

Good afternoon all,


I am sure you are all keeping up with the latest information around COVID-19 and the ongoing restrictions around that, as first responders it is critical that our priority remain on response and ensuring that we maintain the best response capability for our communities we can in these difficult times.

Regardless of all the available information it seems some of our members/Brigades are choosing to ignore some of the conditions from the previous email from March 17 and are attending Stations for non-essential activities. I need to remind you all that all restrictions have been put in place based on information from the HMA, DFES and the Shire with the best interest of all Brigade members and to ensure the best response capabilities for the community in mind.

Due to the non-essential attendance at stations I hope that the below information is helpful for some clarification;

Non Essential Gatherings limited to 2 people

Station Access:

- Captains to approve all station access for essential purposes only (*Meetings and Administration including IRS is NOT essential*)
- Maximum, 2-3 persons only on station for essential purposes (such as appliance/equipment maintenance checks, weekly or fortnightly as a minimum)
- practising Social Distancing and hygiene procedures at all times, personal, appliances and station (minimum 4m  per person or 1.5m apart)

Response: (*Due to the added responsibilities on the IC from COVID-19 requirements I have asked FPOs & on call DCBFCO to assist IC*)

- From the outset of an incident the OIC must insist crews practice Social Distancing and good hygiene procedures, have this at the forefront of your mind and include it with all briefings especially reinforce as crews arrive.
- Three persons per 2.4, 3.4 and 4.4 (*unless Structural response and BA crew requirements*)
- Two persons per 1.4 and Light Tanker
- Members 60 and over, with existing health concerns must limit their contact with others as much as possible as they are at greater risk of more serious illness.
- OIC's to stand down all unnecessary resources as soon as possible

ICV:

- 2 to 3 Persons only inside the ICV maximum, 2 to 3 persons outside the ICV on tables. Hold additional members in reserve for additional shifts. Shifts can be shorter if numbers permit

Please find the attached Info brochures from the Australian Psychological Society on how to maintain your mental health during social isolation courtesy of DFES Wellness and modelled graph from Sydney Uni displaying the considerable difference it can make by minimising contact with others. Please share.

Finally, with the onset of the restricted burning season commencing tomorrow it would be expected that we will see an increase in fire calls over the coming weeks, please ensure crews are brief in the above mentioned.

Thank you

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PLEASE FOLLOW THESE HEALTHY HYGIENE HABITS

Wash your hands regularly
for at least 20 seconds, using
soap & water or alcohol-based gel



Stay home if you are sick
don't go to work or school
if you have symptoms



Avoid close contact with others
if you, or they, have cold or flu-like
symptoms (keep at least 1 metre away)



Cover your mouth/nose
when you cough/sneeze
using a tissue or flexed elbow



Avoid shaking hands
or making other unnecessary
physical contact with others

