



OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR 83/2017
File: D03431

OCTOBER 2017

REPORTING OF FIRE ORIGIN & CAUSE

Critical Message: Operational crews are reminded to ensure **origin and cause information** is relayed to the DFES Communications Centre (ComCen) for **all fires** attended, before fireground departure.

The collection of origin and cause information will give the Fire Investigation and Analysis Unit (FIAU) and Police Arson Squad the opportunity (in real time) to identify deliberate fire clusters and other patterns of fire lighting which in turn will be treated as “hot spots” and a range of joint agency strategies can be developed to stop or deter these arson fires.

For a video on origin and cause to view with your crew please see:

[Origin and Cause Video](#)

Origin of fire

A brief description of the fire’s origin is to be given, e.g. “fire on the side of the road 20 meters into bush”; “fire has started off a walk track”, “this appears to be one of a series”, “car in bush set alight”, ‘wheelie bin set alight near bush track”.

Causes of Fire

One of the cause classifications below must be selected and transmitted to ComCen prior to departure.

- Accidental -heating, cooking, welding, electrical etc.
- Natural – Lightning or spontaneous combustion (mulch or chemicals)
- Suspicious – All accidental causes ruled out and suspicious indicators located
- Deliberate – e.g. multiple fire seats, accelerant found, etc.
- Undetermined – All other causes have been ruled out

Attention to detail will assist DFES and the WA Police Arson Squad in determining a more accurate snapshot of suspicious and deliberately lit fires.

For any questions in relation to this Circular, please contact DFES FIAU.

PAUL RYAN
A/DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS

Target Audience: All operational firefighters				
A	B	C	D	Vol
O.I.C. is to communicate content to all relevant personnel under their command, discuss implications, and sign appropriate box above. Once completed Circulars shall be filed on station and forwarded to Information Resources at the end of each financial year.				
OC-83-17	Issue Date:	Removal Date:	Contact:	Operational Readiness & Standards Capability Command
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