



OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR 04/2020

File: D12376

January 2020

THE PAFTACS CHALLENGE - UPDATE

As per Operational Circular 78/2019, SitReps are an important method of communicating with ComCen and the Regions to increase situational awareness and identify support. The acronym we use to provide this first informative message at bushfires is **PAFTACS**. To encourage early and accurate PAFTACS, the ComCen is holding a CHALLENGE over the High Threat Period – **THE PAFTACS CHALLENGE!**

On 11 December 2019, a number of appliances were mobilised to a Grass/Scrub/Bush Fire in Yanchep. Two Rocks Light Tanker advised ComCen en route that there was a large visible smoke plume and confirmed air support would be required. They then arrived and classified 3rd Alarm.

Shortly after, Butler Fire Station crew arrived and provided the following PAFTACS.

“Confirmed 3rd Alarm Grass Scrub, approximately 2 Ha, moderate rate of spread, approximately 5 hours to control, require Police for traffic management, Communications Plan is MNC5, incident will be known as Yanchep Control, winds 15-20km easterlies, Control Point is on Wanneroo Road at Butler Pub, contact Coordinator Public Information to assist putting out an Advice”

Congratulations to the Two Rocks Light Tanker crew and Station Officer Halleen from Butler FS for providing excellent examples of early SitReps.

Key Message

PAFTACS should be used as a first informative by Incident Controllers to increase situational awareness and identify support. Well done to Two Rocks and Butler crews for the initial communication provided at the Yanchep Fire

CRAIG WATERS
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS

Target Audience:				
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-04-20	Issue Date:	Valid Until:	Contact:	State Operations
Page 1 of 1	Jan 2020	Jan 2021	state.coordination@dfes.wa.gov.au	

OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

(Checklist for first arriving Firefighters)

The checklist below is a list of operational **considerations** for the first arriving fire crew when giving the first SITREP to COMCEN or your normal reporting lines.

P	POSITION AND PROPERTY THREATENED <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess the situation• Exposures/assets at risk/critical infrastructure
A	AREA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Size of fire
F	FUEL DENSITY AND TYPE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Estimate rate of spread (ROS)
T	TIME TO CONTROL <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish IMT• Decide on objectives, strategies and tactics• Consider delegating key functions
A	ASSISTANCE REQUIRED <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Traffic Management• Road closures• Additional resources
C	COMMUNICATIONS AND CONTROL POINT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Radio frequencies/Communications plan• Location of control point• Consider media and public advice/warnings
S	SURFACE WIND STRENGTH AND DIRECTION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Send SITREP• Safety is first priority

NOTE: The above checklist should only be utilized for the first arriving Incident Controller. For additional and more detailed checklists, refer to the “DFES Operational Checklists” booklet.