

Community Newsletter

Kangaroo Island – Ravine Fire Complex

Thursday 2 January 2020

A number of fires were started by lightning in December across Kangaroo Island. The Country Fire Service (CFS), SA National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS), Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) State Emergency Services (SES) and local landholders have been working hard to stop these fires spreading.

The Duncan fire on the northern side of the island was contained on Tuesday 31st December 2019. However, the two Ravine fires on the western end of the island remain uncontrolled and continue to present a threat to life and property.

The Ravine fires started approximately 5 km apart in inaccessible scrubland south of Cape Borda Road in the Ravine Des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area. These fires have now merged and burnt a total of 9529 ha, including large areas of wilderness, private property and timber plantations.

Due to the size and complexity of the fires and the terrain they are burning in, it is expected that the Ravine fire will continue to burn for a number of weeks.

The fire is expected to move in a north-easterly direction under the current south westerly wind.

Due to local wind conditions, there is a significant amount of smoke in the area and current winds are pushing the smoke towards Kingscote.

Friday 3rd January is forecast as a day of Extreme fire danger with strong winds and hot conditions.

Park Closure

To ensure community and visitor safety, NPWS are closing Flinders Chase National Park until further notice. See: <https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/know-before-you-go/closures-and-alerts>

What we are doing?

With the support of aircraft, firefighting activities are focussing on asset protection where safe to do so. Changing weather conditions and lack of visibility due to smoke may decrease their effectiveness. CFS is currently evaluating various options to strategically contain this fire, including a number of backburns, it is likely that the Cape Torrens Wilderness Area, Cape Borda and large tracts of the Ravine Des Casoars Wilderness will be significantly impacted.

Road closures

Extensive road closures are in place on the western end of Kangaroo Island. For further information visit www.traffic.sa.gov.au

What you can do?

- Check and follow your Bushfire Survival Plan
- Visit the CFS website: cfs.sa.gov.au and Facebook or Twitter
- Call the Bushfire Information Hotline 1800 362 361 (TTY 133 677)
- For hearing or speech impaired users, phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 1800 362 361
- Listen to local ABC radio, FIVEaa or one of the Emergency Services Broadcast Partners

Do not rely on a single source for bushfire warning information
For emergencies call Triple Zero (000)

