

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

First total fire ban as bush fire season warms up

18 September 2011

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is urging people in Far Western NSW to ensure that they are prepared ahead of hot, dry and windy conditions.

NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said tomorrow's total fire ban is the first of the season and is a reflection of the conditions being seen in many parts of State.

"Forecast high temperatures and strong winds mean that the risk of grass fires starting and taking hold is significantly increased," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

"In these types of conditions it is crucial that the community understands the risk, takes the necessary precautions and remains vigilant.

"It's important that the wet weather seen over winter hasn't lead to complacency. There is a very real potential for fire, and everyone in and around the areas of Bourke, Broken Hill, Central Darling, Brewarinna and Cobar should remain alert and ensure that themselves, their families and properties are suitably prepared."

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said that where there is a Severe fire danger rating, only homes that are adequately prepared and actively defended may offer safety during a fire.

"Leaving early is always the safest option and a completed Bush Fire Survival Plan will help prevent families from having to make decisions at the last minute.

"Tomorrow's total fire ban is an insight to the conditions we can expect this season," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

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