



ACT
Government



Media Release

Bushfire season to commence on Monday

Number 2012-011

Status Immediate release

Date Friday, 28 September 2012

The ACT Emergency Services Agency Commissioner, Mr Mark Crowweller, has asked Canberran's to PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE. with the ACT Bushfire season officially commencing on Monday 1 October 2012 until 31 March 2013 unless conditions warrant an extension.

"Once again this season, the potential for grass fire risk is high," Commissioner Mark Crowweller said.

"The past two years have seen above average rainfall which has produced prolific grass growth around the region. Rainfall, temperature and wind will determine how vulnerable the landscape will be to fire this summer," he said.

"The ACT Rural Fire Service and the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate have been undertaking prescribed burns in preparation for the bushfire season and have been surprised at how well the vegetation is burning already. Although there are some areas of green around Canberra, don't underestimate the risks. If you think it won't burn, think again. In the grass, fire moves fast and this can cause a significant risk.

"Ensuring everyone has a Bushfire Survival Plan is a vital step to PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE. It is too late to start making decisions when a fire has started and threatens, so take the time to discuss it now.

"Over the coming weeks, a high profile community awareness campaign will be launched through local media to help promote this important message. The Bushfire Survival Plan can be downloaded from the ACT Emergency Services Agency website at, esa.act.gov.au.

"Having residents prepare their properties and clear any fire hazards around the home can reduce the risk of fire. Cutting long grass, clearing timber and long branches and removing leaves from gutters can lessen the impact of fire.

With the official bushfire season commencing, the ESA Commissioner also reminded residents that from Monday no fires can be started in the ACT without obtaining a permit.

"Permits can be obtained through ACT Fire & Rescue for the urban area of the ACT and through the ACT Rural Fire Service for residents in rural areas of the ACT," Commissioner Crowweller said.