



Volunteer firefighter charged with lighting fires, making false emergency calls

By Natalie Jones

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An 18-year-old volunteer firefighter has appeared in court charged with lighting two fires and making false emergency calls in Perth.

MAP: Perth 6000

Police alleged that between September and December Jayden D J Parker used a mobile phone, that did not have a SIM card, to call triple-0 about fires in the Bedforddale area.

The Perth Magistrate court heard on each occasion fire crews searched the area but found no fire.

The alleged false alerts related to several tree-dense locations in the Bedforddale area, in Perth's south east.

It is also alleged in late December, Parker twice used a cigarette lighter to set bushland alight, before using the same SIM-less phone to call authorities.

The court heard Parker attended with local fire crews and helped put out the blazes, one of which was about 50 by 30 metres in size.

The court was told the fires were allegedly lit and reported late at night on both occasions.

Parker was arrested on Saturday and charged with seven counts of creating false belief and two of lighting a fire likely to cause injury of damage.

The prosecution told the court bail would be strongly opposed, because of the nature of the charges and the fact that Parker had used a phone without a SIM so as to make it harder for authorities to trace him.

Parker did not apply for bail and was not required to enter a plea when he appeared in court supported by family members.

During proceedings, Parker's lawyer asked relatives if a mental assessment might be needed but his family said they held no concern for his mental state.

Parker has been remanded in custody to reappear at Stirling Gardens Magistrates court via video link next month.

Topics: fires, perth-6000

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