

## Tuross Head Rural Fire Brigade



This time last year I reported on a motor vehicle accident (MVA) that the brigade had been called out to. Fortunately this type of incident has been a bit of a rarity recently – at least in our neck of the woods! Perhaps the worst feeling we get is racing to attend a local MVA – and wondering if anyone we know is involved! We thank you for being more careful on the roads over the school holidays.

The weather situation of late has also meant that there have been fewer fires troubling the brigade. That familiar noise on our beepers has normally been an administrative message such as “FDR FOR TODAY IS HIGH”. For those who are looking puzzled, FDR doesn't refer to the 32<sup>nd</sup> President of the United States, but rather to FIRE DANGER RATING. If you didn't instantly tweak to that then it's perhaps a good time to refresh your memory as to what it means. What should you be thinking of when you see an FDR of HIGH on the board down at the shops, or for that matter when you are driving around the countryside?

FDRs are determined daily for NSW Fire Areas by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), are measured as low-moderate, high, very high, severe, extreme or catastrophic, and are based on weather conditions such as temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and rainfall. Tuross Head is in the Far South Coast Fire Area which starts north of Batemans Bay and hugs the coast all the way down to the Victorian border.

In the case of a **HIGH**, as has been the normal rating lately, you should be:

- Ensuring your family, home and property is well prepared for the risk of bush fire
- [Reviewing and practicing your Bush Fire Survival Plan](#)
- Monitoring local media for fire activity and regularly checking the RFS website or Information Line.

Did you remember all of that? Have you undertaken these activities? If yes is your answer then you deserve a pat on the back, but for the other 99.9% - remember the next step up is -

**VERY HIGH** where you'll need to be:

- Ensuring that your survival is the primary consideration in any decision
- [Preparing to implement your Bush Fire Survival Plan](#)
- Staying informed of current fire activity by monitoring local media and regularly checking for updates on the RFS website or Information Line.

Above this it starts getting quite serious when fire can threaten suddenly, without warning and be very hot and windy which will make it increasingly difficult to see, hear and breathe as the fire approaches. The FDR now would stand at **SEVERE** and you should be:

- Ensuring that your survival is the primary consideration in any decision
- Thinking of leaving early (hours before) as it is the safest option for you and your family
- [Following your Bush Fire Survival Plan](#)
- If your Bush Fire Survival Plan includes the decision to Stay and Defend, only do so if your home is well prepared, and you are currently capable of actively defending it.
- Stay informed of current fire activity by monitoring local media and regularly checking for updates on the RFS website or Information Line.

The next two FDRs are **EXTREME** and **CATASTROPHIC** and we hope that you'll never have to face these without being fully prepared and well aware of all the dangers that may come your way!!

Don't put it off until tomorrow – **NOW** is the time to:

**PREPARE . ACT . SURVIVE .**