



OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR 44/2021

File: D21161

June 2021

IMPLEMENTATION TRIAL FOR CODIFIED CALL SIGNS – DFES STAFF

Key Message

Metropolitan North East and Country South West Regional staff will be trialling Codified Call Signs, for a three (3) month period commencing 1 July 2021. The trial will allocate a four (4) character call sign to each officer based on their work location and hazard stream. This is expected to assist with brevity and clarity on the radio network channel.

On completion of the trial, a review into the effectiveness of Codified Call Signs prior to implementation across the state (staff only) will be undertaken by Operations Capability.

What has happened?

Currently, there is no documented process for allocating call signs for staff using the DFES WAERN radio network. Traditionally, position titles have been used as radio callsigns by default.

Use of position titles for call signs has resulted in excessively long; and at times similar call signs leading to difficulty in identifying the officer making the contact. Long call signs also take extra time for the Communications Systems Officer (CSO) to enter information into CAD. This results in delays during busy periods of radio traffic.

A standard Codified Call Sign protocol is being trialled, that will add brevity and clarification to radio communications. Codified Call Signs will also provide oversight into the hazard background of the officer and assist in resource management throughout the ComCen, Metropolitan Operations Centre (MOC), Regional Operations Centre (ROC) and State Operations Centre (SOC).

How does the codified call sign protocol work?

A four (4) character call sign, consisting of two (2) letters followed by two (2) digits, has been allocated to each officers' position. This new call sign will identify the officer's allocated work area, position and hazard stream. The letters will identify the officer's work area. The first digit will identify the officer's hazard stream. The next digit identifies different officer's within the same hazard stream.

Target Audience: All Personnel				
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.				
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The following list details how different hazard streams will be identified using the Codified Call Signs;

- XX 01 Regional Superintendent
- XX 10-19 Urban Officer
- XX 20-29 Rural Officer
- XX 30-39 Natural Hazard Officer
- XX 40-49 Regional Allocated Support Staff
- XX 50-59 Misc. Regional Allocation

Use of this code will allow CSO's to quickly enter and identify regional staff in CAD.

What are the call signs used during the trial?

Appendix A lists all of the call signs used during the trial.

What will I hear on the radio?

Personnel partaking in the trial will identify themselves using their Codified Call Sign. This call sign will be transmitted using the phonetic alphabet. There will not be a requirement for names to be transmitted when using the Codified Call Sign. For example;

“November echo three zero turning out to land search at Smith St Jonestown over”.

This indicates to radio network users that DO North East SES is responding to a land search.

What does it mean for me?

A trial of Codified Call Signs will commence within the North East Metropolitan and the South West Regions starting on 1 July 2021. This trial is intended to operate for three (3) months. Officers within the trial area will be contacted directly to confirm their call sign, prior to the trial commencing.

Once the trial and review has been completed, Operations Command will consult more broadly before a full roll out is implemented across the state (Staff only).

Want to know more?

For further information regarding the Codified Call Sign trial please contact DO Elliott or A/Supt. Lockwood per below contacts:

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CRAIG WATERS AFSM

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS

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Appendix A – Call Signs

Codified Call Sign have been allocated to trial regional personnel as listed below.

Metropolitan North East Region

NE01 – Superintendent North East
NE10 – DO Perth
NE11 – DO Swan
NE12 – DO Darling Range
NE20 – DO North East BFS
NE21 – CESM Swan
NE22 – CESM Mundaring
NE23 – CESM Chittering
NE30 – DO North East SES
NE40 – ROSO North East

South West Region

SW01 – Superintendent South West
SW10 – DO Bunbury
SW11 – AO Forrest
SW20 – DO Wellington
SW21 – AO Preston
SW22 – CESM Collie
SW23 – CESM Harvey
SW24 – CESM Murray
SW30 – DO South West Natural Hazards
SW40 – DO Emergency Management
SW41 – Bushfire Risk Management Officer South
SW42 – Bushfire Risk Management Officer North
SW43 – Senior Fire Safety Officer
SW44 – Community Preparedness Advisor

Target Audience: All Personnel				
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