2016 NT Bushfire Season launch - new trucks to fight fire

9 May 2016

The NT Government’s commitment to help keep Territorians safe is again highlighted with the handover of two Heavy Duty Grass Fire trucks to Bushfires NT Volunteer Bushfire Brigades.

National Volunteer Week falls this week from May 9-15 and the bushfire season is made easier with the tireless and hard work of volunteers.

“This CLP Government is committed to helping voluntary heroes fight fire, and these new trucks do just that,” Land Resource Management Minister Gary Higgins said.

“The vehicles will be allocated throughout the Territory servicing high risk areas throughout the Northern Territory fire seasons.

“Bushfires can travel at high speeds and easily pass over unprepared fire breaks. Having a good fire plan and clear areas around your property can save your possessions and your life.

“Responding Bushfire NT Officers, NT Fire and Rescue Services personnel and volunteers can only do so much. The responsibility to ensure your safety and the protection of your property rests with you.”

The northern bushfire season runs from May to October. Bushfires NT and the Northern Territory Fire Rescue Service remind Territorians living in a bushfire prone area that now is the time to prepare your property.

All property owners must maintain a minimum four-metre firebreak around their yards. Native grasses, trees and unkempt yards should be pruned and cut to reduce fuel loads.

The fundamental principle established by the Bushfires Act is that the responsibility for bushfire management rests with the landholder.

This means constructing firebreaks and managing fuel loads on properties.

Failure to do so could lead to a substantial fine or maximum of two years imprisonment, and a further penalty each day during which the offence continues.
The deliberate lighting of fires remains a major concern for fire-fighters. The public is again urged to be on the lookout for suspicious activity around their community.

Bushfire arson causes death and injury, loss of property and damage to the environment including wildlife and habitat losses and offenders can expect severe penalties.

“If you see something, know something, then say something by contacting Police on 131 444 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. In the event of an emergency, always call 000,” Mr Higgins said.

“This season we are also asking community members to step up and join up to their local brigade. Recruitment is happening now and if you feel you have what it takes or wish to contribute to the safety of your area by contacting NT Fire and Rescue Service on 08 8946 4160 or email firevolunteercoordination@pfes.nt.gov.au” or Bushfires NT on 08 8922 0844 or email bushfires.nt@nt.gov.au