



# Stuart Ayres MP

Minister for Police and Emergency Services  
Minister for Sport and Recreation  
Minister Assisting the Premier on Western Sydney

---

## MEDIA RELEASE

---

Thursday 11 September 2014

### **SUPPORT VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS ON NSW RFS OPEN DAY**

Minister for Police and Emergency Services Stuart Ayres has encouraged the community to visit their local volunteer brigade this weekend as part of the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Open Day this Saturday 13 September.

Mr Ayres said the RFS annual Open Day is an ideal opportunity for families to meet the volunteers who protect their local community and learn how to be better prepared in the event of a bushfire.

“NSW RFS Open Day is about connecting with communities and helping people prepare themselves, their families and their properties for bushfires,” Mr Ayres said.

“Residents will be given the opportunity to understand the bushfire risk in their area and what they can do to better prepare themselves for this bushfire season.”

Mr Ayres also asked the community to consider joining the NSW RFS and to use Open Day as a chance to find out more about the different roles available.

“The NSW RFS is the world’s largest volunteer firefighting agency with 74,000 volunteers and it has been encouraging to see the recent increase in numbers, with more than 6,400 new members joining in the past year,” Mr Ayres said.

“We have roles for everyone with opportunities in firefighting, catering, communications, leadership and more. They are rewarding roles, where you can learn new skills and make new friendships while making a difference in your community.”

NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said there’ll be something for everyone who drops in to their local brigade station this Saturday, with more than 300 brigades opening their doors across the State.

“Many brigades will hold demonstrations, showing the public their firefighting skills and the important role they play during emergencies,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“It’s also a chance for people to pick up important tips about fire safety, so they can prepare their home and their family for bushfires ahead of the upcoming season.

“I’d encourage all local residents to come along to their local NSW RFS Open Day, join in the fun and thank our NSW RFS volunteers for the invaluable work they do.”

At their local station people will find something for all the family including:

- Fire demonstrations

- The opportunity to climb on a fire truck
- Get advice on preparing your property and completing your Bush Fire Survival Plan
- Have photos taken with your local firefighters

At some locations there may be displays by other emergency services, jumping castles, face painting, and sausage sizzles.

To check your local NSW RFS Station Open Day times and activities visit [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au).

**MEDIA: John Redman – 0400 298 929**