Media Release

Monday 13 November 2023

Fire Danger Season begins on KI

It's time to be extra vigilant about bushfires. Fire Danger Season comes into effect Wednesday, 15 November 2023, until Tuesday, 30 April 2024.

“Due to forecasted extreme dry and hot weather conditions, the Country Fire Service (CFS) has declared Fire Danger Season early this year,” Kangaroo Island Mayor Michael Pengilly said.

This summer, the Council is urging all residents and visitors to the Island to be proactive, make sure they know when the CFS declares a Total Fire Ban Day and adhere to the restrictions that may prevent bushfires - and to have a **Bushfire Action Plan**.

“Understanding what to do and how to act during Fire Danger Season could save your life,” Michael Pengilly said.

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN A TOTAL FIRE BAN IS DECLARED?

The Fire Danger Rating system has changed. It's now simpler with clear actions to take.

There are now four levels of Fire Danger Ratings:

- Moderate
- High
- Extreme
- Catastrophic

During Fire Danger Season, the CFS declare the fire rating at 4.30 pm every day for the following day.

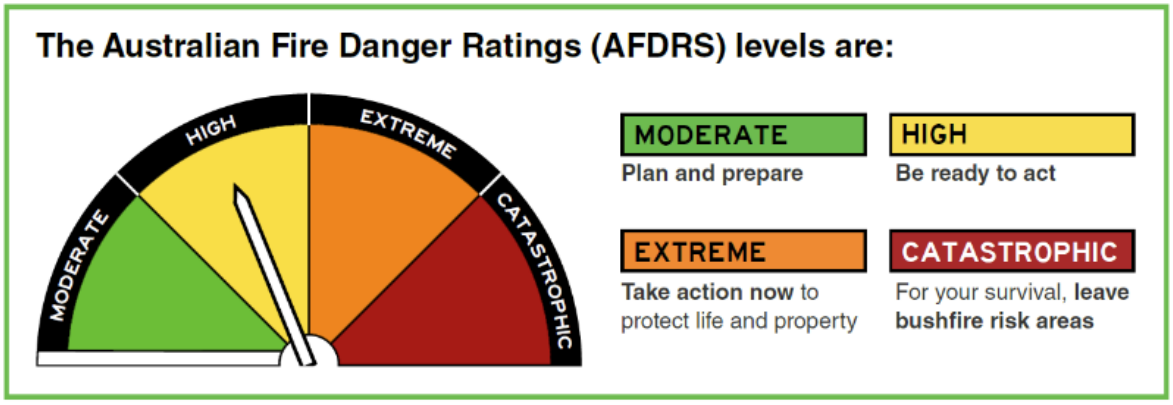
“On days when Extreme and Catastrophic ratings for Kangaroo Island are declared, Total Fire Bans are imposed, and restrictions apply,” Michael Pengilly said.

“We are asking everyone to be proactive and check the rating every day,” he said.

Make sure you understand the fire rating by visiting the CFS website:
https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/restrictions/total-fire-bans-ratings/

“Please note that on Catastrophic fire days, all campgrounds operated by the Council are closed,” Michael Pengilly said.

For a list of campgrounds operated by Council visit:
www.kangarooisland.sa.gov.au/recreation/camping-facilities



WHAT CAN I DO AND NOT DO DURING FIRE SEASON?

You cannot light a fire without a permit during Fire Danger Season or on a Total Fire Ban Day.

For a complete list of restrictions including campfires, comfort fires and fires on beaches please visit www.cfs.sa.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/restrictions/what-can-i-do-what-cant-i-do/#CanILightAFire

BE PREPARED, HAVE A PLAN

Mr Pengilly said you and your family's safety and survival during a bushfire will depend on how prepared you are and the decisions you make.

“Making a choice when a bushfire threatens is too late,” Michael Pengilly said.

“Most people who die in bushfires die leaving their homes at the last moment. Leaving late is a deadly option,” he said.

“A good plan will outline when you stay and defend your property and when you leave early.”

“Unexpected things can happen in an emergency, so you must adapt to changing circumstances and have a plan that will work in different situations.”

More information and templates for a Bushfire Survival Plan are available from the CFS here: www.cfs.sa.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-a-fire-be-prepared/make-a-plan/bushfire-survival-plan.jsp

KNOW WHAT TO DO DURING BUSHFIRE

During a bushfire, make sure you know where to reach safety on Kangaroo Island.

The CFS have identified two categories of places that can be used to shelter from a bushfire.

- The preferred category, called **Bushfire Safer Places**, offers the greater level of protection.
- The second category, called Bushfire **Last Resort Refuges**, offers little protection but may provide a central gathering point if all other options aren't available.

For a list and map of Bushfire Safer Place and Bushfire Last Resort Refuges, visit www.cfs.sa.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-a-fire-be-prepared/bushfire-safer-places

Michael Pengilly said it is important that both residents and visitors to Kangaroo Island are prepared and ready for bushfires.

“If you are unsure about how to prepare or act during a bushfire, contact the CFS or visit their website www.cfs.gov.au,” he said.

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