

Bushfire Safety and Volunteers – Fact Sheet

The ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) is committed to providing a safe work environment for all workers, including volunteers.

This includes notifying volunteer group coordinators of forecasted extreme weather conditions, periods of very high to catastrophic fire danger, and days of Total Fire Ban.

Communicating this information to all volunteers and outlining steps to ensure volunteer safety during these events is a joint responsibility between PCS and volunteer group coordinators.

When conducting activities within the bushfire season (nominally from 1 October to 30 April), it is essential that group coordinators are aware of the fire danger rating and have an exit/evacuation plan in place. This includes having a mode of communicating an emergency to volunteers in the field*, identified multiple exit points, and a method of communicating this plan to all volunteers prior to the activity commencing.

Group coordinators are encouraged to check the Fire Danger Rating for the day of a planned activity on the ACT Emergency Services Agency website (<http://esa.act.gov.au/>) and use the table below to determine the appropriate action.

Table 1. Fire ratings and proposed actions for planned volunteer activities

Fire Rating	Action
Low/Moderate	Activity can proceed as per normal
High	Activity can proceed as per normal Group Coordinator to communicate exit/evacuation plan during activity briefing
Very High	Activity can proceed as per normal Group Coordinator to communicate exit/evacuation plan during activity briefing
Severe	Cancel activity, unless the Manager/District Ranger has approved the activity and an exit/evacuation plan is in place
Extreme	Activity cancelled
Catastrophic	Activity cancelled

