



MEDIA RELEASE

Bush Fire Danger Period begins

1 September 2015

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) wishes to advise the start of the statutory Bush Fire Danger Period (BFDP) for areas across the Muswellbrook and Singleton LGAs..

From **1st September 2015** any person wishing to light a fire in rural areas will require a permit in the following local government areas:

- Muswellbrook
- Singleton

These areas include the towns of Branxton, Denman, Muswellbrook and Singleton which require a fire permit all year round from their respective Fire and Rescue station.

“Anybody wishing to light a fire on their property during the Bush Fire Danger Period will require a permit from their local Rural Fire brigade permit issuing officer or their Fire and Rescue station. Their contact details can be obtained from the Hunter Valley Fire Control Centre on 6575 1200. This number is answered 24 hours a day. For owner/occupiers that have been issued a Permit we have a new number for notifications to Fire Control Centre 6575 1212, this allows the owner/occupier to leave a their notification message (Permit number, address, name and details of the burning activity) on answering machine 24 hours 7 days a week.

“Despite recent rain, seasonal conditions are becoming more conducive to the spread of fire, people need to be extremely careful when using fire,” said Hunter Valley District, acting manager, Inspector Martin Siemsen.

“However, even with a permit you need to check the fire danger rating and whether Very High or above rating is in place before lighting any fires.”

Inspector Siemsen is also encouraging residents to have a Bush Fire Survival Plan, that can be downloaded from www.rfs.nsw.gov.au, so all members of the household know what to do on days of increased fire danger and if their home is threatened by fire.

“Never leave a fire unattended and if a fire does escape, it is essential to call Triple Zero (000) immediately so that emergency services can attend and minimise the damage.”

