



MEDIA RELEASE

Infringements Issued for Breaches of Bushfires Act

Bushfires NT is currently investigating several incidents and could issue further infringement notices to people who do not comply with the Northern Territory Bushfires Act.

Bushfires NT Regional Fire Control Officer John Whatley said seven infringement notices have been issued to date this year, five of which were for failure to establish or maintain fire breaks, the others were for lighting fires without permits.

“Even though we have had some rain, a permit to burn is still required,” Mr Whatley said.

“No fires should be lit without a permit at any time during a fire danger period or within the northern fire protection zone.

“The Northern Fire Protection Zone includes all of the Vernon Region and Central Arafura Region through to Katherine.

“Currently there is a declared Fire Danger Period covering the rest of the Territory, which means that not only do landholders require a Permit to Burn within the permanently declared Fire Protections Zones, it is also a requirement across the remainder of the Territory.

“Within the Fire Protection Zones people must not set fire to any bush or other flammable material at any time of the year, except with and in accordance with the terms of a Permit to Burn, issued by a Fire Warden or a Fire Control Officer.

“Permits can be obtained from your local Fire Warden or Regional Fire Control Officer.

“People who do not comply with the Bushfires Act may be prosecuted.

“Anyone caught illegally lighting fires may be prosecuted under the Bushfires Act, of which the maximum penalty is up to \$25,000 or five years jail.”

Mr Whatley said Bushfires NT staff and volunteers were still battling severe bushfires last month, and the season is not over yet.

“The wet season’s late and heavy rains meant numerous landholders were unable to implement fire management measures as early as they would have liked or to the level of quality they would have liked,” Mr Whatley said.

“The fire weather this year has been the worst for many years with Bushfires NT staff, Bushfire Volunteers, and land managers spending thousands of hours responding to hundreds of wildfire incidents.

“The fire danger period will continue until substantial rain is received throughout the Top End.”

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact John Whatley on 89760098.

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