

Media Release

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Autumn planned burning program kicks off across the north east

Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) is preparing to undertake multiple planned burns across the north east region this week to reduce the bushfire risk for communities and the environment.

Weather and forest conditions permitting, burns will be ignited near towns including Wangaratta, Glenrowan, Woods Point, Jamieson, Alexandra, Toolangi, Marysville and Berringama.

Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Shaun Lawlor said, “following an extremely dry summer and early autumn, conditions were now suitable to commence the planned burning program after the weekend’s rainfall.”

“The rain across much of the region over the weekend, coupled with a favourable weather forecast, means that we can now take the opportunity to significantly reduce bushfire risk for our communities.

“We’re also working with local communities to ensure residents and visitors are informed about the upcoming planned burning program.

“You may see and smell smoke from these planned burns, and some roads and parks may close. It’s important we take action now to help keep Victoria safe next Summer.

“We understand that smoke from planned burns may cause concern for some people, but it’s important that our crews take every opportunity while conditions are right to reduce bushfire risk.

“We work closely with the Bureau of Meteorology to assess weather conditions – such as humidity, temperature and wind speed – and will only carry out burns when conditions are suitable.”

The autumn program is part of the Victorian Government’s Safer Together approach to reduce the risk of bushfires.

For the latest information about when planned burns are happening near you go to www.ffm.vic.gov.au/plannedburn, download the Vic Emergency app or call the VicEmergency hotline on 1800 226 226.

If you are experiencing any symptoms that may be due to smoke exposure, the Department of Health and Human Services advises people to seek medical advice or call Nurse-on-Call on 1300 60 60 24.