

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Act now - Rural Fire Service Bush Fire Awareness Week

21 September 2011

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons has said that the fire activity seen across NSW this week is a timely reminder of how quickly bush and grass fires can take hold, and that preparation is the key.

"We have seen serious bush and grass fires threaten properties in a number of locations over the last few days with firefighters working in very challenging conditions.

"As well as the bush fires in the Blue Mountains, we have had crews responding to grass fires in South-Western Sydney, the Hunter Valley and many other regions. This week is a clear indication that fires can threaten and impact very quickly, and that everyone needs to consider their personal situation and their own level of risk."

Commissioner Fitzsimmons is encouraging people to be actively involved in this year's NSW RFS Bush Fire Awareness Week, being launched at Brigade Open Days across the State on Saturday 24 September.

"More than 300 Rural Fire Brigades are opening their stations to the community, and this is the ideal opportunity for families to meet their local RFS volunteers, and learn more about how to prepare themselves, their families and their homes for the risk of fire.

"We're urging everyone to review their circumstances and ensure they have a plan in the event of a bush fire. RFS Open Day is about connecting with communities and helping people evaluate and understand their potential bush fire risk, and undertake the necessary preparation.

"Whether you live, work or travel through bush fire prone areas it is essential that you know what you will do in the event of an emergency. As the last week has demonstrated, there is no room for complacency – people need to plan in advance what action they will take so they're not making life saving decisions at the last minute," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

NSW RFS Bush Fire Awareness Week starts with RFS Open Day on Saturday 24 September, and runs until the official launch of the Bush Fire Danger Period on Friday 30 September.

More information about NSW RFS Open Day and Bush Fire Awareness Week and protecting your property from fire is available on the NSW RFS website, www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.

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