



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

A firefighter in a yellow uniform is showing a welcome pack to a family consisting of a mother, a young girl, a father, and a young boy. They are standing in front of a fire station with a fire truck visible in the background.

# NEW RESIDENT WELCOME PACK

Important information and advice on property preparedness,  
key contacts and other useful information

**NSW RFS Southern Tablelands  
Laggan Rural Fire Brigade**





## NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Dear Resident,

### Welcome to the Southern Tablelands

Firstly, on behalf of the members of the NSW Rural Fire Service Southern Tablelands, I would like to welcome you and your family to the local area.

The NSW Rural Fire Service is the lead agency for all bush and grass fires in NSW. Working closely with other Emergency Services, we respond to a range of other emergencies including structure fires and motor vehicle accidents. The Southern Tablelands Zone of the NSW Rural Fire Service encompasses the Goulburn/Mulwaree, Upper Lachlan Shire and Yass Valley local government areas, covering some 14,321 km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 55,766 residents. Each year NSW RFS Volunteers attend approximately 550 fires and other emergencies across the Southern Tablelands.

We have experienced very significant fires in the past, including:

- 2003 – Brindabella Ranges Fire (Canberra) – Affecting the Wee Jasper, Mullion and Fairlight areas
- 2003 – Childowla Fire – Affecting the Bookham and Burrinjuck areas
- 2013 – Cobbler Road Fire – Affecting the Bookham and Burrinjuck areas
- 2017 – Mulligans Flat Fire – Affecting the Sutton area
- 2017 – Long Gully Fire – Affecting the Wombeyan Caves, Bannaby and Taragla areas
- 2020 – Greenwattle Fire – Affecting the Wombeyan Caves area
- 2020 – Morton Fire – Affecting the Tallong and Bungonia areas

It is your responsibility to ensure that your family, your property and yourself are prepared for bush and grass fires by ensuring you have a Bush Fire Survival Plan and that hazards are reduced around your property. Preparing for bush and grass fires is easier than some might think. It could be as simple as talking to your family about what you would do if a bush or grass fire was to start nearby.

I encourage you to avail yourself of the large amount of resources and information provided by the NSW Rural Fire Service by visiting our website at '[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)'.

Our organisation thrives due to the commitment of our volunteer members that for want of nothing else, give of their time to serve and protect their community. Joining your local Rural Fire Brigade is a fantastic way to connect with other members of the community. Volunteer membership of the NSW RFS offers many and varied roles from Firefighter, to Communications, Catering and Logistics. More information about joining the Rural Fire Service is available on our website also, or by calling my office.

Finally, please don't hesitate to contact your local Laggan Brigade Captain Peter Anderson on 0466 887 263 or (02) 4837 3305 or my office on (02) 6226 3100 should you require assistance or advice with preparing yourself, your family or your property for bush and grass fires.

Once again, welcome to the Southern Tablelands.

Warm regards,

Superintendent Peter Alley

District Manager

Southern Tablelands

#### Postal address

NSW Rural Fire Service  
PO Box 597  
YASS NSW 2582

#### Street address

NSW Rural Fire Service  
1410 Yass Valley Way  
YASS NSW 2582

**T** (02) 6226 3100  
**F** (02) 6226 3716  
[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)



# LOCAL BRIGADE INFORMATION

**MY LOCAL RFS BRIGADE IS:** LAGGAN RURAL FIRE BRIGADE  
**LOCATION:** PEELWOOD ROAD, LAGGAN, NSW, 2583

## BRIGADE CONTACTS

**CAPTAIN:** PETER ANDERSON  
**PHONE:** 0466 887 263 or (02) 4837 3305  
**EMAIL:** captain@lagganbfb.com.au

**SECRETARY:** SIMON LYNCH  
**PHONE:** 0419 236 474 or (02) 4837 3315  
**EMAIL:** secretary@lagganbfb.com.au

## OTHER DETAILS

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** UPPER LACHLAN  
**FIRE WEATHER DISTRICT:** SOUTHERN RANGES  
**NSW RFS DISTRICT:** SOUTHERN TABLELANDS



In an emergency dial **Triple Zero (000)** immediately.

## YOUR LOCAL RFS BRIGADE NEEDS YOU!



Local RFS Brigades rely on members of the community just like you to be able to function effectively and provide a range of services to the local community. Simply, there is a job for everyone. To learn more about joining the NSW Rural Fire Service, visit [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/volunteer](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/volunteer)



PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.  
NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

# LOCAL INFORMATION

In addition to the Emergency Bush Fire Information sources available from the NSW Rural Fire Service, residents of the Southern Tablelands can also access the following platforms for localised advice and information.



In an emergency dial **Triple Zero (000)** immediately.



[facebook.com/nswrffssoutherntablelandszone](https://facebook.com/nswrffssoutherntablelandszone)



**(02) 6226 3100**

**During business hours only**



[@nswrffs\\_southerntablelandszone](https://www.instagram.com/nswrffs_southerntablelandszone)



**ABC Radio Canberra**

**666 AM**



**REMEMBER YOU MUST NOTIFY OF YOUR INTENTION TO BURN, 24 HOURS BEFORE DOING SO, BY CALLING (02) 6226 3100 (MON-FRI)**

More information is available on the Permits and Notifications page of this booklet.



# 4 SIMPLE STEPS TO PREPARE FOR BUSH FIRE

Most people have a plan for what they will do during a bush fire. By having a plan you have a better chance of surviving a bush fire.

While firefighters and emergency services will do everything they can to assist you, there is no guarantee that there will be a fire truck available when you need it.

**! It is your responsibility to prepare yourself, your home and your family.**

Follow these four simple steps to ensure you and your family know what actions you will take should a bush fire threaten:



## 1. DISCUSS

Know what you and your family will do if a fire threatens your home or property.



## 2. PREPARE

Get your home and property ready for bush fire season. There are five simple things you can do to be prepared.



## 3. KNOW

Be mindful of the Bush Fire Alert Levels and the Fire Danger Rating. These will give you an indication of how dangerous a fire near you will be.



## 4. KEEP

In a bush fire, stay up to date on the situation in your area. It is important that you do not rely on one source of information.

For more information on what you can do to prepare for bush fire:

NSW Rural Fire Service Website  
[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.myfireplan.com.au](http://www.myfireplan.com.au)

Bush Fire Information Line  
1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737)

Your nearest NSW RFS Fire Control Centre:

NSW RFS Southern Tablelands Zone  
Ph: (02) 6226 3100

# YOUR BUSH FIRE SURVIVAL PLAN KNOW WHAT YOU'LL DO

One of the most important things you can do before a bush/grass fire is decide what you will do if one should start. Even if you plan to **STAY**, there will be come Extreme or Catastrophic days when staying isn't an option.

## EVERYONE NEEDS A LEAVE EARLY PLAN

If your household plan is to LEAVE EARLY, you must be able to answer the following questions in detail to ensure you and your family are as fully prepared as possible:

- When will we leave?
- What will we take?
- Where will we go and how will we get there?

You should only plan to stay if you and your property is well prepared and you are able to actively defend it.

Check out [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare) to download our guide to developing your Bush Fire Survival Plan as well as other useful tools like Leave Early or Prepare to Stay Checklists.

For more information about Bush Fire Survival Planning:



**NSW Rural Fire Service Website**  
[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.myfireplan.com.au](http://www.myfireplan.com.au)



**Your nearest NSW RFS  
Fire Control Centre:**  
NSW RFS Southern Tablelands  
Zone  
(02) 6226 3100



**Bush Fire Information Line**  
1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737)



DISCUSS



PREPARE



KNOW



KEEP





# GET READY FOR BUSH FIRE PREPARE YOUR HOME

A well prepared home is more likely to survive a bush fire.

Even if your plan is to leave early, the more you prepare your home, the more likely it will survive a bush fire or ember attack. A well prepared home can also:

- Be easier for you or firefighters to defend
- Be less likely to put your neighbours' homes at risk
- Give you more protection if a fire threatens suddenly and you cannot leave

## ✔ TOP 5 ACTIONS TO MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER

There are simple things you can do around your home to prepare it for a bush fire. Some are regular actions, like mowing the lawn, others are one-off, but all could help save you, your family and your home.

PREPARATION ACTION	WHO'S RESPONSIBLE	COMPLETE
<input type="checkbox"/> Trim overhanging trees and shrubs. This can stop the fire spreading to your home.		..... / ..... / .....
<input type="checkbox"/> Mow grass and remove the cuttings. Having a cleared area around your home will give firefighters a safe area to work.		..... / ..... / .....
<input type="checkbox"/> Remove material that can burn around your home. This includes things such as door mats, wood piles, mulch, leaves, outdoor furniture.		..... / ..... / .....
<input type="checkbox"/> Clear and remove all the debris and leaves from the gutters surrounding you home. Burning embers can set your home on fire.		..... / ..... / .....
<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare a sturdy hose/s that will reach all around your home. Make sure you have a reliable source of water (pool, tank, dam) and a diesel/petrol pump or generator is available.		..... / ..... / .....



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

# ✓ MORE PERMANENT PROTECTION FOR YOUR HOME

PROTECTION ITEMS	
<input type="checkbox"/> Block areas where embers can enter the house (external walls, windows, doors, under house)	<input type="checkbox"/> Replace wood fences with metal fences
<input type="checkbox"/> Install metal fly screens on all windows and vents	<input type="checkbox"/> Use stones instead of mulch
<input type="checkbox"/> Install metal gutter guards	<input type="checkbox"/> Repair damaged or missing tiles on roof
<input type="checkbox"/> Position gas cylinders on side of house and away from trees and gardens, direct any pressure valves away from house	<input type="checkbox"/> If you have a pool, tank or dam, put a Static Water Supply (SWS) sign on your property entrance, so firefighters know where they can get water
<input type="checkbox"/> Install a fire sprinkler system to gutters	<input type="checkbox"/> Check and maintain adequate levels of home and contents insurance. Ensure it is up to date.
<input type="checkbox"/> Move garden beds away from house	

## THE AIDER PROGRAM

If you have limited ability to prepare and cannot access support from family, friends or other services to prepare your property on bush fire prone land, then the NSW RFS may be able to provide assistance via the Assist Infirm, Disabled and Elderly Residents (AIDER) Program.

For more information, contact the AIDER Team:

**P:** 02 8741 4955

**E:** [aider@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aider@rfs.nsw.gov.au)

**W:** [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/aider](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/aider)

For more information on what you can do to prepare for bush fire this season:



**NSW Rural Fire Service Website**

[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.myfireplan.com.au](http://www.myfireplan.com.au)



**Your nearest NSW RFS  
Fire Control Centre:**

NSW RFS Southern Tablelands  
Zone  
(02) 6226 3100



**Bush Fire Information Line**

1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737)



# FIRE PERMITS & NOTIFICATIONS

## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?



Fire Permits ensure agencies, such as the NSW Rural Fire Service, know when and where landholders intend to burn, to ensure adequate and appropriate measures are in place, and so that fires remain under control.

### WHEN ARE FIRE PERMITS REQUIRED?

- During the Bush Fire Danger Period (1 October to 31 March but this can vary from season to season)
- If your burn is likely to endanger a building (year round)
- If the proposed burn is in a Fire and Rescue NSW district (year round)

**A Fire Permit is valid for a maximum of 21 days from date of issue.**

### WHEN ARE FIRE PERMITS NOT REQUIRED?

Fire permits are not required for small recreational fires used to cook or barbeque in the open or for reasons such as camping, picnicking or scouting, provided that:

- The fire is in a permanently constructed fireplace
- Clear all combustible materials at least 2 meters away from the fire
- The fire is completely extinguished before leaving

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You **MUST** notify your local Fire Control Centre and your adjoining neighbours, 24 hours in advance, of your intent to burn outside of the Bush Fire Danger Period (generally 1 April to 30 September). Call (02) 6226 3100 during business hours.

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Exemptions from holding a fire permit may apply depending on the purpose of the fire, for example a cooking or ceremonial fire, providing you comply with certain conditions. Visit [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) for more information.



## FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Other restrictions, approvals and/or permits may apply in certain council areas, even when the Bush Fire Danger Period has not been declared.

Fire can be a useful tool for reducing bush fire hazards, removing vegetation, or conducting agricultural activities. It can also be used for ecological purposes to assist in the regeneration of some plant species. However, inappropriate use of fire can endanger lives, property and the environment.

An environmental approval and a Fire Permit may be required before you can light a pile burn (backyard burning) or a vegetation management burn and there are significant penalties for failing to obtain these approvals or comply with their conditions.

Fire Permits are automatically suspended during:

- Total Fire Bans
- No Burn Days
- Fire Danger Rating of Very High or above

Fire Permits can also be suspended at any time due to local conditions or ongoing fire activity.

Landholders should consult with NSW Rural Fire Service, Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Environmental Protection Agency (NSW EPA) and/or Local Council for further information prior to using fire on your property.

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## SAFE BURNING CHECKLIST

### BEFORE

- Check if and what you are allowed to burn in your area
- Contact your nearest NSW RFS Fire Control Centre, Fire and Rescue NSW station or Local Council to confirm

### GET A FIRE PERMIT

- They are free and easy to get. Contact your nearest NSW RFS Fire Control Centre or Fire and Rescue NSW station at least 24 hours before you plan to burn

### NOTIFY YOUR NEIGHBOURS

- You must notify all adjoining neighbours at least 24 hours before you intend to burn

### ON THE DAY

- Check and monitor weather conditions
- Check if permits have been suspended due to a Total Fire Ban, No Burn Day or if the Fire Danger Rating is above Very High.

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For more information on what you can do to prepare for bush fire this season:



**NSW Rural Fire Service Website**  
[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.myfireplan.com.au](http://www.myfireplan.com.au)



**Your nearest NSW RFS  
Fire Control Centre:**



**Bush Fire Information Line**  
1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737)

**NSW RFS Southern Tablelands**  
Ph: (02) 6226 3100



# FIRE DANGER RATINGS

Fire Danger Ratings are issued during the official Bush Fire Danger Period. Fire Danger Ratings give you an indication of the consequences of a fire, if one was to start. The higher the fire danger, the more dangerous the conditions. You should use the Fire Danger Ratings as a trigger to take action.

You can find out the local Fire Danger Rating though:

- The NSW RFS Website - [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)
- Calling the Bush Fire Information Line - 1800 679 737
- Checking your local Fire Danger Rating sign (if one is available)

Fire Danger Ratings are based on the predicted conditions for any given day and takes into account the forecast temperature, humidity, wind and dryness of the landscape.

More information about Fire Danger Ratings is available at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans)



DISCUSS

PREPARE

KNOW

KEEP



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# TOTAL FIRE BANS KNOW THE RULES

A Total Fire Ban means no fires out in the open. A Total Fire Ban helps limit the potential of fires developing on days of significantly increased fire risk.

During a Total Fire Ban you cannot light, maintain or use fire in the open, or to carry out any activity in the open that causes, or is likely to cause, a fire. General purpose hot works (such as welding, grinding, gas cutting or any activity that produces a spark or flame) are not to be done in the open.

The NSW RFS strongly recommends that you reconsider activities such as using a tractor/slasher, to help reduce the chance of a fire starting on your property.

## CAN I USE AN ELECTRIC BARBEQUE?

Yes, you can use an electric barbeque during a Total Fire Ban for cooking as long as it is under the direct control of a responsible adult, who is present at all times while its operating, and no combustible material is allowed within two metres at any time it is operating.

## CAN I USE A GAS BARBEQUE?

Yes, you can use a gas barbeque under the following conditions:

- It is under the direct control of a responsible adult, who is present at all times whilst its operating;
- No combustible material is allowed within two metres at any time it is operating;
- You have an immediate and continuous supply of water; and
- The barbeque is within 20 metres of a permanent private dwelling such as a home or the barbeque is located within a designated picnic area and the appliance is approved by Council, National Parks or State Forest.



DISCUSS



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KNOW



KEEP



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# STATIC WATER SUPPLY (SWS) PROGRAM

During bush fires, firefighters often have difficulty locating water to protect lives and property, with mains supply (if present) often not adequate during major bush fires.

The Static Water Supply (SWS) program aims to identify properties with accessible sources of water that can be used for firefighting purposes.

Static water supplies include:

- Swimming pools
- Dams
- Creeks
- Rainwater tanks

If your house or property has an accessible water source, such as a swimming pool, tank or dam, you can assist firefighters by prominently displaying a SWS plate at your property boundary so that it is readily visible from the road.

**! SWS signs are provided free of charge.**

Being a part of the SWS program may assist fire fighters to protect you and your neighbours' properties should a fire threaten.

If you have a pool, tank or dam with at least 3,000 litre capacity and wish to participate in the SWS Program, please contact your NSW RFS Fire Control Centre on (02) 6226 3100.



**For more information on what you can do to prepare for bush fire this season:**



**NSW Rural Fire Service Website**  
[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.myfireplan.com.au](http://www.myfireplan.com.au)



**Your nearest NSW RFS Fire Control Centre:**  
NSW RFS Southern Tablelands Zone



**Bush Fire Information Line**  
1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737)

Ph: (02) 6226 3100

# EMERGENCY BUSH FIRE INFORMATION

In a bush fire, it is important you stay up-to-date on the situation in your area so you and your household can put your Bush Fire Survival Plan into action as soon as possible.

The NSW Rural Fire Service strongly encourages keeping these numbers, links and apps handy.



## REMEMBER A FIRE CAN THREATEN SUDDENLY

Do not rely on a single source for emergency information. Telecommunication networks may fail during a bush fire. Power outages will also impact NBN connected equipment.



In an emergency dial **Triple Zero (000)** immediately.

## INFORMATION ON BUSH FIRES



[Fires Near Me NSW app](#)



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



[facebook.com/nswrfs](https://facebook.com/nswrfs)



[twitter.com/nswrfs](https://twitter.com/nswrfs)



**Bush Fire Information Line**  
**1800 NSW RFS**  
(1800 679 737)



**ABC 666 Canberra**



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## KNOW THE BUSH FIRE ALERT LEVELS

Where there is a risk from bush fire, Bush Fire Alerts provide information to effected communities using radio, television, the internet or telephones.

The alert will give information about the severity of the fire, its location and what you should do.

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 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.

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## MY BACK-UP PLAN

Mobile phones, home phone and internet can all fail during fires. NBN connected equipment may not work during a power blackout.

**Don't rely on technology.** Always have a back-up to stay connected.



#### LOCAL RADIO

My local emergency  
broadcaster frequency is:

.....

.....



#### CONNECT WITH NEIGHBOURS

My neighbour names and numbers:

.....

.....

.....

.....



#### FOLLOW ADVICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Local VHF Channel:

.....

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## REMEMBER A FIRE CAN THREATEN SUDDENLY

Do not rely on a single source for emergency information. Telecommunication networks may fail during a bush fire. Power outages will also impact NBN connected equipment.





# NOTES

## LAGGAN RURAL FIRE BRIGADE RESOURCES

### POSTAL ADDRESS:

PO Box 105, Crookwell, NSW, 2583

### STATION ADDRESS:

Peelwood Road, Laggan, NSW, 2583  
(Opposite Laggan Pub)

### EMAIL:

info@lagganbfb.com.au

### WEBSITE:

<https://www.lagganbfb.com.au>

### FACEBOOK:

<https://www.facebook.com/lagganbfb>

### INSTAGRAM:

<https://www.instagram.com/lagganbfb>

### TWITTER:

<https://www.twitter.com/lagganbfb>



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# NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

**Postal address**

Southern Tablelands Zone  
PO Box 597  
YASS NSW 2582

**Street address**

Southern Tablelands Office  
1410 Yass Valley Way  
YASS NSW 2582

**T** (02) 6226 3100

**F** (02) 6226 3716

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