



## OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR 90/2023

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December 2023

### Changes to Rural Urban Interface Firefighting and Crew Protection Procedures

#### Key Messages

*SOP 3.5.7 Employment of Task Forces / Strike Teams at the RUI* has been updated to require consideration of training and capability for personnel utilised in Rural Urban Interface (RUI) firefighting.

The burnover procedure listed in the *DFES0999 Crew Protection* training course has been updated to add a reference to appliances with a PTO-driven pump needing to be returned to idle prior to the pump being disengaged.

The Automatic Vehicle Location Emergency Distress Button (AVL/EDB) provides vital information such as the vehicle identification and its location sent in 'real time' to ComCen. It also sends emergency distress alarms to alert ComCen of an emergency situation. Operational personnel should activate the EDB in the case of a life threatening or serious injury to you or your crew, such as:

- A burnover situation
- A serious accident causing injury or death
- A serious medical condition such as a heart attack
- Any situation where you would normally dial 000.

#### What happened?

Changes have been implemented in [SOP 3.5.7 Employment of Task Forces / Strike Teams at the RUI](#) and the *DFES0999 Crew Protection* training course because of the Forrestfield 4<sup>th</sup> Pump Burnover Safety Investigation and corresponding Corrective Action Plan.

This Circular is also intended as a reminder on the use and process for the Automatic Vehicle Location Emergency Distress Button (AVL/EDB), in line with the findings from the Safety Investigation.

#### What does it mean for me?

All operational crews should review *SOP 3.5.7 Employing Strike Teams and Task Forces at the RUI* and the [DFES0999 Crew Protection](#) training course. Specifically, supervisors (OIC/Sector Commander/Operations Officers/Incident Controllers) should consider the capability of both the appliances and personnel undertaking defensive strategies at bushfires.

Career and Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS/VFRS) personnel should pay particular attention to the need to return appliances with a PTO-driven pump to idle prior to the pump being disengaged. This includes Urban Pump Type 1 and Urban Pump Type 2 appliances, along with older Heavy and Medium Pump appliances.

Target Audience: Operational Personnel involved in bushfire suppression				
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### Further information

For further information on the safety investigation, contact Health and Safety Services, [HSS@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:HSS@dfes.wa.gov.au).

For further information on SOP 3.5.7 and/or DFES0999 Crew Protection, contact the Bushfire Centre of Excellence Training Team, [BCETraining@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:BCETraining@dfes.wa.gov.au).

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