

MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Bush Fire Danger Period Commences Wednesday 1st September 2010 Fire Permits Now Required

31 August 2010

Fire Permits will be required from Wednesday the 1st September in the Council areas of Ballina, Byron, Tweed, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Kyogle the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) announced today.

The Bush Fire Danger Period begins from 1 September; requiring people who want to light fires in the open to obtain a Fire Permit.

“September is traditionally a very windy time of year which increases the risk of open fires getting out of control,” RFS Community Safety Officer Superintendent Boyd Townsend said.

Fire Permits are free of charge and are available through RFS permit issuing officers and NSW Fire Brigades Stations. Further information on how to obtain a permit can be provided by your Local RFS Fire Control Centre or local Fire Brigade.

Many parts of the Region are drying out rapidly which increases the potential fire risk and care must be taken to prevent damage to life, property and the environment.

“The past Two weeks has seen a significant number of fires being lit by landowners get out of control which should highlight to everyone that proper preparation and appropriate timing of burn offs is crucial. In the 2009/10 fire season a number of substantial fines were issued to people whom used fire in the landscape carelessly, which can, and will be done again in such cases”, Superintendent Townsend said.

Fire Permits assist Fire Services to more effectively manage fire in the landscape by specifying appropriate conditions to minimise risk and they also ensure fire authorities are aware of exactly where and when fire is being used.”

The start of the Bush Fire Danger Period does not prohibit burning, and landholders are encouraged to do hazard reduction safely by obtaining a Fire Permit. If weather conditions and potential fire risk does worsen in the coming weeks, permits may be restricted to essential activities only.

If you want to do hazard reduction burning and think you might need an environmental approval for the work, the RFS provides a free hazard reduction environmental assessment service. Ask about a Bushfire Hazard Reduction Certificate.

If you do wish to burn ask the RFS for advice, and follow the following steps:

- Obtain a permit
- give fire authorities and neighbours at least 24 hours notice
- check weather conditions and Total Fire Bans
- delay the burn if windy conditions are forecast
- create proper fire breaks before lighting a fire
- have adequate water resources on hand to control the fire
- supervise the fire at all times
- call triple zero (000) immediately if fire escapes.

For more information on permits and when they are required call your local Fire Control Centre or check the RFS website www.rfs.nsw.gov.au, or call 1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737).

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