



OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR 48/2021

File: D21423

July 2021

PHASE ONE OF AUSTRALIAN WARNING SYSTEM (AWS) TO GO LIVE IN SEPTEMBER

Key Message

As part of the implementation of the Australian Warning System (AWS), bushfire warning colours in Western Australia will change from 14 September 2021.

What you will notice:

- New warning *colours* for Bushfire only. Bushfire warning colours will be updated to reflect the national framework (Advice – Yellow; Watch and Act – Orange; Emergency Warning – Red).
- Icon *style* changes for all hazards on Emergency WA in line with AWS standards.

Bushfire icon style and colour change

Current icon style and colour



Advice



Watch and Act



Emergency Warning



New icon style and colour



Advice



Watch and Act



Emergency Warning

Other Emergency WA icon style change examples

Current icon style



Cyclone Red Alert



Storm Warning



Hazmat Warning



New icon style



Cyclone Red Alert



Storm Warning



Hazmat Warning

This change is the first step in a phased implementation of AWS. Subsequent phases will see the new framework introduced for other hazards beyond bushfire.

What's been happening?

The DFES Public Information Branch has been working with all impacted business areas to identify systems, doctrine, training products and community education resources that require updating to align with the AWS icons and colours for bushfire.

Target Audience: All operational and emergency management 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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What does it mean for me?

The implementation introduces several changes that will impact Operational personnel:

- Updated Doctrine (SAP 3.2.B - Public Information and Warnings, Bushfire Talking Points, FG 3.2 - Public Info Media Points). Updated documents will be made available for pre-season forums and training.
- New colours and icons will be visible on Emergency WA, WebEOC, FESMaps, the DFES corporate website and across relevant Community Preparedness resources from 14 September.

A range of communication activities will be undertaken to inform volunteers, DFES personnel and local governments about the colour change. Additional information will be provided through the media and digital channels to ensure the community understands what the new colours mean.

Want to know more?

Keep updated on the [AWS Intranet Project Page](#), the [AWS Volunteer Hub Project Page](#), and through circulars, pre-season forums and briefings. Alternatively contact the DFES Public Information Branch via statepublicinfo@dfes.wa.gov.au

CRAIG WATERS AFSM
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS

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