

## Special Announcement from the Commissioner

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> **Special Announcement from the Commissioner**

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The Commissioner has expressed his thanks to all emergency services personnel both on the frontline and behind the scenes, for their hard work during these difficult conditions.

It has been a busy few days for emergency services, battling numerous incidents and high temperatures. I would like to thank all of our personnel, both on the frontline and behind the scenes, for your hard work during these difficult conditions.

Just before 11am on Friday, a fire near Stock Road in Spearwood threatened nearby residents. Firefighters responded swiftly, defending lives and homes as it was fanned by winds across Barrington Street. Thanks to the collective efforts of career and volunteer firefighters and aerial assets, lives and homes were protected and the fire was fully contained shortly after 2pm. Crews worked throughout the night and into Saturday, managing hot spots and making the area safe. More than 70 firefighters responded throughout the incident, supported by State Emergency Services (SES) and appliances and machinery from DBCA.

A few hours later, a fire at a Kwinana warehouse started, spreading into beachside scrub and prompting a HAZMAT warning for Kwinana Beach and surrounding suburbs. In oppressive 43C heat, firefighters successfully prevented damage to neighbouring buildings and infrastructure and quickly got this fire under control. The response continued into the weekend to fully extinguish the fire, monitor air quality and make the area safe – calling on over 270 personnel including career and volunteer firefighters and SES.

Further south in the City of Albany, work is also continuing in response to the Green Range bushfire which has burnt through more than 7,000 hectares. Approximately 120 firefighters have been on site each day, supported by a multi-agency Incident Management Team and numerous aerial assets including the Large Air Tanker. After four days, the fire was downgraded to an Advice on Saturday night after firefighters successfully contained it.

Coordination and preparation of our response capacity has been critical as well. Whether its volunteers standing by at stations or career firefighters coming back to work on days off it is all part of the response effort. To our staff in our ROCs, MOC and SOC thanks for your coordination of these resources.

To everyone thank you once again for your efforts in the most difficult of weather conditions and your continued commitment to protecting the community. I have mentioned only a handful of the emergencies that have required our response in recent days, but they are testament to the dedication of our people and a demonstration of what we can achieve with our emergency services partners.

As this hot weather persists, please look after yourselves and each other.

Darren Klemm AFSM  
Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner



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