



MEDIA RELEASE

Residents urged to be prepared and have a plan ahead of hot weekend

5 December 2018

With the mercury set to soar this weekend the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is urging the community to be vigilant and know what to do if a fire starts.

NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said very hot conditions are forecast and there is the potential for wide areas of elevated fire danger.

“Over the weekend, forecasts are indicating wide areas of very hot conditions,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“We will be monitoring these conditions very closely, especially any changes in wind, and there is the potential for conditions to deteriorate further on Sunday in areas including Sydney and the Hunter.

“Our advice is simple – monitor conditions, know the fire danger for your area, and know what you will do if there is a fire.”

The NSW RFS recommends the following:

- Monitor conditions and fires in your area – stay up to date on bush fires by checking the NSW RFS website or use the Fires Near Me app on your phone
- Know the fire danger rating for your area, especially if you're travelling – the higher the fire danger rating, the more dangerous the conditions.
- Decide now what you will do if a fire starts near you – have the conversation with your family and know where you'll go, what you'll take and what you'll do with animals.

“While firefighters from all agencies stood ready to fight any fires that may break out this weekend and protect the community, the community should join them and do what they can to prepare now.”

“It's important to not only make but discuss your bush fire survival plan with your family and household so you will know what you and your loved ones will do in the event a fire threatens,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“If you're travelling or on holidays, be aware of conditions and Fire Danger Ratings in the area you are visiting and know what you will do if threatened by fire.

“Especially over coming days keep cool, drink plenty of water, take care of others and have a plan.”

If you see an unattended fire call Triple Zero (000) immediately.

Visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au for bush fire information and how to prepare for this bush fire season.

Commissioner Fitzsimmons also urged residents to make or update their bush fire survival plan, with a simple guide at www.myfireplan.com.au