



## OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR 42/2025

File: D39676

July 2025

### Nedlands Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Explosion

#### Key Message

Important operational information is now available for an incident involving a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) explosion. This information should be reviewed by operational personnel due to the increasing prevalence of BESS installations.

#### What happened?

[Operational Circular 41/2025](#) introduced Rapid Insights to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and insights gleaned from incidents. Rapid Insights may originate from the Observations Register, incident debriefs or directly by crews and are intended to provide a means of sharing information to better improve DFES capability.

In May 2024, CFRS crews from Claremont and Daglish responded to a report of an explosion at a residential property. Upon arrival and investigation, a BESS with twenty (20) batteries was discovered in the garage, with seven (7) batteries found to be in thermal runaway.

Despite occurring some time ago, the observations contained within are still relevant, therefore this incident has been used to create an example of how observations can be shared using the Rapid Insights template.

#### What do I need to do?

This was a low-frequency, high-consequence incident. With the increasing use of lithium-ion batteries and their significant and emerging associated risks, this case-study provides useful insights. Ensure this Rapid Insight example is printed, discussed and shared amongst all BGUs for education.

#### Further information

Find the Rapid Insights example on the [Staff Intranet](#) and the [Volunteer Hub](#).

[SAP 3.19.C - Lessons Management Rapid Insights](#)

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

Target Audience: All Operational Crews				
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-42-25	Issue Date:	Contact:	Lessons Management	
Page 1 of 1	Jul 2025	<a href="mailto:lessons@dfes.wa.gov.au">lessons@dfes.wa.gov.au</a>		