



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

Caution urged ahead of forecast conditions

29 December 2019

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is warning residents not to conduct their own private fireworks displays this New Year's Eve, with forecast Severe and Extreme fire danger and the potential for Total Fire Bans.

During a Total Fire Ban, no fire of any kind can be lit in the open, helping to limit the potential fires developing.

Penalties for lighting a fire on a day of Total Fire Ban include:

- Lighting a fire on a day of Total Fire Ban attracts an on the spot fine of \$2200. If the matter goes to court, you could be subject to a fine of up to \$5500 and/or 12 months gaol.
- Penalties for a fire that escapes and damages or destroys life, property or the environment can attract much greater fines and gaol terms with maximums at \$132,000 and/or 14 years gaol.

The NSW RFS is also encouraging local councils to work with them regarding planned community firework displays, to discuss the feasibility of these displays in order to ensure the safety of communities.

Councils are asked to contact their local NSW RFS Fire Control Centre or in metro areas their local NSW Fire and Rescue station, to discuss any exemptions and conditions that apply.

Forecasts at this stage show easing conditions for New Year's Day.



For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on 9898 1855
For current incidents or major fire updates visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au
