

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Grass fires and storm recovery keep volunteers busy

7 July 2011

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) crews from across the State have been put through their paces this week tackling fast-moving grass fires and assisting with the destructive aftermath of damaging storms.

With much of New South Wales experiencing wild weather conditions, NSW RFS Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers is reminding people that Mother Nature can often wreak havoc with little notice.

"Despite the recent cooler temperatures, the dry windy conditions that we have seen over the last week are the perfect environment for grass fires. This week alone we have had a number of crews responding to these types of fires which often produce large amounts of smoke and can spread very rapidly.

"Fortunately all of the fire activity this week has been brought under control quickly with RFS volunteers responding professionally and effectively in challenging conditions.

Deputy Commissioner Rogers said that it was a timely reminder for people to take care with fires in the open – even during the winter months.

"While we encourage landholders to carry out hazard reduction burns when conditions are suitable, this week has demonstrated the importance of monitoring all burns closely and keeping an eye on changing weather conditions.

"It doesn't take much for the wind to take hold of a fire and create an emergency situation".

Deputy Commissioner Rogers also praised the work of NSW RFS volunteers working in storm affected areas in and around the Blue Mountains, Southern Highlands and Wollondilly Shire.

"This week we have had in excess of 200 volunteers from across the State assisting the State Emergency Service (SES) with storm damage recovery in particularly dangerous conditions.

"This level of commitment is what the NSW RFS prides itself on, and is a demonstration of the versatility of our members.

For inquiries or interviews contact the NSW RFS State Duty Media Officer: 9898 1855