



**Minister Steve Whan**  
Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Emergency Services  
Minister for Rural Affairs

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## RFS launch fire alert iPhone App.

10 May 2010

Emergency Services Minister Steve Whan has today announced that the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) is launching the official RFS iPhone™ application designed to alert people to bush fire activity in NSW.

'Fires near Me' will be available to download free of charge from Apple's Application store from today.

The Minister said that the RFS has been working closely with Apple™ to ensure that the Application is an efficient and useable tool that will benefit NSW communities.

"As well as giving residents the ability to monitor when and where Total Fire Bans are in place, Fires near Me also allows people to identify bush fire activity as it is happening," said Mr Whan.

"This Application is another strategy implemented by the RFS to heighten community awareness and deliver effective communication.

"Fires near Me will complement the suite of tools available to the public including the recently upgraded RFS website and 1800 Information Line," said Mr Whan.

RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said that the need for the public to have access to accurate and timely information on fires was one of the most important lessons learned from last year's tragic Victorian bush fires.

By upgrading the RFS public communication channels more people can access accurate and up to date bush fire information instantly.

"With more and more people using mobile phone technology to access instant information, Fires near Me provides people with an opportunity to retrieve important updates.

"We're urging people across the State to download Fires near Me and familiarise themselves with its capabilities before the start of the next bush fire season," said Commissioner Fitzsimmons.

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