

# media release



## Catastrophic fire danger across much of SA

Sunday 10 January 2010

South Australia's emergency services will be on high alert for what is forecast to be a challenging 24 hours for all bushfire prone areas of the State.

All of South Australia will be under Total Fire Ban restrictions tomorrow, with 10 out of the 15 Fire Ban Districts forecast to have a Fire Danger Index in excess of 100.

Catastrophic Fire Danger Ratings are in place for the Eastern Eyre Peninsula, Lower Eyre Peninsula, West Coast, Mid North, Yorke Peninsula, Murraylands, Upper South East, Lower South East, Kangaroo Island and the Mount Lofty Ranges.

Extreme Fire Danger Ratings are forecast for the Flinders, Riverland and Adelaide Metropolitan districts, while the North East and North West Pastoral are under Severe ratings.

Minister for Emergency Services Michael Wright says that all fire fighting agencies will be at maximum preparedness and CFS aircraft will be on standby.

"Tomorrow is the most serious day so far this Fire Danger Season and it's important that people activate their Bushfire Survival Plan," he said.

"I'm calling on all South Australians to be ready, because it is going to be a very challenging day.

"It's critical that people activate their Bushfire Survival Plan, that they prepare early and that those people in Catastrophic and Extreme fire danger districts who plan to relocate, relocate early.

"The CFS has issued information about Bushfire Safer Precincts and Safer Settlements, to give advice regarding where people can relocate to on a fire danger day. This is available by visiting the CFS website or calling the Bushfire Information Hotline on 1300 362 361."

Country Fire Service (CFS) Chief Officer Euan Ferguson has reinforced the seriousness of the forecast fire danger weather.

"Tomorrow is an extremely challenging day and it's going to be very difficult for everyone concerned," he said.

"We call on all South Australians to activate their Bushfire Survival Plans. Those people who live, work, travel or who are holidaying in bushfire risk areas should be aware that tomorrow is a day to activate your Bushfire Survival Plan."

Mr Ferguson reminded residents living in districts under Extreme or Catastrophic Fire Danger Ratings and who choose to stay and defend their home, that defending a fire burning under those conditions will be very difficult and very dangerous.

"There is a risk of serious injury and there is a risk that people may die," he said.

"If you live in a bushfire prone area and you want to guarantee your survival, we recommend that you relocate to a Safer Settlement or Bushfire Safer Precinct early.



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“I reinforce that a decision to leave at the last minute when there is a fire going under Extreme or Catastrophic conditions has great risk, and we’ve seen over the years in many states of Australia the consequences of leaving at the last minute.

“Tomorrow is going to be a very challenging day. We hope that we can get through tomorrow with no serious fires and no injuries to firefighters and emergency services personnel. We are all in this together and I call on everyone to think about what they are doing tomorrow, Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> of January, and to defer any non-urgent work or travel through bushfire prone areas.”

Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) Chief Officer Grant Lupton says the situation tomorrow is real and serious, with Total Fire Bans in place right across the State, including metropolitan areas.

“We have seen as recently as Port Lincoln just before Christmas, and more recently in Western Australia, where houses were lost in urban interface areas in conditions like those forecast in South Australia for tomorrow,” he said.

“These conditions are extremely dangerous for the public and also for firefighters. This is real, this is serious, tomorrow is going to be a tough day.

“To all South Australians, be prepared and activate your Bushfire Survival Plan.”

**For media enquiries telephone the**  
CFS Media Line on (08) 8212 9849 or the MFS Media Line (08) 8204 3770

**Further information:**  
Contact the Bushfire Information Hotline **1300 362 361**  
Or visit [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au) and [www.mfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.mfs.sa.gov.au)



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