



Firemen and home owners inspect a blaze at Campania. Picture: DANIEL McCULLOCH

## Relief could be on way as crews battle bushfires

By CHRIS CLARKE and AAP

FIRE crews continue to battle out-of-control blazes across Tasmania's South, but welcome relief could soon be on the way, according to the Bureau of Meteorology.

Authorities on Tuesday warned residents near Tea Tree and Campania, north of Hobart, that their properties would come under ember attack and that an uncontrolled bushfire was just 30 minutes away from putting lives in danger and destroying homes.

But the threat level was downgraded without the fire causing

significant damage as scores of personnel and property owners worked with the assistance of three helicopters and 10 tankers.

The fire remains uncontrolled and there is still a threat posed by falling embers, but evacuation is no longer necessary.

"Well-prepared homes are defensible in these conditions," the Tasmania Fire Service said on its website.

But residents further north near Osterley in the state's Midlands have been warned that a second out-of-control blaze could put their homes

at high-risk throughout the afternoon.

"There may be embers, smoke and ash falling on Osterley, and threaten ... homes earlier than the main fire," the fire service said.

The majority of Tasmania is subject to a total fire ban for all of Tuesday as temperatures peaked at over 32C just after midday, before the heat gave way to strengthening winds, with gusts forecast to reach up to 100km/h.

More than 20 bushfires continue to burn across Tasmania and crews are at the ready.

"We have strike teams of firefight-

ers pre-established and the same with aircraft and machinery," TFS acting chief Gavin Freeman said.

"They'll be on standby and prepositioned in the hot spots."

The Bureau of Meteorology said on Tuesday that conditions would ease by night and the state's violent wind gusts would die off.

"Temperatures have peaked this week already," bureau spokesman Malcolm Riley said.

"There is a change on its way that will bring much cooler air. It should be a fairly pleasant week in Launceston. You can plan for barbecues for the rest of the week."