are travelling, know what the conditions and fire risk are of where you are travelling through and the area you are visiting."

Anyone who sees an unattended fire should call Triple Zero (000) immediately.

Visit www.myfireplan.com.au for simple tips on getting ready for this bush fire season.

For information on Fire Danger Ratings and Total Fire Bans visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fdr



For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on 9898 1855
For current incidents or major fire updates visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au