Boosting Our Bushfires Resources

Minister for Central Australia Karl Hampton today welcomed the deployment of 16 South Australian Country Fire Authority volunteers to help fight bushfires in Central Australia.

Mr Hampton said the 16 volunteers and extra equipment should arrive by road later today and is on top of the 11 extra personnel sent from Darwin to Alice Springs during the past 24 hours.

“Territorians are always the first to put their hand up to help out when situations arise elsewhere and it’s great to see Alice Springs getting support from the Top End and interstate,” Mr Hampton said.

“The extra numbers and equipment are a boost to our bushfire resources that already involve about 80 staff and volunteers from Bushfires NT, NTPFES and CLC, Ingkerreke, Parks and Wildlife Service rangers who are doing a great job containing fires in the Alice Springs region.

“The Alice Springs community is also pulling together with individuals and businesses donating drinks and food to support the fire fighters who are doing a great job protecting lives and property - I thank everyone involved.

“Pastoralists have also played a huge role, either through mitigation efforts before the fire situation became serious or more recently by monitoring and fighting the fires.”

Several fires in and around Alice Springs have been caused by lightning strikes but some are believed to be deliberately lit, with two people charged with illegally lighting fires.

“The Emergency Operation Centre was activated yesterday and will continue until the threat is eased,” Mr Hampton said.

“These fires are timely reminder that the opportunity still exists for people interested in become Bushfires volunteers keen to help fight this year’s fires and future fires.”

Watch and Act messages will continue to be issued at regular intervals to newsrooms across the Territory and residents should pay attention to these updates.

Motorists are advised to slow down, drive with caution and keep watch for emergency vehicles operating at or near bushfires.

People wishing to find out more information and see fire maps of high fuel load areas can visit the Bushfires NT website at www.nt.gov.au/bushfires

Media Contact: Edwin Edlund 0401 119 563