

# NSW Police



A Message from Gelina Talbot, Commander  
Barwon Local Area Command

With the Bush Fire Season now well under way the NSW Police Force reminds all members of the community that they should be vigilant and report any deliberately lit fires, whether grass fires, house fires or resulting bush fires by immediately phoning Triple Zero (000).

Tough new penalties are also now in effect that empower the NSW Police Force and Rural Fire Service to bring those who deliberately and recklessly disrespect Total Fire Ban warnings before the courts.

Anyone with information about deliberately lit fires are encouraged to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or use the Crime Stoppers on line reporting page <https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/>. Information you provide will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

The NSW Police Force also encourage community members to be prepared for all likely local emergencies whether that be fires, storms or floods. One way of being prepared is by monitoring the various websites listed on this pamphlet.

More information can be obtained on the NSW Police Force Website:

<http://www.police.nsw.gov.au>

## In an emergency call Triple Zero (000)

### Advise the operator:

- ◆ What service you need: Police, Fire, Ambulance
- ◆ A description of the emergency
- ◆ Your location—include as many details as you can and also whether you are in NSW or QLD.

**STAY ON THE LINE AND DON'T HANG UP**



### Information compiled and distributed by:

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# M.O.R.E.E.



Make  
Our  
Region  
Equipped for

## Useful Tips for Our Community Members Provided by Your Local Emergency Service Agencies



This Newsletter is an initiative of the Moree Plains  
Local Emergency Management Committee



## Bush Fire Alerts

KEEP INFORMED, STAY SAFE

Where there is a risk from bush fire, the NSW Rural Fire Service uses Bush Fire Alerts to provide information to affected communities using radio, television, and the internet. There are three Bush Fire Alert levels to help you make the right choices for your safety.

**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.

Where can you get information during a bush fire?

- Bush Fire Information Line 1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737)
- NSW Rural Fire Service website [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)
- [www.facebook.com/nswrfs](http://www.facebook.com/nswrfs) [www.twitter.com/nswrfs](http://www.twitter.com/nswrfs)
- Local Radio, TV, Newspapers

Remember a fire can threaten suddenly. Don't rely on a single source for emergency information, and be ready to act.

An **EMERGENCY WARNING** is the highest level of Bush Fire Alert. The alert will give information about the severity of the fire, its location and what you should do. Bush Fire Alerts are not always given in the above order. A fire may be at 'Watch and Act' or 'Emergency Warning' first. Some fires start and spread so quickly that there is no time for any warning at all. You should be prepared to put your Bush Fire Survival Plan into action with little or no warning. Include Bush Fire Alerts in your Bush Fire Survival Plan as triggers to Leave Early or prepare to Stay and Defend where appropriate.



## Are you at risk?

Storms can happen anywhere, at any time of the year. It is important to prepare your family and property now and stay prepared all year round. Storms are the most costly natural disaster to affect NSW, causing an estimated average of \$217 million dollars damage annually (source: Bureau of Transport Economics, 2008).

During storms, it is important to protect your family and property from the major impacts such as high winds, hail, and rising water levels (flash flooding).

- **Damaging winds** can bring down trees, branches, powerlines, remove roofs and blow around outdoor items
- **Hail** can injure people and damage property
- **Heavy rainfall** can cause water to:
  - » damage exposed homes and belongings
  - » rise rapidly, flooding homes, property and roads
  - » drain rapidly making floodwater, drains and other water courses a safety hazard
- **Damaging surf** can be unsafe and flood homes and properties in coastal areas

You may also be indirectly affected by storms; access roads may be blocked or you may have no power or telephone connection.

### Floods and Storms

Call the SES: 132 500

[www.ses.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au)

## 8 TIPS

## YOU CAN DO NOW TO PREPARE FOR STORMS



There are a few simple things that you can do now to help reduce the potential damage caused by severe storms:

- 1** Maintain your yard and balcony by securing or putting away items that could blow around in strong winds
- 2** Clean your gutters, downpipes and drains regularly to prevent blockages
- 3** Trim trees and branches that could potentially fall on your home or property
- 4** Fix any damage to your roof including broken or missing tiles
- 5** Check your insurance policy is current and adequate
- 6** Make a plan for your family that outlines what you would do in an emergency
- 7** Put together an emergency kit
- 8** Listen to your local radio station and other media for weather warnings



*Included with this newsletter is a Fact Sheet provided by Fire & Rescue NSW which includes handy tips for barbecue fire safety and LPG cylinder safety that should be very useful with summer approaching and everyone enjoying the outdoors and cooking on the barbie!*