



HUFF STUFF

Newsletter

Issue 30

August 2018

Greetings everyone,

As we shiver through the final throes of winter we must be reminded that we can never be complacent. At I write, we have two major fires on the South Coast and a fire at Bilpin. A Total Fire Ban has been declared – in August!

The severe drought is covering 100% of the state and this does not bode well for the upcoming fire season that has been declared a month earlier than usual.

Total Fire Ban rules



A total fire ban means no fires out in the open. During a Total Fire Ban you cannot light, maintain or use a fire in the open, or to carry out any activity in the open that causes, or is likely to cause, a fire.

No general purpose hot works, such as welding or gas cutting can be done in the open.

Can I use an electric barbeque?

You can use an electric barbeque for cooking as long as it is under the direct control of a

responsible adult, who is present at all times while it is operating, and no combustible material is allowed within two metres at any time it is operating.

Can I use a gas barbeque?

You can use a gas barbeque under the following conditions:

- It is under the direct control of a responsible adult, who is present at all times while it is operating;
- No combustible material is allowed within two metres at any time it is operating;
- You have an immediate and continuous supply of water; and
 - The barbeque is within 20 metres of a permanent private dwelling such as a home; or
 - The barbeque is within a designated picnic area and the appliance is approved by Council, National Parks or State Forest.

Can I use a barbeque or pizza oven which burns solid fuel (e.g. wood, charcoal or heat beads)?

No. A barbeque or wood fire pizza oven which uses solid fuel, such as wood, charcoal or heat beads, cannot be used outside during a Total Fire Ban.

Source; <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au>

Pre-Season Briefing at Blue Mountains Bushfire Control Centre

Today I attended this event and here it is in a nutshell:

- There are 2318 volunteers in BM District, 73 000 state wide.
- We have 93 vehicles, of which 51 are response vehicles.
- In 2017-18 there were 343 incidents; since July this year there have been 58.
- We are on El Nino Watch (see Bureau of Metereology BOM for more detail) which means a drier rest of 2018.
- There is no significant rain forecast for 2018.
- We need 140 mm plus of rain to get us into a safer weather picture.
- There is an 80% chance that we will exceed daily average temperatures.
- The bushfire season will most probably be declared 1st September – no surprises there!

This means that we all need to be more aware and think seriously about how well we are prepared. So please talk to as many people as you can regarding your own plan and try to have a conversation with your neighbours about theirs.

Get Ready Weekend

Why not drop in to your local RFS Brigade shed and have a chat and a sausage sizzle. We will also have some delicious cupcakes for sale.

22nd September, 10 – 3 pm

Mount Victoria RFS shed, next to Mt Vic Flicks

23rd September, 10 – 3 pm

Blackheath RFS shed, 139 Station St.

FOUR SIMPLE STEPS

There are four simple steps to get ready for a



bush fire:

DISCUSS

DISCUSS WHAT TO DO IF A BUSH FIRE THREATENS YOUR HOME

Many households find that having a discussion over dinner works best as everybody is together and focussed.

[Download the Step 1 discussion guide \(PDF, 985.3 KB\).](#)



PREPARE

PREPARE YOUR HOME AND GET IT READY FOR BUSH FIRE SEASON

There are simple things you can do around your home to prepare it for a bush fire, like keeping the grass low and having a cleared area around your home.

[Download the Step 2 checklist \(PDF, 595.5](#)



KB).

KNOW

KNOW THE BUSH FIRE ALERT

LEVELS

If there is a fire in your area you will find its alert level on the NSW RFS website and in the 'Fires Near Me' app. You need to keep track of the alert level so you know what you should do.

[Download Step 3 \(PDF, 146.4 KB\).](#)



KEEP

KEEP ALL THE BUSH FIRE INFORMATION NUMBERS, WEBSITES AND THE SMARTPHONE APP

In a bush fire, it's important that you stay up to date on conditions in your area.

[Download Step 4 \(PDF, 219.1 KB\).](#)

Source: NSW RFS

Regards, Mina