



MEDIA RELEASE

High temperatures and strong winds bring increased fire danger to NSW

13 February 2018

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is urging residents across New South Wales to prepare for Severe fire weather forecast for many regions across the state tomorrow, Wednesday 14 February.

NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons confirmed that hot and windy conditions are forecast, with the potential for much of NSW to experience elevated fire danger.

“Already this summer we have seen record-breaking temperatures in many areas,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“This week we will see strong south westerly to westerly winds develop and coupled with the heat we’ve already experienced, the landscape is very susceptible to fire.

“That’s why it’s so important that landholders, homeowners, businesses and travellers seriously consider how they could be impacted and start planning now.

“Use today and tonight to have a discussion about what you will do if a fire starts near you, so everyone in your household knows your bush fire survival plan.

“With many parents back at work and kids at school, people need to consider what to do if fire threatens when the family is separated.” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

Research released by the NSW RFS and Bushfire & Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre earlier this week revealed that many people underappreciate the risk to life and property from fires in these types of conditions.

“People in bush fire prone areas need to understand that under these conditions, fires can start easily and spread quickly, impacting on homes, properties and valuable assets,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“Earlier this week the Mt Canobolas fire, which threatened homes and prompted two Emergency Warning alerts, burnt under Very High fire danger conditions.”

The NSW RFS recommends people living in bush fire prone areas:

- Make or review their bush fire survival plan – decide now what to do if a fire starts close by
- Check the local fire danger – look out for the roadside signs and know the fire danger rating
- Stay up to date on fires in the local area – proactively check the NSW RFS website or the Fires Near Me app on days of heightened danger.

Anyone who sees an unattended fire should call Triple Zero (000) immediately.