



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



MEDIA RELEASE

NSW RFS declares start of Bush Fire Danger Period and suspends fire permits

30 August 2018

Saturday 1st September marks the official start of the statutory Bush Fire Danger Period for the Muswellbrook and Singleton Local Government Areas (LGAs) and the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is urging Hunter Valley residents to prepare for the fire season now.

Fire permits have been suspended in the Hunter Valley District from the beginning of the Bush Fire Danger Period beginning on the 1st September until further notice in the Muswellbrook and Singleton LGAs because of current dry conditions.

NSW RFS Operational Officer Leanne Bell said the decision to suspend fire permits has been made in order to help keep the local community safe from bush and grass fires.

“We have already seen several fires across the state damage property during August. These fires have demonstrated the risk we face across the state. We are already face challenging fire fighting conditions.”

“If you are not prepared for the bush fire season then you must act now. Everyone should be using this time to prepare their property, including removing fuel from around homes and cleaning gutters.”

Operational Officer Bell said all Muswellbrook and Singleton Council residents should take the current conditions seriously and make sure they have discussed their Bush Fire Survival Plan in order to protect their family and property should they be threatened by fire.

“The Bush Fire Danger Period will commence on 1st September across most of the state including Muswellbrook and Singleton Local Government Areas. During this time fire permits are required for all fires in the open. Due to the prolong dry period and drought conditions, all fire permits will be suspended from the start of the bush fire danger period for the Muswellbrook and Singleton areas. Serious penalties, including fines and/or imprisonment, apply for starting a fire without a permit during the Bush Fire Danger Period.”

Permits are not required for the purpose of cooking food, provided that it is in a permanently constructed fire place, the ground around the fire is cleared of all combustible materials for a distance of at least 2 metres and the fire is completely extinguished before leaving.

“Permits may be issued in exceptional circumstances, such as public safety or essential business works. To request an exemption, contact Hunter Valley Fire Control,” Operational Officer Bell said.

For more information, contact Hunter Valley Fire Control on 6575 1200 during business hours.

**For more information contact the Hunter Valley Fire Control Centre on 6575 1200
For current incidents or major fire updates visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au**
