



MEDIA RELEASE

Large number hazard reduction burns planned

14 August 2015

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) Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers said there are more than 60 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,” Deputy Commissioner Rogers said.

“There are hazard reduction burns planned in many areas throughout the state, including the Richmond Valley, Clarence Valley, Greater Sydney, Hawkesbury, the Hunter and Blue Mountains.”

“NSW RFS volunteers along with fire fighters from Fire & Rescue NSW, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Forest Corporation NSW are about to embark upon one of the biggest weeks of controlled burning in some time, with in excess of 60 burns being carried out across the state, a dozen of these will be within 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 wet weather in the first half of the year has increased fuel and grass growth and has delayed these hazard reduction burns. It is important people don’t become complacent, as we’ve seen from recent events in the Blue Mountains – it’s never too early to prepare yourself, your home and your family,” said Deputy Commissioner Rogers.

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

