



**NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE**



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **More rain, more risk: Prepare for Bush Fire Season**

**Friday 30 September 2016**

Despite recent wet weather the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is urging residents living in or near bush fire prone areas to prepare themselves, their families and homes for the threat of bush fire this season.

With the statutory Bush Fire Danger Period (BFDP) beginning in many areas tomorrow (1 October), residents in fire prone areas are reminded to start thinking about how they can prepare for the imminent bush fire season.

NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said the heavy rainfall across the State in recent months has seen significant vegetation growth, particularly through much of western NSW

“What we’re seeing as a result of the wet conditions is higher than usual grass growth. Once this growth starts to dry we have the potential for increased fuel and therefore increased risk of grass fires,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“Grass fires in particular start very easily and spread quickly – often up to three times faster than bush fire.

“Everybody needs to know what they will do if faced with this type of emergency.

“While firefighters and emergency agencies will continue to do everything they can to keep communities safe, preparation is a shared responsibility and residents need to do their part.

“Preparing for bush and grass fires is easier than people may think. It starts with simply talking to your family about what you would do if a bush fire was to start nearby.

“These fires don’t discriminate. Embers can travel great distances, across several properties and streets, even up to 30 kilometres in the worst conditions.

“Regardless of where you live, download and complete a Bush Fire Survival Plan from [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) or the app store and have a conversation with your family,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons added.

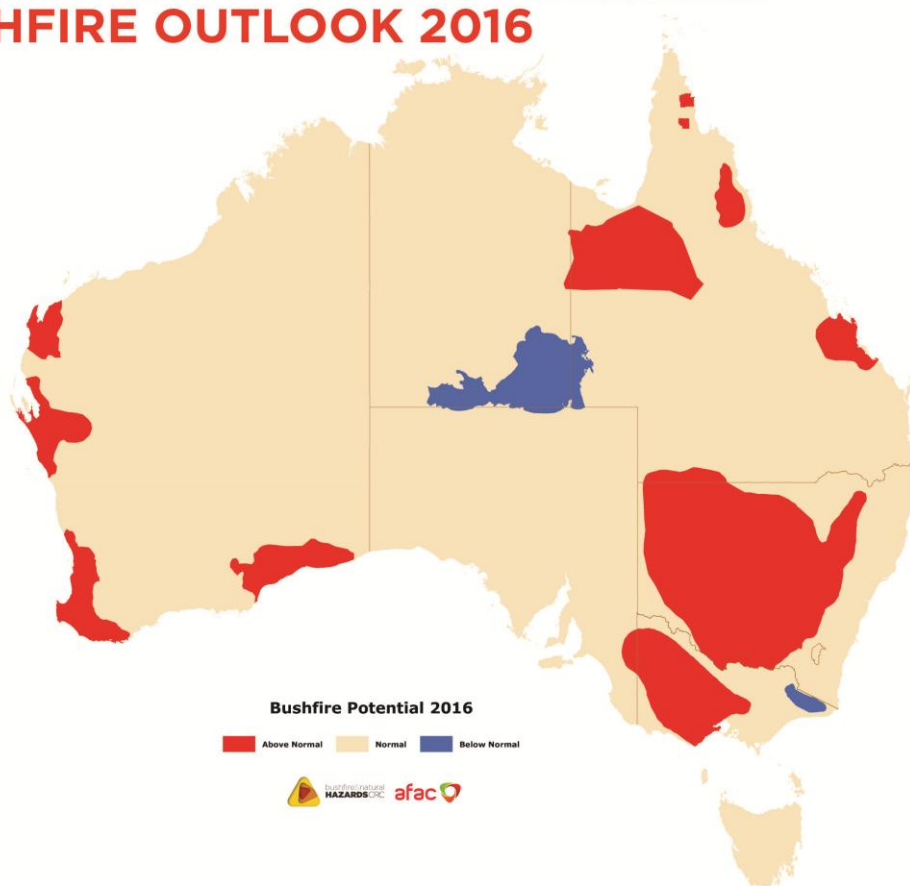
Anyone wanting to conduct a burn during the BFDP must contact their local NSW RFS Fire Control Centre or local fire station and apply for a free permit.

Heavy penalties, including fines up to \$2200, apply for landholders who do not follow BFDP restrictions and rules.

The statutory BFDP for NSW ends on Friday 31 March, 2017.

**For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on (02) 9898 1855.  
For current incidents or major fire updates visit [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)**

# SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA SEASONAL BUSHFIRE OUTLOOK 2016



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