Legislation introduced into Parliament today would update and strengthen laws covering incident management and the Fire and Rescue Service in the Territory, Fire Emergency Services Minister Paul Henderson said.

“The *Fire and Emergency Act* has been in place since 1996, and the NT Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS) has identified the need for minor amendments to bring the legislation up to date to better suit the modern practices and needs of the NT,” Mr Henderson said.

The proposed amendments include changes to enable the NTFRS to better handle chemical or bio-hazard contamination incidents.

Regulations covering volunteer Fire and Emergency Response Groups would be loosened, removing the needlessly cumbersome provisions introduced in 1996.

“Other proposed changes include powers relating to back burning exercises and the procedures for encouraging appropriate safety standards to be in place when building,” said Mr Henderson.

“The NTFRS plays an important role in protecting Territorians and their property, and I am pleased to introduce changes to update their legislation under which the Service operates.”