



OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR 68/2021

File: D22023

September 2021

TOTAL FIRE BAN BREACHES

Key Message

Reporting requirements when attending an incident during a Total Fire Ban (TFB).

Background information

Total Fire Bans (TFBs) are declared during extreme weather conditions or when bushfires are already seriously impacting firefighting resources. When someone breaches a TFB by lighting a fire, or carrying out a banned activity that causes or is likely to cause a fire, it can put further strain on firefighting resources, and has the potential to cause a serious fire, impacting the community and putting lives, property and infrastructure at risk.

What has been happening?

The DFES Regulation and Compliance Branch (R&C) review and investigate incidents attended by DFES when a TFB has been declared for an area, to determine if a breach has occurred and what action can be taken. The purpose of the investigation is to identify causes of breaches and mitigate against them through education or infringement depending on the circumstances. R&C may contact the Incident Controller (IC) to confirm or request additional information during their investigation.

R&C rely on the information contained in the incident report to conduct their investigations. R&C work in collaboration with local governments, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and WA Police, who also have powers to take action in relation to TFB breaches.

What do I need to do?

- Confirm the incident address is recorded accurately in IRS.
- Record name of person who breached the TFB within the IRS report, if identified.
- Use the comments section in IRS to capture any additional information not already contained in a standard field within IRS, this information is valuable to investigators.

Need more information?

There are different rules for the general public as opposed to business, industry and public authorities in relation to what you can and can't do during a TFB. Please review the current TFB information on the DFES website [here](#).

For further information on TFB breaches please contact Senior Regulation and Compliance Officer Tanya Ramponi or email regulation.compliance@dfes.wa.gov.au

BRAD DELAVALLE
ACTING DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS

Target Audience: All operational personnel required to complete Incident Reports in IRS.				
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-68-21	Issue Date:	Contact:	Regulation and Compliance	
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