



Tuross Head Rural Fire Brigade

It is appropriate at this time of the year to consider the (paraphrased) words of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons, in recently officially launching the start of the Bush Fire Danger Period.

“Last fire season, we were fortunate to experience relatively mild conditions due to a la nina weather event, however this year, we are expecting above average temperatures. There will be fires this fire season, however the intensity and duration of those will depend largely on local conditions at the time.

Like firefighters, all residents should be well advanced in their preparations for this fire season (and) should have prepared their properties by removing fuel from around their property, including their gutters. Complacency is a real risk.

Residents in bush land areas should also ensure they have access to a suitable water supply such as a pool, dam or water tank and have a pump and hoses to use.

It's vital that all residents have a plan for when a fire affects their property, so everyone understands what they need to do (and) most importantly, residents should decide now if a fire affects their community, whether they'll stay and defend their home or leave early. Lives are lost when people leave at the last moment.”

If you are unsure of what preparations you should be undertaking then consider talking to your local Brigade Officers and/or viewing some of the following RFS Fire Safety Information publications which are available in PDF format from the RFS Web Site

(http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/dsp_content.cfm?CAT_ID=192):

- Home Fire Safety
- Household Chemicals
- Bush FireWise
- Farm FireWise
- Leisure and Recreation
- Business
- Students and Teachers
- Seniors
- General Fire Safety

(Note: Some fact sheets and checklists have been provided in other languages (23) in case English is not your preferred written language.)



On a more celebratory note, Christmas is officially on again this year, regardless of the global financial melt-down, and your RFS Santa Run is once again in operation. From 3pm to 6pm on Monday 22 December Brigade personnel will be in receiving mode ... please remember that all parcels should be wrapped securely and clearly labeled with the recipient's name and address (preferably in waterproof ink, in case of rain). Please don't be late, as no parcels will be accepted after 6pm! Whilst all care will be taken, any breakages will be assumed to have happened before we received them! The usual gold coin donation per parcel will be cheerfully accepted at the time of drop-off. The Sleigh will be taking off around 2pm on Christmas Eve ... and expects to have visited all the girls and boys who have been good all year by about 5pm.

Michael Jones
Publicity Officer
44738671