



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Improving how bush fires are displayed – know what to look for

07 October 2021

Improvements are being rolled out to the way bush fire incidents are displayed to the Southern Border Team community, including through the NSW RFS website and Fires Near Me NSW smartphone app.

From early December, the icons used to display bush fires will be changing as part of a major national initiative to improve the consistency of warnings across the country.

Reynir Potter from the Southern Border Team Rural Fire Service said it's one of a number of changes to help people better understand the dangers of fires, and knowing what to do when there's a fire nearby.

"The alert levels of Advice, Watch and Act, and Emergency Warning, have been in place for more than a decade for bush fires, and are well understood by the community.

"As part of the new Australian Warning System, the icons used to describe each level are changing to yellow, orange and red triangles.

"These new icons are being progressively rolled out for bush fires right across the country, so no matter where you live or travel, you can expect to see the same approach.

"Over time, the icons will be used for other emergencies including severe weather and cyclones."

The Australian Warning System has been developed following extensive research across the country.

The recent NSW Bushfire Inquiry and the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements also supported the timely implementation of the systems to improve the consistency of information and warnings.

There has also been a number of updates to the Fires Near Me NSW smartphone app ahead of summer.

"Fires Near Me NSW was a valuable tool for so many people last bush fire season and behind the scenes there has been a range of improvements to better display the location of fires.

"By downloading or updating the app, you can now set up a profile which means you can share your watch zones across multiple devices, and there have been accessibility improvements for people who are vision impaired.

"Last fire season demonstrated the importance of being prepared, having a plan and taking action – so we're encouraging everyone to know what to look for, and know what to do."

Information about the new icons is available at

<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/general-news/australian-warnings-system>



**For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on 9898 1855**  
**For current incidents or major fire updates visit [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)**