



**OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR 66/2024**

**File: D03607**

**November 2024**

**STATE AERIAL FIREFIGHTING AIRCRAFT START DATES – UPDATE 1**

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**Key Message**

Planned additional seasonal aerial firefighting aircraft have commenced operations for the 2024/2025 southern bush fire season, including resources based at Jandakot, Bunbury, Busselton, and Esperance.

**What’s happening?**

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

With the publishing of this update circular, the previous aircraft start date circular (63/2024) has been archived. Note that the Start Dates tables in this circular may be subjected to minor updates without a new update circular being published.

**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.

The attached Start Dates tables will be kept up to date to reflect minor changes to scheduled aircraft commencement dates.

**Further Information**

Further information on aerial firefighting is available at [DFES Aviation Services](#), and specifically within the resources listed below:

- [Ground Controller Student Resource](#)
- [WA Aerial Fire Suppression Request and Dispatch Procedures](#)
- [SAP 3.11.A - Aerial Suppression Mobilisation](#)
- [SOP 3.11.01 - Aerial Suppression Response](#)
- [Field Guide 3.11 - Air Operations.](#)

**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-66-24	Issue Date:	Contact:		Aviation Services
Page 1 of 1	Nov 2024	<a href="mailto:adam.whitford@dfes.wa.gov.au">adam.whitford@dfes.wa.gov.au</a>		

Start date	Resource by base	Type and capacity or radio callsign	Hours of operation
<b>JANDAKOT</b>			
<b>Commenced</b>	2 x Helitaks	Helitak 673,674 Bell 214B with 2,650 L	0900 - 1800
15/12/2024	2 x Helitaks	Helitak 676,677 Bell 214B with 2,650 L	0900 - 1800
<b>Commenced</b>	2 x SEAT/bomber	AT 802 with 3,150 L	0600 - 1800
<b>Commenced</b>	Air Attack supervision <sup>R</sup>	Air Attack 1	0600 - 1800
<b>Commenced</b>	Air Attack supervision <sup>R</sup>	Air Attack 5	0900 - 1800
01/12/2024	Air Attack supervision <sup>FW</sup>	Air Attack 6	0600 - 1800
<b>Commenced</b>	Air Attack supervision and utility (all hazards) helicopter	Air Attack 7 Dauphin	0900 - 1800
<b>Commenced</b>	Aerial Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance (ISR) helicopter	Air Intel Dauphin	0900 - 1800
<b>Commenced</b>	Linescanner and strategic ISR aeroplane	Firescan 125	0900 - 1800
<b>GINGIN</b>			
20/12/2024	2 x Helitaks	Helitak 668, 669 Black Hawk with 4500 L	0900 - 1800
<b>SERPENTINE</b>			
01/12/2024	2 x Helitaks	Helitak 678,679 Black Hawk with 4500 L	0900 - 1800
<b>BUNBURY</b>			
<b>Commenced</b>	2 x SEAT/bomber	AT 802 with 3,150 L	0600 - 1800
<b>Commenced</b>	Air Attack Supervision <sup>FW</sup>	Air Attack 2	0600 - 1800
<b>BUSSELTON</b>			
<b>Commenced</b>	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 AAS <sup>FW</sup>	Birddog 125	0900 - 1800
<b>MANJIMUP</b>			
TBA	2 x SEAT/bomber	AT 802 with 3,150 L	0600 - 1800
TBA	Air Attack Supervision <sup>FW</sup>	Air Attack 3	0600 - 1800
<b>ALBANY</b>			
TBA	2 x SEAT/bomber	AT 802 with 3,150 L	0600 - 1800
TBA	Air Attack Supervision <sup>FW</sup>	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**

Start date	Resource by base	Type and capacity (litres) or radio callsign	Hours of operation
<b>GRAIN HARVEST STRIKE TEAM 1: Geraldton* until 28 Nov 2024</b>			
<b>Commenced</b>	2 x SEAT/bomber	AT 802 with 3,150 L	0600 - 1800
	Air Attack supervision	Air Attack 8	
<b>GRAIN HARVEST STRIKE TEAM 2: Narrogin* until 12 Dec 2024</b>			
<b>Commenced</b>	2 x SEAT/bomber	AT 802 with 3,150 L	0600 - 1800
	Air Attack supervision	Air Attack 9	
<b>GRAIN HARVEST STRIKE TEAM 3: Esperance* until 28 Nov 2024</b>			
<b>Commenced</b>	2 x SEAT/bomber	AT 802 with 3,150 L	0600 - 1800
	Air Attack supervision	Air Attack 11	

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