



ACT Rural Fire Service Tuggeranong Community Council

Presentation - 7 November 2023













Acknowledgement to Country

I acknowledge and give my respect to the Ngunnawal people, as the traditional owners and custodians of the land we live, serve, and thrive on.

I give my respect to Elders passed who we learn from, the Elders present who share stories and Elder's future who will continue culture.

I express my appreciation for the traditional teachings of fire and the positive impact it can make to support land and Country to thrive.

I acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here today and who are viewing remotely on other countries.





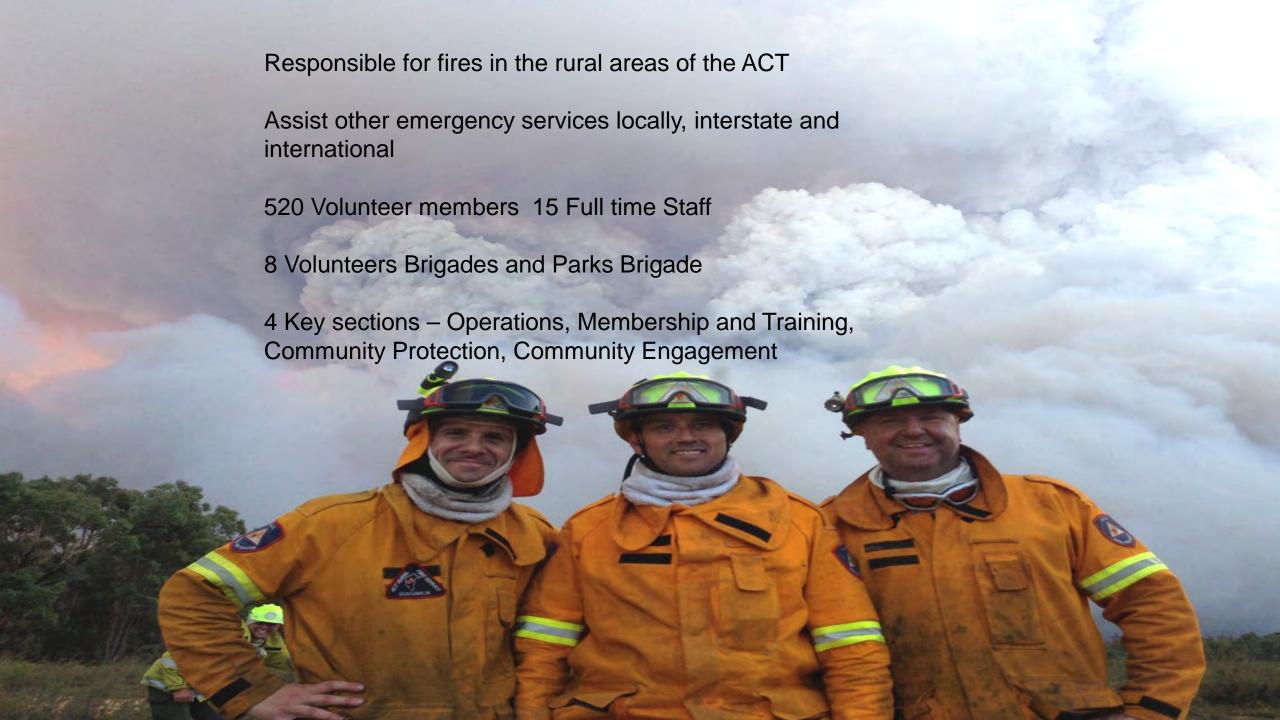














15 x Medium Tankers



6 x CAFS Tankers



13 x Light Units



19 x Heavy Tankers



3 x Bulk Water



18 x Command







Specialised equipment - Aviation







- Three Contracted Helicopters
 - FB100 (Light Helicopter)
 - Helitak 101 & 102 (Medium Helicopters)
- Access to National Resource Sharing Centre
 - Large Air Tankers (LATS)
 - Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATS)
 - Additional Helicopters













Specialised equipment – Large Air Tanker Base









- Located Opposite ESA HQ in Fairbairn
- Can mix up to 200,000 litres of Retardant
- Provides firefighting agents to Air Tankers such as:
 - Boeing 737
 - RJ85
 - Single Engine Air Tankers











Assist Other Agencies



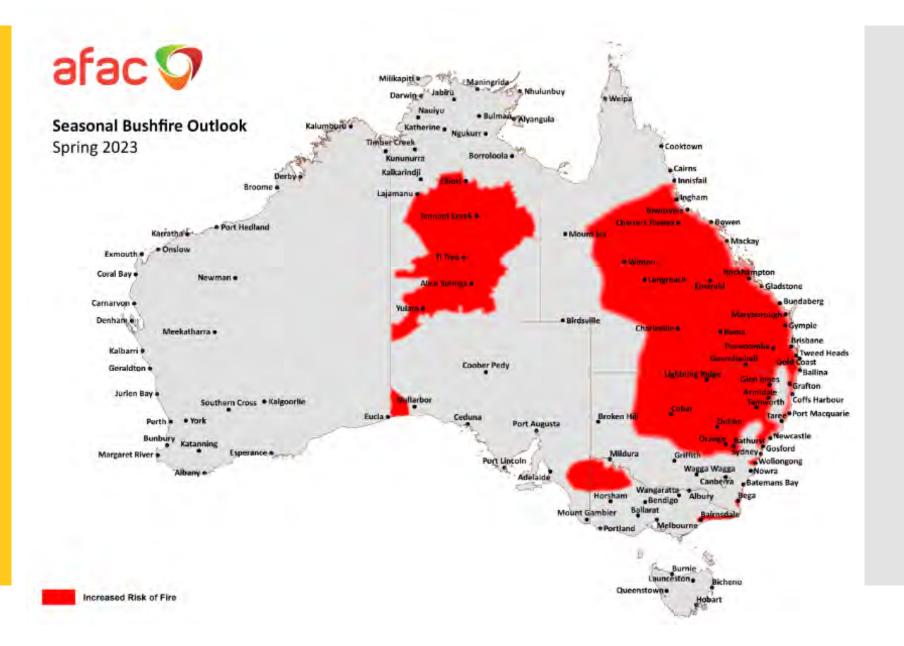
ACTRFS provide incident support to other Emergency Service Agencies and Government Departments.

Examples:

- SES Storm and Flood
- ACTF&R bulk water delivery
- PCS Prescribe burning
- AFP missing person search

2023-2024 Weather

Outlook **Seasonal Bushfire** Outlook – Spring 2023

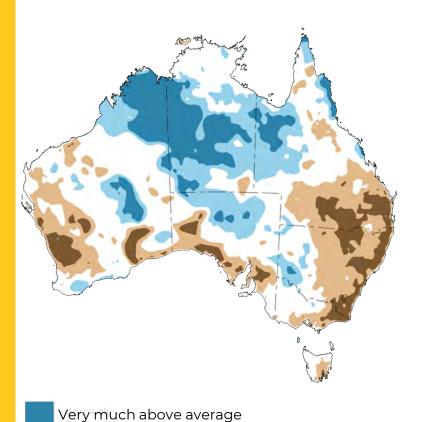




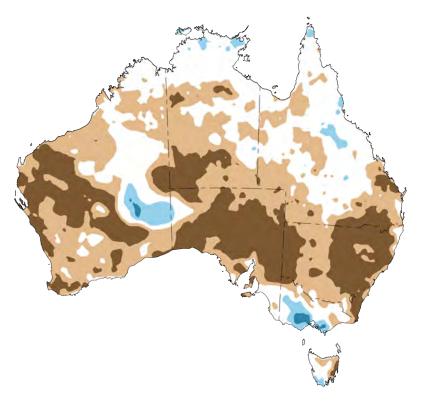


2023-2024 Weather Outlook Soil Moisture Comparison

August 2023









Below average

Above average

Very much below average





2023-2024 Weather Outlook November - January

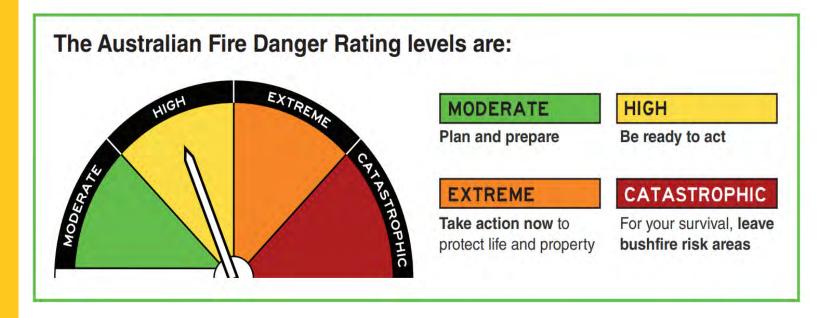


- El Nino and positive IOD means below average rainfall and above average minimum and maximum temperatures throughout spring and summer.
- While conditions are starting to dry out, the landscape is still much wetter than the 19/20 season due to a couple of years of above average rainfall and below average temperatures.
- Forest fuels are still retaining moisture from the last three years of La Nina.
- Grass fuels are likely to start drying out later in spring as the weather warms and rainfall drops. This is typical of this time of year.





Australian Fire Danger Rating levels (AFDRS) changed in November 2022 and are now common Australia wide to ensure consistency amongst the community





On days of elevated fire danger, increased fire activity or when forecast weather conditions are likely to increase the spread of fire, ESA may declare a TOTAL FIRE BAN (TOBAN) for all or parts of the act.

- No lighting, maintaining or use of fire in open air
- No high-risk activity such as welding, grinding, soldering, gas cutting or use of slashers and harvesting machinery that may cause a fire to ignite.







Know where to get the right information and understand the information available.

Know what the warnings mean



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.



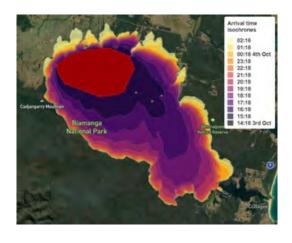


Do not wait for warning messages to tell you when you should stay or leave your property. Keep an eye on the information and be ready to make the decision for yourself and your family as per your survival plan.

ACT RFS

















SNAP Reports



ACT Government Predictive Services Unit SNAP REPORT

For Location: CANBERRA AIRPORT

Version: 2.02

Katherine Jenkins

Forecast from 23/01/2021 9:59 Report prepared by

Forecast to 23/01/2021 21:59

Fire Danger Rating Very High
FFD 30

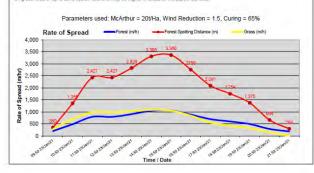
GFDI 2 Information in this report is valid until 23/01/2021 21:59

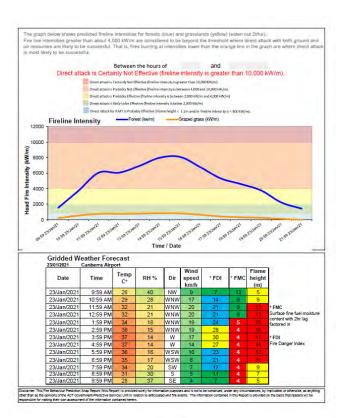
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KEY POINTS

- Significant weather e.g. wind change
 Forecast flame heights/fireline intensity
- RH, DP, FMC predicted time to reach minimums
- 4. Any other significant factors to consider e.g. thunderstorms, existing fires

The graph below shows the predicted Forward Flate of Spread (RIOS) for fires burning for an extended print in finest over level to undulating fermin (tible line), with openiental specting distances (rev) based on the McArthan MAIS fire behaviour memor: It also shows the predicted RIOS for grasslands based on the CSIRIO Grassland Fire Spread Meter. Grassland RIOS estimates are base on grass Miss of pilo CSIVe (sealer until and may be higher in areas of increased full cloud.)

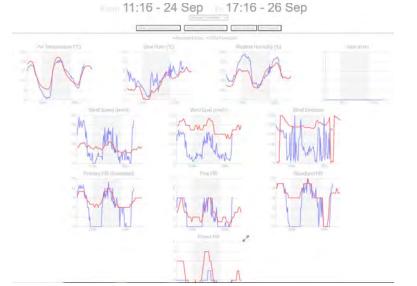




Page 1 of 2

ACT PAWS Website













Suppression Effect on Potential Fire Behaviour





Specialised equipment – Fire Towers







- Four Towers surrounding Canberra
 - One Tree Hill (North)
 - Kowen Forest (East)
 - Mount Tennant (South)
 - Mount Coree (West)
- Manned throughout Fire Season by staff
- Equipped with HD Cameras that can be operated from ESA HQ











Fire Towers & Fire Tower Cameras

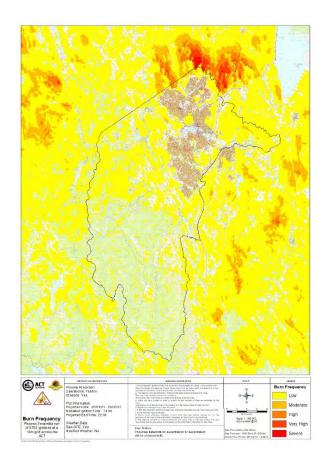


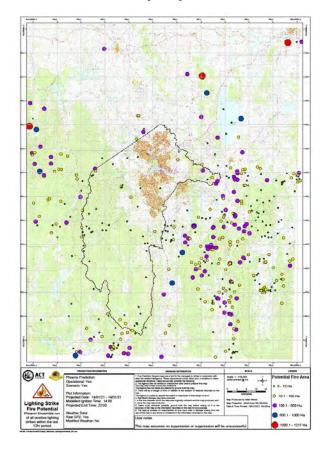






Specialised equipment – Predictive Services





- Able to follow Thunderstorm fronts and track lightning. Which can be turned into Fire potential.
- Able to track areas of the ACT and when they were last burnt.
- In the event of a fire start, can predict rate of spread and potential impacts













Prescribe burning

ACTRFS conduct allocated Prescribe burns

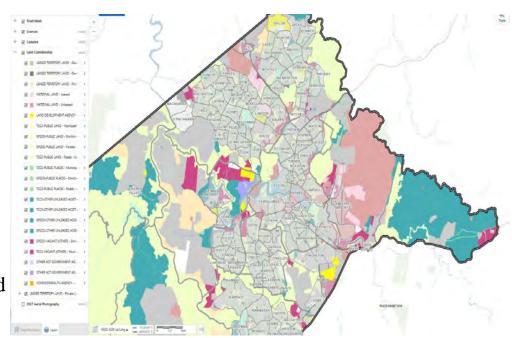
Assist PCS with annual burning program, providing crews and support roles Prescribe burns help reduce fire risk by removing excess vegetation in a safer and

controlled environment

Ecological and Scientific Research burning

Community Bushfire Protection

- Bushfire assessments of all planned sub-divisions and rural constructions. Consult on development application, estate development plan and environmental impact statements
- Ensure that new developments meet the Building Code of Australia requirements under *AS3959 Building in bushfire prone areas*
- Provide advice on the ACT Strategic Bushfire Management Plan
- Farm FireWise implementation with rural landholders
- Monitor the progress of Bushfire Operational Plans (BOPs)
- Undertake field audits and assessments of work carried out under BOPs
- Liaise with surrounding NSW RFS Zones in relation to bushfire mitigation strategies and works in NSW



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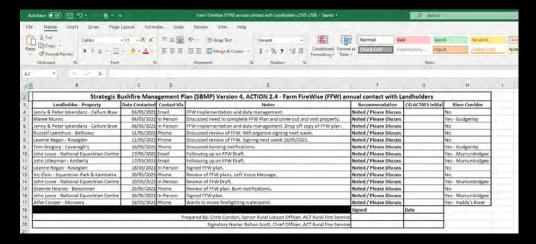


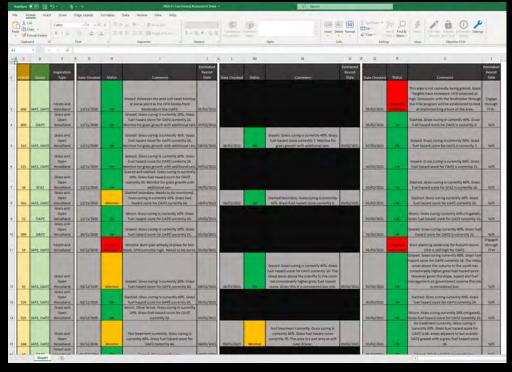
RFS *Farm FireWise*Program

- Rural landholders play a key role in preventing fire impact for the ACT community
- FFW program is a collaborative relationship between ACTRFS and rural landholder
- FFW satisfies *Emergencies Act* 2004
 Section 78 for a Bushfire Operational Plan
- ACTRFS meets landholder on property and discusses objectives and offers advice on fuel management and fire response
- Detailed FFW property management map is produced for landholder use and ESA operational use.



- Landholder identifies fire protection priority, e.g. rural enterprise equipment can be more valuable than dwelling
- Brigades encouraged to conduct regular familiarisation visits to properties
- RFS supports/implements rural landholder hazard reduction planning and burning
- Fuel Management Zones within Rural Leases are monitored during the bushfire season. We offer assistance where fuel management is required.
- FFW data and property contact information is available to ESA personnel through in vehicle technology.
- FFW plans life cycle is 5yrs with an annual contact with landholders.





BOP Spatial Data Project



Bushfire Operational Plans (BOPs)

- ACTRFS work with various Government and Private land managers on development of BOPs for approval by ESA Commissioner under Emergencies Act 2004 Section 78
- Audit activities identified in BOPs (approximately 1000 activities excluding Farm FireWise (FFW))
- Hazard reduction, slashing, grazing, physical removal and chemical treatment are some of the mitigation activities
- BOP auditing, and FFW implementation are reported as ESA Strategic Indicators

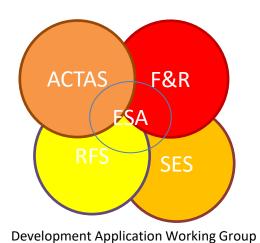
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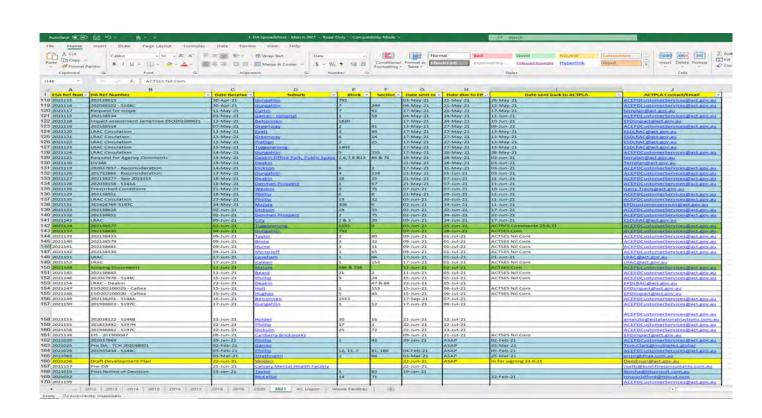




Assessing Development Applications

- Review and comment on referred development applications on Bushfire Prone land; comments are included in planning approval
- Collaborate with Fire & Rescue on development proposals for urban land requiring bushfire provision









Preparing yourself for the season:



Understand the risks associated with your location and your personal circumstances.



Know where to get the right information and understand the information available.



Make a plan to prepare yourself, your family and your home for an emergency, and actions that you will take in an emergency situation.







Make a plan to prepare yourself, your family and your home and stick to it

Download a copy of your survival plan which will provide step by step instructions on how to prepare your yourself, your family and home and what to enact in the event of an emergency.





Available in:

- Arabic
- Punjabi
- Simplified Chinese
- Vietnamese







Part of understanding the risks is understanding what to expect in a major bushfire event



Smoke, heat, hot wind



Physical and psychological stress and/or exhaustion



Road closures and disruptions to public transport



Closures and disruptions to public services including

- Increased wait times for medical services
- Disruptions to opening times of shops and services









Prepare your home

- Ensure around your home and yard are clear of as much clutter as possible.
- Ensure you regularly clean leaves and other organic materials from around your home and gutters.
- Ensure that loose items are removed and stored appropriately e.g. patio furniture, kids toys etc.
- Ensure that your BBQ gas bottle and any other flammable liquids are appropriately stored.
- If you are planning to stay and defend your property, ensure you have appropriate supplies and water readily available.









Prepare Yourself and your family

- Make sure you have communicated and discussed the plan with your family.
- Ensure you know your triggers for when to stay and when to leave.
- Ensure you have the required supplies.
 - Food and water
 - Medications
 - Supplies for your pets
- Think ahead, know what is happening around you, be prepared to act and adapt if the situation warrants.





Planning to stay and defend

If you are planning to stay and defend your property in the event of an emergency, you need to consider the following.

- Are you emotionally prepared to handle the situation and the risk.
- Are you physically prepared to stay and defend – do you have appropriate PPE
- Is your property equipped for you to safely stay and defend.
 - Have you prepared your home as much as possible – cleared clutter
 - Do you have ready access to equipment – hoses, buckets, rakes, shovels, generators and pumps
 - Do you have ready access to water – noting that in the event of an emergency mains water pressure will likely drop due to emergency services usage.





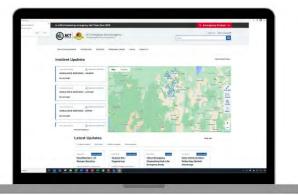




Resources



NSW Government Hazards Near Me App



ESA Website



Emergency Plus App

Emergency Plus

My Location



News Broadcasts









Chief Officer Rohan Scott

Strategic Priorities for future ACTRFS

- Volunteer welfare, recruitment, retention and communication
- Control of incidents under our legislative responsibilities
- Training for leaders and succession planning
- Increased opportunities for nonoperational or transitioning members – Support other services
- Sustainability targets Modern fleet and equipment
- E-Learning and flexible training options and varied courses
- Specialist capabilities RAFT, Aviation, Investigation
- Predictive services, rural landholders, land managers
- Technology GIS, cameras, portable devices, PPC and PPE
- Climate change and research partnerships
- RFS funding







Questions?







