Minister for Land Resource Management Willem Westra Van Holthe has commended Bushfires NT for their proactive measures moving towards Territory Day.

The use of fireworks on the evening of Territory Day, has caused a large number of grass fires in past years, said Mr Westra Van Holthe.

“It’s vital that we take a proactive approach and be in a state of preparedness for Territory Day,” he said.

“After consultation with the Bureau of Meteorology and the NT Fire and Rescue Service, Bushfires NT is preparing for Territory Day this year by implementing a number of measures.”

Bushfires NT will have one staff member on duty from 7pm until midnight in each fire control region; Darwin rural area, Batchelor / Adelaide River, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. The staff are on duty specifically to coordinate and manage volunteer response.

Mr Westra Van Holthe said extra staff would be available to be called in for Emergency Duty if required.

“There has also been extra capacity arranged for those responding to emergency calls through the 000 system,” he said.

Mr Westra Van Holthe said there were 16 volunteer brigades in the Darwin / Daly / Adelaide River area, three in the Katherine area and one each in Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

“Volunteer Bushfire Brigades have been encouraged to maintain a high state of awareness on that evening,” he said.

“I hope all Territorians enjoy a great Territory Day, however I urge everyone to exercise safety in the celebrations.”

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