



OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR 63/2024

File: D03607

November 2024

STATE AERIAL FIREFIGHTING AIRCRAFT START DATES

Key Message

Seasonal aerial firefighting aircraft have commenced operations for the 2024/2025 southern bush fire season.

What's happening?

Aerial firefighting resources are being brought online in a staggered manner. Known start dates are listed overleaf. Dates listed as TBA are dependent upon seasonal conditions and will be announced when known.

What does it mean for me?

Operational personnel should familiarise themselves with relevant aspects of aerial firefighting such as fireground safety, Ground Controller functions, and request/mobilisation procedures for aerial firefighting aircraft.

Further Information

Further information on aerial firefighting is available at [DFES Aviation Services](#).

CRAIG WATERS AFSM

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS

Target Audience: All Operational personnel involved in Bushfire Operations				
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-63-24	Issue Date:	Contact:	Aviation Services	
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2024-25 Southern bushfire season aerial firefighting fleet

Start date	Resource by base	Radio callsign / Type and capacity	Hours of operation
JANDAKOT			
Commenced	2 x Helitaks	Helitak 673, 674 Bell 214B with 2,650 L	0900 - 1800
01/12/2024	2 x Helitaks	Helitak 676, 677 Bell 214B with 2,650 L	0900 - 1800
TBA	3 x SEAT/bomber	AT 802 with 3,150 L	0600 - 1800
TBA	Air Attack supervision ^R	Air Attack 1	0600 - 1800
Commenced	Air Attack supervision ^R	Air Attack 5	0900 - 1800
01/12/2024	Air Attack supervision ^{FW}	Air Attack 6	0600 - 1800
Commenced	Air Attack supervision and utility (all hazards) helicopter	Air Attack 7 AS 365 Dauphin	0900 - 1800
Commenced	Aerial Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance (ISR) ^R	Air Intel AS 365 Dauphin	0900 - 1800
Commenced	Linescanner and strategic ISR ^{FW}	Firescan 125	0900 - 1800
GINGIN			
20/12/2024	2 x Helitaks	Helitak 688, 689 Blackhawk with 4500 L	0900 - 1800
SERPENTINE			
01/12/2024	2 x Helitaks	Helitak 678, 679 Blackhawk with 4500 L	0900 - 1800
BUNBURY			
TBA	2 x SEAT/bomber	AT 802 with 3,150 L	0600 - 1800
TBA	Air Attack Supervision ^{FW}	Air Attack 2	0600 - 1800
BUSSELTON			
15/12/2024	2 x Helitaks	Helitak 676,677 Bell 214B with 2,650 L	0900 - 1800
01/12/2024	Large Air Tanker (LAT)	C -130H with 15140 L	0900 - 1800
01/12/2024	Birddog Air Attack Supervision ^{FW}	Birddog 125	0900 - 1800
MANJIMUP			
TBA	2 x SEAT/bomber	AT 802 with 3,150 L	0600 - 1800
TBA	Air Attack Supervision ^{FW}	Air Attack 3	0600 - 1800
ALBANY			
TBA	2 x SEAT/bomber	AT 802 with 3,150 L	0600 - 1800
TBA	Air Attack Supervision ^{FW}	Air Attack 4	0600 - 1800

TBA: To Be Announced. **R:** Rotary wing platform/helicopter. **FW:** Fixed wing platform/aeroplane.

All aircraft locations are nominated bases and start times are based on state and regional risk assessments.

2024-25 Southern bushfire season aerial firefighting fleet

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GRAIN HARVEST STRIKE TEAM 1: Starting in Geraldton*			
Commenced	2 x SEAT/bomber	AT 802 with 3,150 L	0600 - 1800
	Air Attack supervision	Air Attack 8	
GRAIN HARVEST STRIKE TEAM 2: Starting in Narrogin*			
Commenced	2 x SEAT/bomber	AT 802 with 3,150 L	0600 - 1800
	Air Attack supervision	Air Attack 9	

* The Grain Harvest Strike Teams will be relocated as required based on regional risk assessments