

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Total Fire Ban declared as hot and windy weather strikes

24 October 2012

A Total Fire Ban has been declared for parts of NSW for Thursday 25 October, due to forecast hot and windy conditions and a Very High Fire Danger Rating.

The Total Fire Ban will commence at midnight 25 October 2012 and remain in place for the following 24 hours.

The Total Fire Ban covers the following fire weather areas:

- **Greater Sydney** - All Sydney Metropolitan Councils, Gosford, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Wyong
- **Greater Hunter** - Cessnock, Dungog, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Muswellbrook, Port Stephens, Singleton, Upper Hunter
- **Illawarra/Shoalhaven** – Kiama, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven, Wingecarribee, Wollondilly, Wollongong

All of these areas have a **Very High** Fire Danger Rating.

Under these conditions, fires can difficult to control and still present a threat to properties.

People should report any unattended fires to Triple Zero.

On a day of Total Fire Ban, there is a ban on any fires out in the open.

A gas or electric barbeque is allowed, but only if:

- It is on a residential property within 20 metres of the house or dwelling
- It is in a picnic area and the appliance is approved by Council, National Parks or State Forest
- It is under the direct control of a responsible adult
- The ground around the barbecue is cleared for 2 metres of all material that can burn
- You have an immediate and continuous supply of water available.

Full details on Total Fire Ban rules are available on the NSW RFS website at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.

Media Contact: NSW RFS State Duty Media Officer (02) 9898 1855