MINISTER FOR LAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

BUSHFIRE SEASON LAUNCHED

30 April 2014

The start of the Northern Territory bushfire season is a crucial reminder to all landholders to make early preparations to protect their properties.

Minister for Land Resource Management Willem Westra van Holthe said at today’s bushfire season launch that action landholders take now could prevent them from the heartache that wildfires could cause.

“Early preparation is the key to ensuring any harm caused by bushfires is kept to a minimum,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“This means landholders need to take action now to help protect their properties, start putting firebreaks in, dispose of any materials that might feed a fire and manage fuel loads so that lives aren’t destroyed by these wildfires.

“Due to the strong wet season we have experienced, fuel loads are very high which will lead to higher than usual fire risk this fire season.

“In particular, gamba grass, which burns quickly and is one of the biggest fire threats in the Top End, remains a threat this year.

“I urge everyone to ensure they take the necessary actions to protect properties, and more importantly lives, as well as ask the community to be vigilant against suspected arson attacks.”

Mr Westra van Holthe said earlier this year he had handed over more than $195,000 worth of firefighting equipment to three Bushfires NT volunteer brigades.

“The Milne Volunteer Bushfire Brigade received a new Medium Attack Vehicle and the Livingstone and Edith Farms Volunteer Bushfire Brigades both received new Grass Fire Vehicles which will be a huge boost to their brigades,” he said.

NTFRS have also delivered new Rural Urban Grass Units to Borroloola and Larrimah and a new Composite Light tanker Rescue vehicle to Mataranka.

NTFRS and BFNT are urging Territorians to remain vigilant and report suspected arsonists to police on 131444 or, anonymously to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Any information that is recorded and passed on could protect your home and community against deliberately lit fires.

For more information contact Bushfires NT on 8976 0098 or go to www.nt.gov.au/bushfires or NTFRS on 8988 0298 or go to www.fire.nt.gov.au

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