

An important message from the Scotland Island Rural Fire Brigade

Over the next couple of days weather conditions are expected to be hot and windy with low humidity. This will significantly increase the risk of devastating bush fires. On **Monday** there will be a **Very High Fire Danger** and a **Total Fire Ban**. On **Tuesday** we are expecting a **Catastrophic Fire Danger** and a **Total Fire Ban**.

If a fire does start it will be extremely dangerous and it is likely to move so quickly and affect so many properties that help will not be available for everyone and we will not be able to protect every property. It is likely that our only priority will be protecting life.

When the Fire Danger Rating is Catastrophic the RFS recommends you leave bush fire prone areas the night before or early on the day. Homes are not designed to withstand these types of conditions if a fire starts. The safest place for you to be is in a built up, suburban area.

If you choose to leave your home please let your neighbours know or you can email sirfb@sirfb.org.au If you choose to stay at home – and remember, we recommend you leave - you must be well prepared. Use the time you have available to finalise preparations to your property, test any fire fighting equipment you have and water supplies. Make sure your equipment is working, accessible and ready to go.

Download the Fires Near Me app from the RFS. Follow the instructions to setup a watch zone that will alert you of any new fires in the area. Search for “Fires Near Me” in the app store. You can also refer to the RFS web site at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au Remember that in the event of a fire it is likely that there will be no electricity and no internet access.

Have a portable radio available tuned to the ABC which is the emergency broadcaster. Make sure your mobile phone is fully charged. You may receive emergency alerts on your mobile phone or landline.

Listen for Alerts. There are 3 alert levels:



Advice

A fire has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.



Watch And Act

There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.



Emergency Warning

An Emergency Warning is the highest level of Bush Fire Alert. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

Have a bag packed containing important personal belongings and documents. In the event of an emergency call 000 immediately.

If you need any further information please contact the Scotland Island Rural Fire Brigade on 9999 4404 or by email at sirfb@sirfb.org.au. Please don't use these in the event of an emergency.

Peter Lalor
Captain
Scotland Island Rural Fire Brigade