

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

More than 100 hazard reduction burns planned

18 May 2012

Fire agencies and land managers are taking advantage of favourable weather conditions to complete a number of important hazard reduction burns.

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said there are more than 100 controlled burns scheduled across the state in the next week.

“Good weather conditions have provided us with a welcome window of opportunity to continue our controlled burning program this week in preparation for the next fire season,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“There are hazard reduction burns already underway in areas including the Bega Valley, Clarence Valley, Greater Sydney, Hawkesbury and the Blue Mountains. This activity will increase in many areas over the coming days.

“NSW RFS volunteers along with other agencies and land managers are about to embark upon one of the biggest weeks of controlled burning in some time, with in excess of 100 controlled burns and around 40 in the greater Sydney area alone.”

While hazard reduction burns are underway, some areas may be affected by smoke and people are advised to only contact Triple Zero (000) if they see an unattended fire.

Residents near controlled burns are encouraged to take precautions such as keeping doors and windows closed, removing washing from clotheslines and if driving through smoke affected areas, slow down and switch on headlights.

Members of the community who have asthma should be aware there may be smoke in some areas and they should take appropriate precautions.

“It is important that the community take the lead from fire agencies and land managers by also taking advantage of the good weather to prepare their properties for the inevitable return of fire conditions.

“The recent wet weather has increased fuel and grass growth so it is important people don’t become complacent – it’s never too early to prepare yourself, your home and your family,” said Commissioner Fitzsimmons.

A full list of scheduled hazard reduction burns is available at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/hr
More information on asthma is available at www.asthmafoundation.org.au

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