

**METROPOLITAN OPERATIONS**

**BUSHFIRE OPERATIONAL  
MUTUAL AID & SUPPORT  
ARRANGEMENTS**

**2017/2018**

**Version 1**

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

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## 1. Introduction

The Bushfire Operations Mutual Aid arrangements are the result of an ongoing need to provide mutual aid in the response to bushfires occurring within the Perth Metropolitan Regions of the Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES), encompassing all fire districts.

The Local Governments (LG) within the DFES metropolitan regions who are party to this arrangement are:

North Coastal	North East	South Coastal	South East
Wanneroo	Mundaring	Kwinana	Armadaale
Gingin	Swan	Rockingham	Gosnells
	Chittering	Cockburn	Serpentine Jarrahdale
		Mandurah	Kalamunda

These arrangements should be considered within the Standing Operating Procedures (SOP) for each agency, operational circulars, response protocols and seasonal response agreements as approved by the respective agencies.

## 2. Scope

The operational mutual aid arrangements are to;

- Define the agreed parameters for which ongoing support, improvement and demonstration of best practice for responding to a fire threat within the community;
- Incorporate the DFES metropolitan regions being North East, North Coastal, South East and South Coastal.

## 3. Objectives

The objectives of these arrangements are to:

- Identify the circumstances for when mutual aid within the services will be considered; and;
- Determine the agreed parameters for which the mutual aid between DFES and Local Government will be provided.

## 4. Assumptions

Successful mutual aid is based upon the premise all parties subject to this agreement receive support to an incident which is beyond their own resourcing capability in a reciprocating manner.

## 5. Bushfire Incident Classification & Incident Management

All incidents are to be managed in accordance with;

- Emergency Management Act 2005;*
- Bush Fires Act 1954;*
- Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998;*
- State Hazard Plan Fire;
- Australasian Interagency Incident Management System (AIIMS);
- DFES Doctrine Operational Doctrine (OD) 3 – Operations.

## 6. Terms for Mutual Aid

In addition to existing '000 agreements' between DFES and LG's, a request for support may be triggered for any of the following, but not exclusive to;

- Mobilising resources from DFES to assist LG operations and vice versa;
- Strike Team (ST) or Task Force (TF) formation to meet the operational requirements or in the pre-emptive planning stages for predicted weather.
- On execution of *DFES SOP 3.5.7 - Employment of Task Forces-Strike Teams at the RUI*;
- Where the conditions for exercising *s13 – Bushfires Act 1954* are satisfied;
- Where the conditions for exercising *s50 – Emergency Management Act 2005* are met.

A TF/ST Leader is to be appointed to manage the team upon assembly through until disassembly of the team.

The Comcen shall be authorised to mobilise one (1) Bushfire Brigade and their appliances, as made available to an incident within their own region or to their adjoining metropolitan region area without prior consultation of the Chief Bushfire Control Officer (CBFCO).

A CBFCO may exercise the right to veto the request but may consider mobilising alternative LG resources to satisfy the requirements of a Local Government Policy or SOP.

The CBFCO is required to then notify the Comcen of any changes at the earliest opportunity.

### Note:

Assistance is provided on the premise LG's understands a DFES Officer acts as an agent for the FES Commissioner as defined by *s11 - Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998*.

## 7. Strike Team and Task Force

ST and TF are tactical resources deployed to operational incidents, or can be formed in a pre-emptive manner as defined in Section 6.

A Team is to be established in accordance with AIIMS maximum span of control ratio of 1:7.

The Team Leader (TL) is to be appointed, who shall manage the team in accordance with the *AFAC Crew Leader, Strike Team Leader and Task Force Leader Aide-memoire*. The TL is also responsible for the welfare and financial requirements of the team for the operational period for which they are allocated.

In the event the TL does not have the required level or approvals to meet administrative or financial requirements of the team, then a suitably equipped person will accompany the team to meet the requirements as the Team Manager.

## **8. Additional Resources**

In the event an incident within the Metropolitan area requires additional resources for response, it is agreed;

- Additional resourcing required will be determined by the IMT and then communicated to the Comcen, or to the MOC if it is active;
- A Local Government who mobilises resources direct to assist at a neighbouring Local Government incident may do so in accordance with DFES SOP 2.1.2 Mobilising Section 6.

The DFES Comcen or the MOC when active, is to be notified of any changes to the initial request;

Where there is a requirement for personnel only, DFES will refer to the Intra/Interstate Operations Deployment Register located on the Volunteer Portal.

## **9. Incident Coordination**

DFES Metropolitan Operations Centre (MOC) may activate, coordinate resourcing and deactivate in accordance with Western Australian Fire and Emergency Services (WAFES) Manual Pt IV – Metropolitan Operation Centre, as amended.

MOC is responsible to ensure Metropolitan Operations are capable of managing identified hazards and potential emerging risks, while maintaining operational capability and ensuring resources are coordinated to provide maximum benefit and efficiency during activation.

It is understood Local Government may provide mutual assistance direct to a neighbouring Local Government direct, however; this mutual assistance shall be reported to Comcen, in accordance with established '000 agreements' to ensure operational oversight is maintained.

## **10. Support Services**

Pre-determined arrangements are in place to support incident operations. These include aerial intelligence, personnel welfare services, community alerts and warnings and incident investigation.

The State Emergency Service (SES) provides support and their functions are defined by DFES SOP 3.5.16 - SES VFES Support at Bushfires.

## **11. Application & Review**

Assembly, staging, mobilisation, operations and demobilisation will be in accordance with DFES Doctrine as relevant.

DFES will review this agreement, in consultation with the Metropolitan North and South DOAC representatives as required, and will guide the operational practices for all parties, subject to this agreement.

This agreement will remain in effect, from the date of endorsement at a Joint North/South Metropolitan DOAC meeting, as scheduled.

## 12. Indicative Procedure Overview

