



## OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR 08/2020

File: D12376

February 2020

### THE PAFTACS CHALLENGE – UPDATE 2

As per Operational Circular 78/2019, SitReps are an important method of communicating to ComCen and the Regions to increase situational awareness and identify support. As always, it has been a busy High Threat Period to date. In the month of January, ComCen received 4,549 triple 000 calls – that's 883 more triple 000 calls than last year. While there have been some excellent examples of crews reporting back with PAFTACS in a timely manner, there is still room for improvement.

One standout occurred during an escalating bushfire in the Shire of Harvey on 20 January. The following was received by ComCen after a "Watch and Act" had been issued.

**District Officer Murray: "Treasure Road Fire started 200m north of yesterday's fire. 15 ha in size and growing. No property threat imminent however possible threat in 10 minutes. 10 tonne / ha of tuart swamp fuel. 8 hours to control. Current tenure is DBCA who have 4 appliances on scene and 2 more coming. Require 15 heavies and 10 LTs. Using channel 631. Wind is SW @ 10-15kms. Incident Controller is Alan Matchwick DBCA - running it from Collie Office. Ops Officer is Jack Kenbeck."**

An "Emergency Warning" was then issued shortly after.

Well done to District Officer Murray - Brett Finlay and the IMT for providing an excellent PAFTACS in challenging conditions.

#### Key Message

PAFTACS should be used as a first informative by Incident Controllers to increase situational awareness and identify support. Well done to the team in the South West Region.

**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-08-20	Issue Date:	Valid Until:	Contact:	State Operations
Page 1 of 1	Feb 2020	Feb 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

- Assess the situation
- Exposures/assets at risk/critical infrastructure

**A**

### AREA

- Size of fire

**F**

### FUEL DENSITY AND TYPE

- Estimate rate of spread (ROS)

**T**

### TIME TO CONTROL

- Establish IMT
- Decide on objectives, strategies and tactics
- Consider delegating key functions

**A**

### ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

- Traffic Management
- Road closures
- Additional resources

**C**

### COMMUNICATIONS AND CONTROL POINT

- Radio frequencies/Communications plan
- Location of control point
- Consider media and public advice/warnings

**S**

### SURFACE WIND STRENGTH AND DIRECTION

- 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.