

Subject:Changes to COVID-19 Restrictions

Date:Tue, 12 May 2020 05:49:23 +0000

From:O'NEILL Jamie <jamie.oneill@dfes.wa.gov.au>

From Monday the 18th May 2020 we will be relaxing COVID-19 restrictions to carry out routine maintenance on station, vehicle checks, hazard reduction burning and brigade training. There are some strict conditions that must be abided by and will be enforced through the Captain and or allocated OIC.

Should it be noticed that these conditions are not being adhered to then we will have no choice but to go back to response only. These conditions include the following:

Administration

- Utilise shared user platforms such as Teams wherever available. If you do not have access to these resources for your activity, then investigate accordingly.
- Prioritise use of electronic devices such as iPads where applicable to avoid co-handling of documents.
- Where practical, online based training should occur in lieu of physical training.

Brigade Training and Routine Maintenance requirements

- Maximum of 10 people in total on station at any one time from the same rostered crew.
- No more than 1 person per 4sqm for indoor training.
- The allocated OIC is to arrive 15 mins earlier to the allocated time to open the engine room doors.
- The OIC is the responsible person ensuring the above is maintained and adhered to and if they wish, It is recommended that a Safety Officer is appointed from the group to assist in monitoring the activities..
- Kitchens, fridges and food prep areas are to remain closed. Access to water is permitted through dedicated water fridges.
- No food preparation is permitted on station.
- Personal hygiene and station/appliance disinfecting are to continue to occur as per current instructions.
- Social distancing is to be maintained as far as practicable.
- Conversations to be had with brigade personnel should be in line with physical distancing recommendations.
- OIC's are to keep an accurate attendance sheet of each activity carried out on station.
- Persons who have travelled overseas, been in contact with persons diagnosed with COVID-19 or demonstrating any COVID-19 symptoms should follow government instructions regarding isolation requirements.
- Persons demonstrating any fever, cold, or flu like symptoms will not present to the station and are not to participate in fire operations.
- Persons who start to develop or demonstrate any cold, flu, fever or COVID-19 symptoms must return to Station immediately and notify the OIC.
- Persons who may be at higher risk than the general population in respect to COVID-19 are encouraged to continue to attend the brigade where possible. However, if medical advice dictates otherwise, members in this category can

discuss other options direct with their Captain.

- Avoid transferring personnel between vehicles through training/activity unless required in an emergency.
- Safety Briefing to include COVID-19 protocols for all training/activities.
- Conduct all briefings with attendees, and all other group related discussions outdoors.
- Ensure individual copies of operational resources are available including maps, briefing notes, training aids etc.
- To maintain separation guidelines, it is recommended that a maximum of 3 members in a crew cab truck or crew cab heavy duty and plan to keep the same crew member together in the same vehicle for all stages of training and HRB.
- To maintain separation guidelines, it is recommended that there is no more than one person per light vehicle and plan to use the same vehicle for the duration of the training session.
- Do not share PPE.
- Define specific roles for crew members including regular surface disinfecting wipe down.
- Ensure individual food and drink items are highly demarcated to avoid mistaken use.
- Communal water dispensers are not to be used as drinking water.
- Further information on managing fleet vehicles during COVID-19 is available from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services Volunteer Hub.

Hazard Reduction Burning Procedure.

Conversations must be initiated with volunteers and accord with hygiene and physical distancing recommendations with the following guidance to be applied:

- Avoid transferring personnel between appliance/vehicles through a shift unless required in an emergency.
- Designate a person with the responsibility to conduct briefings and to oversee COVID-19 protocols for all operations.
- Conduct all briefings including those with contractors, and all other group related discussions outdoors.
- Ensure individual copies of operational resources are available including maps, briefing notes, AIMS doctrine etc.
- Use the same vehicle for the duration of the burn right up until the last patrol.
- Do not share PPE.
- Delineate specific roles for crew members including regular surface disinfecting wipe down.

The Shire has developed an online permit application and process that will be go live either today or tomorrow, once ready to go complete details will be circulated to Brigades and the public.

The OIC is the responsible person ensuring the above is maintained and

adhered to and if they wish they may appoint a safety officer from the group to assist in monitoring the activities.

We will continue to monitor restrictions and look to ease requirements in due course.

We are currently reviewing formal training courses and looking to restart them as soon as practicable with a preference of the basic courses for new recruits.

As per current instructions, if you have any flu like symptoms, sick, or having to self-isolate you are not permitted to attend the station.

Jamie O'Neill

CESM Mundaring / Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Department of Fire & Emergency Services

Belmont Regional Office

91 Leake Street Belmont 6104

M: 0429 002 033 **I P:** (08) 9478 8328

E: CESMMundaring@dfes.wa.gov.au **I W:** www.dfes.wa.gov.au



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



DFES is regularly updating information regarding COVID-19 and the preparedness of the Emergency Services on the Volunteer Hub. I encourage you to access this information at the following link. <https://volunteerhub.dfes.wa.gov.au/home/support/health-and-safety/novel-coronavirus>