

# Media Release

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## Autumn planned burning program kicks off across Victoria

Forest Fire Management Victoria and the Country Fire Authority (CFA) have commenced planned burning across Victoria to reduce bushfire risk for local communities and the environment.

Forest Fire Management Victoria Chief Fire Officer Stephanie Rotarangi said: “Forest Fire Management Victoria and the CFA have started to conduct planned burns across Victoria where conditions are suitable.

“Throughout Autumn, you may see and smell smoke from these planned burns, and some roads and parks may close,” Dr Rotarangi said

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

“Working with the CFA is a vital part of our planned burning program to make sure that we are using local knowledge to manage bushfire risk together to deliver maximum benefit to the community,” Ms Rotarangi said.

CFA Chief Officer Steve Warrington said CFA and Forest Fire Management Victoria crews would be working side by side to conduct planned burns as part of the Safer Together approach.

“This will see us concentrate on burns and other fuel reduction works that cover both public and private land.

“By doing this, we combine a range of expertise that benefits our planned burning program and means we are making our communities safer together,” Mr Warrington said.

Dr Rotarangi thanked the community for its understanding while this important work is completed.

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

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