



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



MEDIA RELEASE

State wide Total Fire Ban as residents urged to be prepared.

17 December 2019

With temperatures set to soar over coming days NSW Rural Fire Service have declared a state wide total fire ban, and is urging communities to prepare.

“There are currently more than 100 fires burning across NSW and more hot, dry and windy conditions expected, there is an increased risk to the community this week, said Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers.

“The Bureau of Meteorology forecasts are indicating widespread areas of severe and higher fire danger over coming days.

“Due to this increased fire risk a state wide total fire ban will be in place from midnight tonight until midnight Saturday night to reduce the potential of any further fires in the landscape.

“Firefighters from the NSW RFS along with Fire & Rescue NSW, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Forestry Corporation of NSW, along with other emergency services continue to work tirelessly on fires across the state

“Under these conditions the risk of fire is significant and we ask people to ensure that both their family and their property are prepared.

There are a number of simple things you can do now to prepare:

- Trim overhanging trees and shrubs;
- Mow your lawn and remove all the cut grass;
- Remove material that can burn around your home;
- Clear and remove all debris and leaves from the gutters surrounding your home; and
- Prepare a hose or hoses that can reach all around your house.

The Deputy Commissioner is also urging residents to make or update their bush fire survival plan, with a guide to assist available at www.myfireplan.com.au

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

“Drink plenty of water, keep cool, 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 more information on preparing for this bush fire season.

**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**