

BUSHFIRES NORTHERN TERRITORY AND NORTHERN TERRITORY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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NTFRS and Bushfires NT Launch Bushfire Season

Bushfires NT and the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service have today joined forces in urging Territorians to take action to protect lives, property and the environment as the bushfire season begins.

Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service District Officer, Grant Hamon, said that landholders need to take precautions to prevent wildfire impacting on their own or surrounding properties this dry season.

“We strongly urge all landholders to plan ahead, clear properties of excessive grasses, material and waste that may act as a potential fuel source as we head into the dry season,” District Officer Hamon said.

“Landholders within the Darwin Rural Area have until 04 May to apply for permits to burn.

“Up to 80 per cent of Australia’s wildfires occur in northern Australia and seasonal grass and scrub fires cause many thousands of dollars worth of damage, however too many people still remain complacent. Don’t pay the price of losing your home or worse still a loved one because you weren’t prepared.”

Bushfires NT Director Steve Sutton also said there is no excuse for a repeat of last year’s devastating bushfire season that affected more than 100 properties near Darwin River towards the end of the dry.

“We have had another strong wet season and this means there is a significant amount of grasses and other fuels that need to be reduced,” Mr Sutton said.

“The action you take now could prevent your family and neighbours from the heartache devastating wildfires can cause.”

Mr Sutton said Landholders can reduce the fire season risk by implementing fire breaks and fire access trails that can be used for back burning operations or access for fire fighting vehicles.

He said landholders should also place sprinklers across their land, maintain a clear green area around their home and assets, keep all fire fighting equipment in an easily accessible place and maintain a portable diesel or petrol pump to draw water from tanks or a dam in case of pressure loss in mains water or power failure.

Media Note – Media are invited to attend a controlled burning near the Hidden Valley Raceway, behind the Mud Racing site, on Hidden Valley Road from 11am today. Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service, District Officer Grant Hamon and Director Bushfires Northern Territory, Steve Sutton will both be available for interview.

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