



## SAFETY CIRCULAR 01/2020

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### SITING APPLIANCES AND CREW SAFETY

During recent bushfire incidents there have been several occasions where firefighters have been/or could have been impinged by fire. Crews are reminded that the appliance driver is responsible for safely siting vehicles at an incident, taking into account all the relevant safety considerations including:

- All crew are to be aware of the Dead Man's Zone and maintain LACES. Refer to [SOP 3.5.10 – Crew Safety at Bushfires](#) for further explanation.
- Maintain situational awareness at all times. Driver to monitor radios and ensure crew and vehicle safety.
- Site the vehicle in a position that enables immediate evacuation if required.
- Site the vehicle on clear, level (where practicable) firm ground, up wind (where possible) and free from potential fuel (use blacked out areas when available).
- If vehicle is parked on burnt ground, ensure it is not parked on hot spots. Monitor the area regularly for potential re-ignition and consider dampening the area down to prevent re-ignition of the fire and damage to vehicle.
- Remain clear of powerlines which may arc because of smoke or become unstable due to fire damage.
- Ensure the vehicle is clear of hazardous trees or trees affected by fire; minimum twice the tree height in clearance.
- Maintain awareness of fire intensity, vegetation/fuel loads and fluctuations in wind speed and direction that could result in significant changes in fire behaviour.
- If a vehicle must be left unattended ensure it is on burnt ground and is not blocking tracks or roadways.
- If an inexperienced member of the crew is directed to perform a task that they feel is not safe, they should ask questions or request clarification to ensure safety is maintained.

#### Key Message

Crew safety is paramount. Vehicle operators should maintain situational awareness at all times and undertake a risk assessment considering crew safety when siting vehicles.

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

Target Audience: Firefighting 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.				
SC-01-20	Issue Date:	Removal Date:	Contact:	Health & Safety Services
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