

# MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

## Statement

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) has immediately suspended a volunteer member, charged with arson offences on the Central Coast.

NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said the Service has zero tolerance for arson.

“Arson is a dangerous and criminal act, and one that we simply will not tolerate,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“It doesn’t matter who you are, or what your background is – if anyone engages in this kind of criminal activity, we will do everything possible to bring them to the attention of police.

“The NSW Rural Fire Service and NSW Police Force are committed to seeing those who engage in this dangerous and criminal behaviour arrested, charged and put before the courts.”

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said it is inappropriate to comment on the specifics of this case, however the arrest is the result of extensive work between the NSW RFS and Police.

“In fact, it was information from NSW RFS members that instigated the investigation.

“We will continue to work closely with Police to investigate bush fire arson matters.

“This arrest shows that our investment in new technology such as the Arson Trend Analysis System, our growing team of more than 160 specialist fire investigators, and having a NSW RFS officer embedded in the Police Arson Squad, is working.

“This type of behaviour is the ultimate betrayal of our own members, and indeed the broader community.

“Our more than 70,000 members are trusted by the community, and the community should continue to support those members who put their lives on the line for others.”

**NSW Rural Fire Service State Duty Media Officer – (02) 9898 1855**