Central Australian bushfire season declared

13 November 2015

Alice Springs residents are being urged to get bushfire ready, with the official Central Australian bushfire season now underway.

Minister for Land Resource Management Willem Westra van Holthe said the Country Liberals Government is committed to keeping residents safe.

“Bushfires NT has done a great deal of preparation re-establishing Alice Spring fire breaks that stretch over 300 kilometres,” Minister Westra van Holthe said.

“A Medium Attack Truck has also been sent to Alice Springs from the Livingstone Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, complete with a 3000 litre tanker. A second Truck will also be allocated to the region in December to assist in bushfire management.

“In September we also committed an additional $1.1 million in Territory wide funding to build strategic firebreaks, matched with $904,000 in Federal assistance over three years.

“We are delivering on our commitment to improve bushfire mitigation but it’s important residents do their bit too,” Minister Westra van Holthe said.

Land holders are encouraged to:

- Be prepared by making sure all firefighting equipment is in good working order, all fire breaks and fire access trails are clear and usable
- Have a plan so that everyone knows what to do and where to go in the event of a fire
- Remove any fuel close to buildings or other assets
- Report any dangerous fires by calling 000

Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS) Acting District Officer from Southern Command John Kleeman said all landholders must obtain a “permit to burn” and advise all neighbours prior to undertaking any burning activity.

“The NTFRS expects an average start to the official fire season, however, conditions can change quickly due to
rainfall and increased fuel growth,” Mr Kleeman said.

“Strategic burns have been carried out during the past three months to ensure that traditional areas of concern have had their fuel loads reduced by burning or slashing.”

The Fire Danger Period has been declared from October 31st 2015 until February/March 2016, dependent on conditions.

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