

Tuesday, 8 January 2008

### NOT ENOUGH HOUSEHOLDS ARE “BUSHFIRE READY”

Premier Mike Rann is warning householders in bushfire prone areas that they could pay a dreadful price by ignoring the State Government’s *Bushfire Ready* message.

The *Bushfire Ready* campaign was launched in early December 2007 – it urges households to have a written Bushfire Action Plan – to document that their properties are prepared and also that they have planned exactly what to do in the event of a fire.

Kits including Bushfire Action Plans and *Bushfire Ready* stickers were posted to all households in bushfire prone areas.

But a survey commissioned by the Country Fire Service (CFS) after the recent Kangaroo Island bushfires has shown that although bushfire is perceived as a major threat by 84% of surveyed households:

- Only 13% say they have written a Bushfire Action Plan
- 69% of those who haven’t written a plan say they do not intend to.
- Only 3% have put a *Bushfire Ready* sticker on their fence or letterbox.

“Our volunteers have also be sorely tested by a number of fires, including the major blazes on Kangaroo Island as well as on Yorke Peninsula,” Premier Rann says.

“They have demonstrated their commitment in spades and now property owners should do the same.

“It’s not enough to simply acknowledge the danger and have a plan in mind. By completing a written Bushfire Action Plan households show they are well prepared to play their part.

“Ticking off the necessary preparations, as well documenting a plan of action if a bushfire does threaten, goes a long way in helping our fire fighters do their job.”

The survey also found that in the event of a fire:

- More than one third (36%) say they will stay and defend their house.
- Almost half (47%) say they will leave early.

Only 12% say they would leave their homes at the start of a high fire danger day.

“People need to be sure they have the physical and mental capacity to deal with a bushfire,” said Mr Rann.

“The last thing our fire fighters need to is to have to rescue people who have made an ill-thought-out decision.”

If people need help filling out a plan they can call the **CFS bushfire hotline on 1300 362 361.**