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Tasmania Farmers and Graziers Association Brittons Swamp Bushfire Information

Friday 8 February 2019

BUSHFIRE INFORMATION

A fire started in the Brittons Swamp area last week and has currently burnt through more than 2,300 hectares.

The fire was downgraded to ADVICE on Wednesday afternoon. Crews continue to actively work on the fire with particular attention to the southern border of the fire which is uncontained. The ADVICE alert level remains in place. Alert levels will continue to be monitored and change according to fire activity in the coming days.

Recent weather conditions have significantly reduced fire activity in the area. More rain is expected to fall across the fire ground over the weekend. This will offer a reprieve for local firefighters and further reduce the likelihood of fire impact to communities.

FIREFIGHTING TECHNIQUES

Fire suppression techniques are only using water (not chemical additives) with the exception of an area around a Telstra Tower and radio repeater on Brittons Link. Foam was applied directly on the base of the tower on one occasion when it was under threat of damage. This protection measure may be used again should the circumstances require it. This location is on a ridge top within the forest area, and is not directly adjacent to a creek, drainage line or paddock. Firefighters are regularly briefed on the requirement to not use foam, and the risk to dairy farms if water additives are detected in dairy milk.

Heavy machinery is being used to strengthen containment lines including around plantations, existing tracks and burnt areas. Excavators are being used to remove fallen trees on fence lines and hazardous trees within fire affected areas.

Fence lines have been cut to allow heavy machinery access into fire affected areas and strengthen containment lines along the perimeter of properties. Temporary measures have been put in place to manage stock, pending permanent solutions.

The Tasmania Fire Service and partner agencies are undertaking onsite inspections and communicating directly with affected land owners. Fire agencies will continue to liaise with land owners when affected area repairs can commence.

STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the bushfire situation through via:

- TFS website www.fire.tas.gov.au,
- TFS social media www.facebook.com/TasmaniaFireService & www.twitter.com/TasFireService
- Bushfire Information Line **1800 000 699**
- ABC local radio

If you need urgent assistance, contact TFS via **Triple Zero (000)** immediately.