

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Complacency a risk as hot weather sets in

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With hot weather forecast across much of the state in coming days, the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is urging people to check their Bush Fire Survival Plans.

NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said with temperatures over 40 degrees in some areas, there is the potential for total fire bans and it's important for people to exercise common sense.

"The recent rain experienced across parts of the state has helped to reduce the immediate threat of fires," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

"However this rain has also caused an abundance of fuel and it can take only a few days of hot, dry and windy weather for the conditions to change – so we don't want people to become complacent.

"People should use this opportunity to check their Bush Fire Survival Plan and ensure their home and property is well prepared.

"We're only halfway through summer – and people should be using the time now to make sure they're as best prepared as possible."

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said fire services such as the NSW RFS will keep a close watch on conditions in coming days.

"Each afternoon, we'll be reviewing conditions such as temperature, humidity, winds and the dryness of the landscape for the following day and if necessary, declare total fire bans.

"Even if there aren't total fire bans, people still need to exercise caution and common sense.

"With the warmer weather we're already starting to see fuel dry out quite quickly.

"With the end of the school holidays many people will be travelling so whether you're out and about over Australia Day or having a barbeque at home, play it safe and be prepared."

Total fire bans and current fire danger ratings can be found on the NSW RFS website at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au or by calling 1800 679 737.

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