

GET READY WINGECARRIBEE

Get Bush Fire Ready: Week 3 – **Know** the Bush Fire Alert Levels

HELLO AND WELCOME!

Welcome to Week 3 of our "Get Bush Fire Ready" campaign. This week, we'll focus on understanding the different bush fire alert levels and how to respond to each one. Knowing these levels can help you make quick and informed decisions to keep you and your family safe during a bush fire.



[Watch: NSW RFS – Australian Warning System - New Icons To Show Bush Fires here](#)

Know the Bush Fire Alert Levels



Advice - A fire has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.



Watch and Act - There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing, and you need to start taking action to protect yourself and your family.



Emergency Warning - An Emergency Warning is the highest level of Bush Fire Alert. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

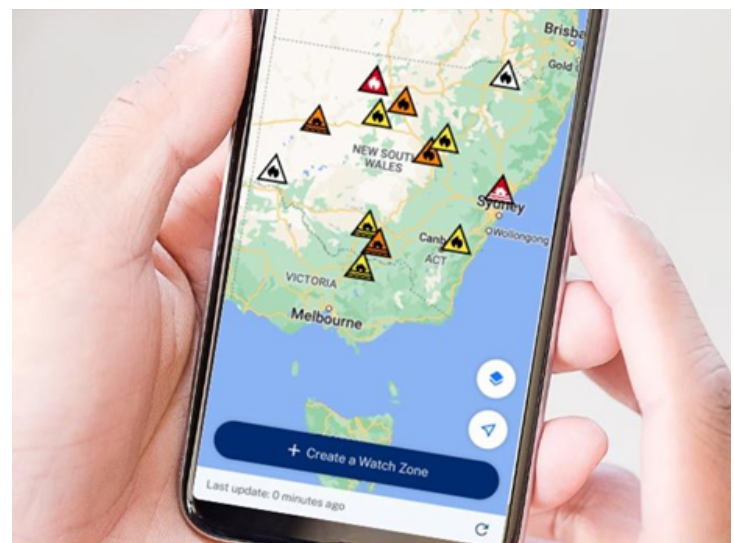


Figure 1: NSW Government – Hazards near Me app

GET READY WINGECARRIBEE



This information is provided for your planning and preparation. It is intended to empower you with information and compliments advice and direction of appropriate authorities such as Police and RFS.

For life threatening emergencies, call 000

NSW Rural Fire Service



The agency responsible for combatting bushfires in the Wingecarribee Shire is the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS).

Please refer to the RFS website for information regarding bushfire preparedness including how to develop a Bush Fire Survival Plan.

If you have any questions, need advice or assistance in developing your plan, please contact NSW RFS.

rfs.nsw.gov.au
1800 679 737

Fire and Rescue NSW



Fire & Rescue NSW is the principal urban fire and rescue service. Their responsibilities also include hazardous materials (HAZMAT) response.

fire.nsw.gov.au

Fire Danger Ratings

Your safety and survival may depend on the decisions you make, even before there is a fire.

Monitor the Fire Danger Ratings daily at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fdr. The higher the fire danger rating, the more dangerous a fire is likely to be.



Watch: NSW RFS – The new fire danger rating system. Know the changes

The new Fire Danger Ratings have four levels (formally six) Moderate, High, Extreme and Catastrophic and provide a clear indication of the fire if one was to start. The higher the fire danger rating, the more dangerous the conditions.

Fire Danger Rating	What you should do
CATASTROPHIC	For your survival leave bush fire risk areas
EXTREME	Take action now to protect your life and property
HIGH	Be ready to act
MODERATE	Plan and prepare

Status and Alert Levels

Status & Alert Levels	What you should do
EMERGENCY WARNING	An Emergency Warning is the highest level of Bush Fire Alert. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately . Any delay now puts your life at risk.
WATCH & ACT	There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family .
ADVICE	A fire has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.

During bushfires it is important to monitor conditions and keep up to date with the latest emergency information.

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Total Fire Bans



Total Fire Bans are declared on days when the weather is very hot, dry, and windy, typically when the fire danger rating is Extreme or Catastrophic.

These bans help prevent fires from spreading and causing damage to life, property, and the environment.

A Total Fire Ban means no fires in the open, aimed at limiting the potential for fires to develop.

During a ban, you cannot light, maintain, or use a fire in the open, nor carry out activities that could cause a fire, such as welding, grinding, or using any equipment that produces a spark.

[RFS Total Fire Ban factsheet](#)

 Find your nearest at [rfs.nsw.gov.au](https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)

It's also advisable to avoid using tractors or slashers, as these activities might start a fire on your property.

While electric and gas barbecues can be used under strict conditions, solid fuel barbecues and pizza ovens are not allowed outside during a ban.

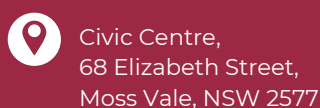
For more information on what you can and cannot do during a Total Fire Ban, and to understand the penalties involved, please contact your local NSW RFS Fire Control Centre, or Council for further advice.



[Watch: Australian Community Media – Total Fire Ban: What it means for you](#)

Disclaimer

This information is not intended to supersede any formal advice given to you by an appropriate authority such as NSW RFS Current as of August 2024.



GET READY WINGECARRIBEE



Be Prepared for Changing Conditions

Bush fires can change direction and intensity quickly. It's important to stay informed and be ready to adapt your plan as needed:

Monitor local news and fire service updates: Stay aware of fire warnings and alerts in your area



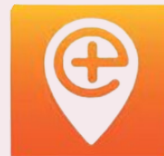
Hazards near me app

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Live Traffic NSW app

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Register. Find. Reunite.

Bookmark the [Register.Find.reunite](https://register.redcross.org.au/) website <https://register.redcross.org.au/> on your phone, tablet and computer to let others know you are safe in an emergency

LISTEN

ABC Illawarra 97.3MHz FM 2ST
Bowral 102.9
Highlands FM 107.1
Power FM 94.9

Knowing the alert levels and understanding fire danger ratings are crucial for your safety. Always stay informed by monitoring local news, fire service updates, and using reliable apps and websites for real-time information.

Next week, we'll cover how to keep up to date with all bush fire information numbers, websites, and apps. Stay safe and prepared!

P.S. It's never too late to invite friends or family to join this campaign. Forward them this week's guide and ask them to join us in getting bush fire ready. Together, we can make our community safer.



wsc.nsw.gov.au



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