



TOTAL FIRE BAN declaration for the ACT

ACT Emergency Services Agency Commissioner Mark Crossweller has declared a Total Fire Ban for the whole of the ACT under Section 114 of the *Emergencies Act 2004* from:

00:00 Tuesday 1 February 2011 to 23:59 Tuesday 1 February 2011.

The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting hot and windy conditions tomorrow with a predicted top temperature of 38 degrees.

The forecast Fire Danger Index (FDI) for tomorrow is predicted at 50 with a **SEVERE** Fire Danger Rating (FDR).

If a fire starts at the forecast fire danger level of **SEVERE** it may be uncontrollable and move quickly. Flames may be higher than roof tops.

Expect embers to be blown around. Spot fires may occur up to 4 km ahead of the fire.

Under these conditions, if a fire starts, there is a chance people in the path of a fire may be severely injured or worse and homes and businesses may be destroyed.

Well prepared and actively defended houses can offer safety during a fire.

Your home will only offer safety if it and you are well prepared and you can actively defend it during a fire.

The ESA advises you to make sure you know where you will get more information and monitor the situation for any changes. You can do this through local ACT media outlets, the ESA website www.esa.act.gov.au or by calling Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.

If a fire starts during the Total Fire Ban declaration period, the ESA advises you monitor the situation for any changes through local ACT media outlets, the ACT Emergency Services Agency website www.esa.act.gov.au or by calling **Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.**

To find out more about Total Fire Bans log on to the ACT Emergency Services Agency website www.esa.act.gov.au or call Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.



TOTAL FIRE BANS

No fire may be lit in the open during a Total Fire Ban in the ACT.

Anyone convicted of lighting a fire during a Total Fire Ban may face a fine and/or imprisonment.

The ACT Emergency Services Agency may also issue a permit declaring a fire is exempt during a Total Fire Ban in special circumstances.

The use of any tools that could potentially start a fire such as welders and angle grinders is prohibited unless a special permit has been granted by the ESA.

Gas or electric BBQ's may be used to cook food on or heat liquids during a Total Fire Ban if, while in use:

- the BBQ is under the direct control of a responsible adult;
- an area around the BBQ of at least 3m is cleared of flammable material; and
- a fire-extinguisher, fire blanket or a continuous stream of water is available for use.

Anyone who becomes aware of an outbreak of uncontrolled fire should call 000 to report its location and if it's within your capabilities then take all reasonable steps to extinguish it.

For more information on Total Fire Bans in the ACT refer to the ESA Fire Danger Ratings brochure at www.esa.act.gov.au



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