

Media Release:

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Major Early Morning Fire Threatens Rural Area

Bushfires NT staff and volunteers had an early start to their weekend when an intense fire was reported at 5am Saturday, 23 August, along Fly Creek, south of Old Bynoe Road.

Bushfires NT Regional Fire Control Officer John Whatley said three fires were started along Fly Creek south of Old Bynoe Road with strong winds pushing the flames creating an intense fire that threatened to move to the north into rural residential blocks.

“We put in a massive effort to contain this fire because we didn’t want to lose houses, at one point we had two 802 Airtractors, two helicopters, 17 grassfire units and four or five other appliances to control the fire,” Mr Whatley said.

“We managed to get the fire under control by around noon today.”

Bushfires NT Director Steve Sutton said the fires were deliberately lit in area that had no fire breaks at all.

“The malicious acts of arsonists put the lives of a great number of people at risk, and landholders need to be reminded that they are responsible for taking measures to reduce the risk of bushfire and ensuring they have fire breaks,” Mr Sutton said.

“Without the outstanding response of fire crews there was a real chance it could have reached rural properties.”

The fire burnt more than 2000 hectares and was eventually stopped at an area of crown land which had undergone controlled burning earlier in the year.

“It just goes to show that good fire management is fundamental to controlling wildfires,” Mr Sutton said.

While the fire is now contained strong winds and a fire ban on Sunday, 24 August, means that fire crews will be mopping up and monitoring the fire for the rest of the weekend.

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Steve Sutton on 0401 118 326

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