



HUFF STUFF

Newsletter

Issue 44

September 2020

Greetings everyone.

Spring has sprung and now is the time to think about the upcoming bush fire season. I know what many of you will be thinking - there's nothing left to burn, and you could be forgiven for thinking that. However, we need to be mindful of the fact that the western side of our villages escaped the Black Summer fires. We are not facing the terrible drought conditions experienced this time last year but it is still better to keep preparing your properties and not fall into complacency.

I have included a Media Release from the RFS Commissioner and a map to explain what we can expect in more detail.

Thank you to all of you who have returned surveys to Jo Davies. Please keep them coming in. We want to get a really clear picture of where HUFF is at and how we move forward. Your input is valuable.

Simon from CyberShed will be holding small group workshops before the end of the year to train HUFF Facilitators to teach others how to set up apps like Fires Near Me and MyFirePlan. And, Fires Near Me has been upgraded so delete your old one and reinstall the new version. There are two, one for NSW and one for Australia. The NSW RFS website offers more information about the new apps.



Get Ready Days

19th September at the Medlow Bath
RFS shed,

7th November at Blackheath RFS
shed 10 -2 pm

7th December at the Imperial Park in
Mount Victoria at 4.00pm.

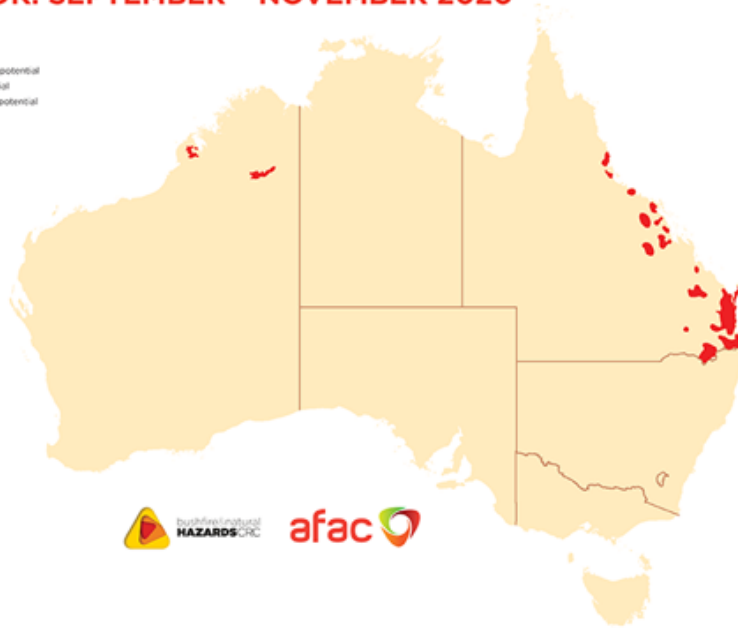
BANC will also be providing Bush
Fire Recovery information.

Everyone is welcome and you can
attend any of the venues



AUSTRALIAN SEASONAL BUSHFIRE OUTLOOK: SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2020

■ Above normal fire potential
■ Normal fire potential
■ Below normal fire potential



Red indicates above normal fire conditions and yellow is normal bush fire conditions.

Blue, of which there are none, is below normal bush fire conditions.

Fire is a regular occurrence across Australia, and it is important to remember that areas designated as normal fire potential will still see fires. Normal bushfire risk does not mean there is no risk.

from myRFS website

HOME PREPARATION CHECKLIST

- **Clean your gutters of leaves and twigs**
- **Install metal gutter guards**
- **Repair damaged or missing tiles on the roof**
- **Install fine metal mesh screens on windows and doors**
- **Fit seals around doors and windows to eliminate gaps**
- **Enclose the areas under the house**
- **Repair or cover gaps in external walls**
- **Attach a fire sprinkler system to gutters**
- **Keep lawns short and gardens well maintained**
- **Cut back trees and shrubs overhanging buildings**
- **Clean up fallen leaves, twigs and debris around the property**
- **Have hoses long enough to reach around your house**
- **If you have a pool, tank or dam, put a Static Water Supply (SWS) sign on your property entrance, so firefighters know where they can get water**
- **Check and maintain adequate levels of home and contents insurance. Ensure it is up to date.**

Regards,
Mina Howard



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

Bush Fire Danger Period starts in a further 21 areas

31 August 2020

An additional 21 areas will begin the bush fire season tomorrow due to local conditions.

NSW Commissioner Rob Rogers said the NSW RFS had declared a further 21 areas will commence the Bush Fire Danger Period from Tuesday 1 September 2020 – bringing the number of local government areas in bush fire season to 27.

“Increased grass growth due to recent rain could prove problematic over coming weeks and months, particularly in these areas starting their danger period,” Commissioner Rogers said.

“Land holders and firefighters have reported increased grass growth, particularly west of the divide. Once dry and cured this will bring an unwelcome threat of grass fires.

The statutory Bush Fire Danger Period in NSW commences on 1 October each year, but is adjusted based on local conditions.

Anyone wishing to light a fire during the Bush Fire Danger Period must obtain a permit from their local fire authority.

“Permits, which are free to obtain, ensure that fire is used safely and to minimise the danger to landholders, their property and the community,” Commissioner Rogers said.

“While hazard reductions burns are an important part of preparations, landholders need to be extremely careful.

“Never leave a fire unattended and if a fire does escape, make sure you call Triple Zero (000) immediately so that emergency services can respond and minimise the damage.”

Commissioner Rogers also urged homeowners to prepare for the fire season, noting that we cannot be complacent this season despite the Bureau forecasting a wet start to the fire season.

“Bush and grass fires can strike at any time and it is vitally important to be prepared.

“Update your bush fire survival plan and have the conversation with your family about what you will do during a fire – including where you’ll go, what you’ll take and what you’ll do with animals.

For information on making a bush fire survival plan, visit www.myfireplan.com.au or for information about permits and fire danger ratings go to www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.



For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on 9898 1855
For current incidents or major fire updates visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au