



**SASSAFRAS-FERNY CREEK FIRE BRIGADE**  
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## **Local fire danger reaches critical point**

Fire danger in the local area has reached a critical point in recent days, Sassafras-Ferny Creek Fire Brigade Captain John Schauble said today.

“We’re moving into the time of year when the fire danger is historically at its highest in the Dandenongs – coinciding with the start of the school year,” he said.

While there has been little fire activity locally so far this summer, Mr Schauble said the impact of the last few days of extreme temperatures had been to fully cure the forest fuels in and around the local area.

“This is not unprecedented, but residents need to be very aware that the fire danger is now high even on days when Total Fire Bans have not been declared,” Mr Schauble said.

“Essentially, people need to be on the alert for the possibility of fire on any warm and windy day until we get good, solid rain that puts some moisture back into the forest floor,” he said.

A full program of fuel reduction burning in the area over the past three years by DSE and Parks Victoria, assisted by CFA, has reduced fuel levels in significant areas. While this would assist in fire suppression in the event of an outbreak, fires could still occur in areas burnt as recently as two or three years ago.

Mr Schauble it was important that residents planned for what to do in the event of bushfire.

“Having a plan, knowing what to do and learning what to expect during a bushfire is absolutely vital for people living in this area,” he said.

For more information:

[www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

[www.sassafrascfa.org.au](http://www.sassafrascfa.org.au)

Victorian Bushfire Information Line **1800 240 667**

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