



## OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR 16/2020

File: D12918

March 2020

### BUSHFIRE RESPONSE – APPLIANCE CAPABILITY

Fighting bushfires is a high risk activity which requires crews to be aware of operational vehicle capability relative to bushfire behavior including available crew protection systems.

Operational personnel involved in bushfire response are required to review [Directive 3.5 - Bushfire](#), [SOP 3.5.10 – Crew Safety at Bushfires](#) and [3.5.11 – Entrapment and Burnovers at Bushfires](#). These publications have been updated and provide a guideline for personnel to utilise prior to, during or following an entrapment or burnover at a bushfire.

It is vital personnel understand both entrapment and burnover situations including how they can be prevented and how to respond should they occur.

[Field Guide 3.5 - Fireline Intensity and Appliance Capability](#) has been updated to provide a guide for personnel involved in bushfire response to understand the capability of operational vehicles and to select appropriate strategies in relation to flame height and fire intensity.

As a general guideline, Light Tankers may not be effective where the flame height exceeds two (2) metres. Where the flame height exceeds five (5) metres, any form of direct attack, including direct attack using aircraft and/or medium tankers, is potentially dangerous and is unlikely to succeed.

The following maintenance training activities have also been developed and published on eAcademy and should be completed as part of bushfire incident preparation:

- [Activity 0520 – Fire Behaviour Observation and Tactics](#)
- [Activity 0521 – Crew Protection \(Burnover and Entrapment\)](#)

#### Key Message

Incident Controllers are responsible for conducting ongoing risk assessment and incident appreciation to determine type and number of appliances required. Crew briefings on appropriate strategies and tactics to safely combat the incident based on Field Guide 3.5 must also be provided.

**CRAIG WATERS**  
**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS**

Target Audience: All 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-16-20	Issue Date:	Valid Until:	Contact:	Operational Research & Development
Page 1 of 2	Mar 2020	Mar 2021	<a href="mailto:ord@dfes.wa.gov.au">ord@dfes.wa.gov.au</a>	



## Links

### Directive 3.5

<https://shared.dfes.wa.gov.au/business-units/doctrine/IRISDoctrinesyncfolder/Doctrine/3%20Operations/3.05%20Bushfire/Directive-3.05---Bushfire.pdf>

### SOP 3.5.10

<https://shared.dfes.wa.gov.au/business-units/doctrine/IRISDoctrinesyncfolder/Doctrine/3%20Operations/3.05%20Bushfire/SOP-3.05.10---Crew-Safety-at-Bushfires.pdf>

### SOP 3.5.11

<https://shared.dfes.wa.gov.au/business-units/doctrine/IRISDoctrinesyncfolder/Doctrine/3%20Operations/3.05%20Bushfire/SOP-3.05.11---Entrapment-at-Bushfire.pdf>

### Field guide 3.5

<https://shared.dfes.wa.gov.au/business-units/doctrine/IRISDoctrinesyncfolder/Doctrine/3%20Operations/3.05%20Bushfire/FG-3.05-Fireline-Intensity-and-Appliance-Capability.pdf>

### Activity 0520

<https://eacademy.dfes.wa.gov.au/ilp/pages/mediacontent.jsf?catalogId=2061700&mediaId=11554183>

### Activity 0521

<https://eacademy.dfes.wa.gov.au/ilp/pages/mediacontent.jsf?catalogId=2061700&mediaId=11554198>

Target Audience: All 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-16-20	Issue Date:	Valid Until:	Contact:	Operational Research & Development
Page 2 of 2	Mar 2020	Mar 2021	<a href="mailto:ord@dfes.wa.gov.au">ord@dfes.wa.gov.au</a>	