



**NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE**

## **Bush Fire Danger Period Begins**

**1<sup>st</sup> October 2020**

The NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) has today declared the start of the statutory Bush Fire Danger Period (BFDP).

From 1 October any person wishing to light a fire in the Hawkesbury Local Government Area will require a permit.

“With conditions becoming more conducive to the spread of fire, people now need to be extremely careful when using fire,” said Inspector Timothy Seary.

“With the commencement of the Bush Fire Danger Period, anybody wishing to light a fire on their property will require a permit from their local fire station or fire control centre.

“However, even with a Permit you need to check whether a Total Fire Ban is in force before lighting any fires”.

Inspector Timothy Seary said the RFS encourages all residents to continue with their hazard reduction activities and ensure their properties are properly prepared for the bush fire season.

“We have all recently seen the devastation that bush fires can bring to a community, so I strongly advise residents to contact their local Brigades and use their expertise to assist in carrying out safe and successful hazard reductions,” said Inspector Timothy Seary.

“Never leave a fire unattended and always ensure you have firefighting equipment on hand, such as a full knapsack, spray pumper or hand-held chemical fire extinguisher in good working order.

“If the fire does escape, it is essential to call Triple Zero (000) immediately so that Emergency Services can respond accordingly and minimise the damage.

“Serious penalties, including fines and/or imprisonment, apply for allowing a fire to escape and damage property and the environment”.

**For more information contact Hawkesbury Rural Fire District on 4560 6400 or visit [rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://rfs.nsw.gov.au)**