

SHIRE OF JERRAMUNGUP

BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Annual General Meeting of the Jerramungup Bush Fire Advisory Committee held on Tuesday 28th April 2015 in the Council Chambers, Jerramungup commencing at 7:30pm.

1. OPENING

The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Mr David Edwards declared the meeting open at 7.30pm.

2. PRESENT

Mr David Edwards	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr Trevor Ross	Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer
Mr Alex Jones	Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer
Mr Brent Bailey	Shire of Jerramungup
Mrs Charmaine Solomon	Shire of Jerramungup
Mr John Tonkin	Area Officer DFES
Cr Bill Bailey	Shire Representative
Cr Rex Parsons	Shire Representative
Mr Malcolm Turner	Needilup Brigade
Mr Mark Tapscott	Needilup Brigade
Mr Anthony Armstrong	Jerramungup VES
Mr Paul Hislop	Jerramungup Brigade
Mr Kim Parsons	Jerramungup Brigade
Mr Brad Bailey	Jacup Brigade
Mr Rob Wright	Boxwood Brigade
Mr Steve Evans	OIC Jerramungup Police

3. APOLOGIES

Mr Steve Wadsworth	Bremer Bay Brigade
Mr Vince Hilder	DPaW
Mr Peter Masters	DPaW
Mr Quentin Brown	Needilup Brigade
Mr Darrell Crowley	Gairdner Brigade
Mrs Carolyn Daniel	Needilup Brigade

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting held on 23rd September 2014 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Moved by Anthony Armstrong / Seconded by Cr Bailey

That the Minutes of the Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting held on 23rd September 2014 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

5.1 Needilup and Boxwood Fire Shed

Mrs Charmaine Solomon advised Plantagenet Sheds have commenced works on the fire sheds for Needilup and Boxwood, the sheds should be completed by the end of May.

7.50pm Mr Trevor Ross entered the meeting.

5.2 Training for Volunteers

Fire Training Minimum Standards

To ensure the health and safety of employees and volunteers who conduct fire operations for the Shire of Jerramungup, the following minimum training competencies apply to attend the fire ground from the 2017/18 fire season;

Position	Induction	Introduction to Fire Fighting	Bush Fire Fighting	Fire Control Officer	AIIMS
Volunteer Brigade Members	✓	✓	✓		
Volunteer Brigade Members over 60 years of age					
Shire of Jerramungup Employees	✓	✓	✓		
Fire Control Officers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chief and Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Association of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades

Mr David Edwards advised members that CBH are offering funding to local volunteer bushfire brigades. Mr David Edwards encouraged members to think about what their brigade may require which is not covered by the ESL. Brigades to advise Mrs Charmaine Solomon – grant applications close 20th May.

7. REPORTS

7.1 DPaW Report

Report attached to the minutes.

7.59pm Mr Steve Evans entered the meeting.

7.2 DFES Report

Report attached to the minutes.

Please note the following Volunteer Fire Fighter Training courses scheduled for 2015;

- 25th August – Intro to Bush Fire Fighting in Boxwood
- 26th August – Intro to Bush Fire Fighting in Jerramungup
- 31st August – Fire Control Officer in Jerramungup
- 1st September – Ground Controller in Jerramungup

Mr David Edwards would like all Captains to attend the Ground Controller Course as a requirement.

7.3 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Report

CBFCO report attached to the minutes.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

8.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Mr David Edwards announced the vacancy for the CBFCO position and left the Chair.

Mr Brent Bailey took the Chair for the purposes of conducting the CBFCO election and called for nominations for the position of Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.

Mr Anthony Armstrong nominated Mr David Edwards.

Mr David Edwards accepted.

There being no further nominations, Mr David Edwards was elected to the position of Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for a one year term. Mr David Edwards assumed the Chair and thanked the members for their support.

8.2 Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers

Mr Anthony Armstrong nominated Mr Trevor Ross who accepted.

Mr Anthony Armstrong nominated Mr Alex Jones who accepted.

There being no further nominations, Mr Trevor Ross and Mr Alex Jones were declared elected to the positions of Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer.

8.3 Chief Fire Weather Officer

Mr Anthony Armstrong nominated Mr David Edwards who accepted.

There being no further nominations, Mr David Edwards was declared elected to the position of Chief Fire Weather Officer.

8.4 Deputy Chief Fire Weather Officers

Mr Malcolm Turner nominated Mr Paul Hislop, who accepted.

There being no further nominations, Mr Paul Hislop was declared elected to the position of Deputy Chief Fire Weather Officer.

8.5 Brigade Fire Weather Officers

Jacup Bushfire Brigade – Mr Michael Lester

Needilup Bushfire Brigade – Mr Ray Trevaskis

Boxwood Bushfire Brigade – Mr Rohan Murdoch

Gairdner Bushfire Brigade – Mr Damon Parker

8.6 Authorised Radio Broadcaster of Harvest Bans

Note: The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer assumes the responsibility of Chief Radio Officer.

Mr David Edwards was declared elected to the position of Authorised Radio Broadcaster of Harvest Bans.

8.7 Dual Fire Control Officers

Jerramungup / Ravensthorpe Mr Peter Wisewould

Jerramungup / Kent Mr Quentin Brown

Jerramungup / Lake Grace Mr Paul Hislop

Jerramungup / Gnowangerup Mr Ray Trevaskis

Jerramungup / Albany Mr Rohan Murdoch

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 Appointment of the Community Emergency Services Officer

Mr Brent Bailey advised the Committee that Mr Ashley Peczka has been appointed the Community Emergency Services Officer (CESO) for the Shires of Jerramungup and Ravensthorpe. Mr Peczka will commence on the 8th June 2015 and will be based in Ravensthorpe. The role of the CESO is to provide administrative support to the Shire, DFES and the local emergency services.

9.2 Bushfire Control Officer Course

Mr Alex Jones requested a Bushfire Control Officer Course and AIMS course be organised between now and October. Mr John Tonkin from DFES provided a training calendar for 2015 which is tabled in his report.

Mr David Edwards will see if the AIMS course can be worked in with the FCO course.

9.3 Fire Control Information Notice

The Shire of Jerramungup Fire Control Information Notice has been amended to reflect the following changes:

- Incorporation of Point Henry Fire Management Strategy requirements for existing owners, to be phased in over a five year period.
- Activities of track raking/chaining to be regulated during the prohibited and restricted burning times
- Definition of equivalent fire fighting capacity

The Committee also discussed the minimum water capacity and equivalent fire fighting capacity and resolved to amend the Fire Control Information Notice to include the following highlighted in red:

Mobile fire fighting unit” means a **self-propelled vehicle** carrying a single water tank of at least six hundred (**600 litres**) capacity, equipped with an engine driven pump fitted with a minimum of twenty (20) metres of nineteen millimetre (19mm) diameter fire fighting delivery hose and capable of delivering fire fighting water through an adjustable nozzle in spray or jet settings.

and;

Equivalent fire fighting capacity” means the required water carrying capacity and water delivery capacity of a fire unit/s provided when more than one header or harvester is operating in a paddock as per the following table:

<i>Number of Headers or Harvester</i>	<i>Equivalent Fire Fighting Capacity</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>1 x mobile fire fighting unit (minimum 600 litre water capacity)</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>1 x mobile fire fighting unit (minimum 600 litre water capacity)</i>
<i>3 or more</i>	<i>2 x mobile fire fighting units (minimum</i>

	<p><i>1200 litre capacity)</i> <i>or;</i> <i>1x mobile fire fighting unit (minimum 600 litre capacity) and 1 x trailer mounted unit of at least 600 litre capacity)</i></p>
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9.4 Burn Prescription for Plantations

Mr David Edwards tabled the “Burn Prescription for Plantations” developed by the Shire of Jerramungup. The “Burn Prescription for Plantations” will apply within the Shire of Jerramungup 12 months of the year. The following information is to be inserted under Point 6 of the Shire’s Fire Control Information Notice;

Please note Pursuant to Section 46 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, an FCO has the power to delay or postpone the lighting of a fire at anytime. In relation to plantations it should be noted that where land owners wish to clear the land of plantations, any accompanying burning operations must gain Shire approval at all times throughout the year. The subject approval will be in the form of a Burn Prescription issued by the Shire.

9.5 Restrictions

Mr David Edwards requested feedback on the following restrictions applied during the restricted period:

- No burning between 7am and 4pm
- A 3 metre wide bare earth firebreak is required around all stubble burning
- A separate fire unit is required other than the one doing the burning
- Can only burn on one location on anyone day
- Landowners are to contact neighbouring property owners to advise of burn
- The landowner is to contact the Shire of Jerramungup (9835 1022) to notify of burn and FCO that wrote permit
- Permits **can’t** be validated for a Sunday or Public Holiday.
- You must have permit with you at all times while burning
- Permits can only be validated once they are put over the Bushfire Sked
- Permits can only be written for a period of 2 weeks
- Track raking is allowed under permit with a fire unit in the paddock

Mr Malcolm Turner and Mr Mark Tapscott raised concerns from local farmers that pasture could not be burnt after 4pm as it was too cold.

Mr David Edwards discussed the restriction for “only burning on one location on anyone day”. Mr David Edwards noted that the FCO’s may give permission if burning side by side, restrictions on permits issued should be based on individual circumstances.

The Chief and Deputies will decide what restrictions are to be placed on permits on a season by season basis.

Mr Trevor Ross noted that if you are burning approximately 5km's from DPaW bush you are required to notify DPaW – even when the restricted period has closed.

Mr Malcolm Turner suggested that current permits could be recorded on the Shire's website so everyone can have access to the information, Mr Rohan Murdoch suggested the possibility of an APP so FCO's are aware of permits in place.

Action: Mr Bailey advised he will look into some concepts. Mr Bailey will arrange for the permit register to be put on the Shires website.

10. CLOSURE

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.52pm.



DFES COUNTRY OPERATIONS REPORT TO SHIRE OF JERRAMUNGUP BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF 28TH APRIL 2015.

Fellow Fire Fighters,

The following report has been compiled in order to draw Brigade members' attention to some issues which may be of interest.

TRAINING.

Volunteer Fire Fighter Training

DFES Great Southern has prepared a training calendar for 2015. Please find a copy of my calendar attached to this report. I have scheduled some training for the Jerramungup Shire BFBs prior to next fire season and proposals are as follows:

Date	Course	Proposed Venue
25 th August	Intro to Bush Fire Fighting	Boxwood
26 th August	Intro to Bush Fire Fighting	Gairdner
31 st August	Fire Control Officer	Jerramungup
1 September	Ground Controller	Jerramungup

You may wish to pass this information onto new members of your respective Brigades who may need to undertake this training.

COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY.

Structure Fire Safety

Now that the weather is cooling off and the days are getting shorter, our focus moves from bush fires to structure fires and fire safety in the home.

Besides getting the smoke alarm message out, we need to reinforce other messages such as:

- Guard open fires with a fine mesh screen to prevent sparks and logs falling out;
- Clean chimney and flues regularly from built-up ash and soot;
- Be alert when cooking and never leave food unattended;
- Never leave lit cigarettes to burn unattended;
- Never leave children unattended with candles, matches and lighters;
- Only purchase fire blankets and extinguishers that meet Australian Standards; and

- Know what to do if a person's clothing catches on fire. Stop, drop, cover and roll!

Ms Sarah Matthews, our Great Southern Community Engagement Officer is keen to assist the Shire and its Bush Fire Brigades with any community safety issues.

Bush Fire Risk Mitigation Works

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Lands and DFES is scheduled to expire at the end of July. We are yet to establish how bush fire mitigation on UCL & UMR within town sites will be managed in the future.

I propose that prior to the expiry of the MOU, that some works are done around the Jerramungup town site and the Boxwood Hill town site. I seek your input and advice on this.

OPERATIONS

DFES Circulars

From time to time DFES issues Circulars which have relevance to Bush Fire Brigades. Attached are copies of some selected safety circulars which I consider may have relevance to you and your Brigade members. The attached Circulars cover issues including:

- Full Face Respirators, and
- AFAC Safety Alert – Proban Treated Garments.
- Fuel Can Safety

Legislation Review

Attached to this report is a copy of the latest Legislation Review Team's Newsletter which was released in February. Essentially the Team has now moved into the 4th Stage of the Review process which will include the drafting of the new replacement legislation and processing it through the parliamentary processes.

A Very Busy Fire Season

To state the obvious, it has been a very busy fire season! Not in our patch I hear you say. As you are aware there were a number of large fires in the State including: Bullsbrook, Boddington and Northcliffe which took quite some time to contain.

Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) Submissions

The 2015/16 LGGS round of submissions closed on the 27th March 2015. Your Shire's submission included application to upgrade the Boxwood Hill and Needilup fire trucks from 2.4s to 4.4s.

Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection

The nature of plantations has changed significantly in the past few years. The diversity in species production and location of plantations has expanded. Accordingly in 2011 DFES released an updated version of its Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection to replace the 2001 version.

Tree plantings are considered as a legitimate rural land use activity, however it is also acknowledged that one set of criteria will not meet the needs of all the various plantation types. These guidelines are designed to reflect the changing needs of the plantation industry in Western Australia and aim to identify the appropriate fire protection requirements that will benefit the whole community.

Of particular interest in the new Guidelines is the inclusion of Oil Mallees and Kyoto Compliant Forest.

Please stay safe.

Regards,

Tonks

JOHN TONKIN
AREA OFFICER – ALBANY WEST
GREAT SOUTHERN REGION

Att.



OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR 16/2015

File: 15930

FEBRUARY 2015

FULL FACE RESPIRATORS

DFES currently supply a half-face respirator to provide respiratory protection for firefighters at bushfires. Following an evaluation and tender process, a full-face bushfire respirator and filter combination option will now also be available. The selected mask is the Scott ProMask 2 and A2P3 filter.

A Training Resource Kit (TRK) consisting of a learners' guide, DVD and assessment has been developed to support the introduction of the full-face respirator. The TRK includes a full overview of the mask, its use, limitations and servicing procedures. The full-face respirator must only be worn on completion of the training package and in accordance with SOP 3.5.15 – Bush Fire Smoke Exposure. A Training Activity, 1340, has also been created in SAMS.

SOP 3.5.15 – Bush Fire Smoke Exposure has been updated to include a matrix, which will provide wearers of Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) with guidance on the appropriate use of this equipment and additional information on the hazards that may be present in bushfire smoke.

Initially, CFRS, VFRS, VES and VFS personnel will have the option to order a full-face respirator or continue using the current 3M half-face bushfire mask. Orders must be submitted by the Station Officer or Brigade Captain using the order form located on the DFES portal. It is expected that the majority of wearers will require a medium / large size respirator however, a small size respirator is also available to order if required.

Arrangements for the implementation of full-face respirators for Bush Fire Brigades will be communicated shortly in an Operational Circular and by letter to each Local Government.

A complete full-face respirator pack consists of a Scott ProMask 2 facemask, two A2P3 filters and a protective storage bag. Replacement filters can be ordered separately and are supplied in packs of two.

Use of the filters must be managed in accordance with the Full-face Respirator User Guide. This involves using the 'filter usage stickers' (supplied with each set of filters) to record the lifespan of the filters. When not in use and to extend their life, the filters must be stored in re-sealable 'Ziploc' bags.

Note: The filters on the Scott Promask 2 and the 3M half-face respirator are not interchangeable.

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O.I.C. is to read this circular to all station personnel and discuss. Then sign the appropriate box above to confirm that this has been completed				



Servicing of the full-face respirator will be conducted using similar procedures to those used for Breathing Apparatus. If a dedicated Breathing Apparatus servicing area is not available, a Breathing Apparatus Servicing Kit and DFES cleaning solutions should be ordered.

The following table contains links to the documentation and training associated with the introduction of the full-face respirator.

Item	Supplier	Link
Respirator/filters/carry bag	Protector Alsafe	Protector Alsafe order form
Ziploc bag (Re-sealable Bag LDPE 50UM)	Bunzl	Ziploc bag
Respirator servicing equipment	See info sheet	Breathing Apparatus Servicing Kit
Revised SOP	Doctrine	SOP 3.5.15 – Bush Fire Smoke Exposure
Training Resource Kit	Academy	Training Activity 1340 Training Video Bushfire Full Face Respirator LM Smoke Exposure LM Extract Smoke Exposure PowerPoint Extract

All personnel wearing any respiratory protection (full or half-face respirator, breathing apparatus) must conform to Australian/New Zealand Standard 1715:2009 Selection, Use and Maintenance of Respiratory Protective Equipment. A/NZS 1715:2009 clearly outlines the requirements for facial hair, which are summarised below.

1. Some hairstyles and other facial features prevent an adequate seal between the wearer's face and the surfaces of a face piece.
2. Facial hair may interfere with the inhalation and exhalation valve operation. Bearded persons cannot expect to achieve adequate respiratory protection whilst wearing a full-face or half-face respirator. No one who requires respiratory protection shall wear a full or half-face respirator over a beard.
3. Moustaches may interfere with the fit of a half or full-face respirator. A moustache that interferes with the ori-nasal mask on a full-face respirator will cause exhaled air to pass from the inner mask to the outer mask, resulting in an accumulation of Carbon Dioxide.
4. Sideburns must not extend below the notch in the cartilage of the ear.
5. Stubble growth will interfere with proper sealing of a face piece; daily shaving is required.

If you require any further information, please contact District Officer Peter Jones, Manager Urban Capability on 9395 9822 or peter.jones@dfes.wa.gov.au

LLOYD BAILEY AFSM
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS

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O.I.C. is to read this circular to all station personnel and discuss. Then sign the appropriate box above to confirm that this has been completed				



SAFETY CIRCULAR 03/2015

File: 00924-02

FEBRUARY 2015

AFAC SAFETY ALERT – PROBAN TREATED GARMENTS

AFAC has recently issued an Industry Safety Advice (23/2/15) advising of findings from independent research conducted by CSIRO into possible issues around PROBAN treated garments. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) on receipt of this advice is considering the short, medium and long term actions required.

AFAC provided advice in late February to DFES with regard to PROBAN, a chemical additive used to make Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) fire retardant, and the correct storage and maintenance of treated garments. The AFAC report which is based on a study of seven garments by the CSIRO identified a potential concern of formaldehyde levels in some test results of PROBAN-treated garments.

Formaldehyde is used in the process to treat the fabric and the CSIRO found that while further research was required, initial tests showed formaldehyde levels in some PROBAN-treated PPC could cause skin irritation. AFAC has recommended that PPC made with PROBAN-treated cotton should be washed and stored in a well-ventilated area.

Based on the CSIRO results and current operational practices it is not considered a health hazard and the risk to wearers is low.

PPC items are used by emergency services Australia wide, the AFAC report states that PROBAN-treated cotton has been used in Australia more than 30 years without any significant issues being identified.

PROBAN is currently found in:

- Level 1 Tunics
- BFS issued Level 1 Overtrousers
- Helmet neck flaps
- Some SES orange coveralls and two piece

All garments that contain PROBAN are clearly marked on that garment.

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O.I.C. is to read this circular to all station personnel and discuss. Then sign the appropriate box above to confirm that this has been completed				



AFAC advised the tests on the seven garments were conducted in a laboratory environment which simulated storing a uniform in a confined space. Further testing in an operational environment is required.

Formaldehyde is naturally present in air, food and water. Quantities of formaldehyde are emitted in bushfires. It is a potential skin irritant and breathing the vapours can result in irritation of eyes and nose.

Despite the low sample, the advice was taken very seriously by DFES and further research and investigation will occur. DFES has already instructed the PPC supplier to launder new garments prior to dispatch. Career and volunteer personnel are directed to [SAP 1.3.A – Laundering Standard](#), which provides guidance on PPC cleaning.

LLOYD BAILEY AFSM
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS

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O.I.C. is to read this circular to all station personnel and discuss. Then sign the appropriate box above to confirm that this has been completed				



OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR 22/2015

File: 15930

MARCH 2015

UPDATE ON FUEL CAN SAFETY

Since the issuing of [Safety Circular 01/2015 - Refueling Static Motors at Incidents](#), further occurrences of personnel being injured when refueling static motors have occurred.

This advisory circular is to update all operational personnel to the actions DFES have undertaken in engineering out the safety issues relating to refueling static engines.

Fleet and Equipment Services (FES) have begun modifications to the Light Tanker fleet and its auxiliary engine to remediate the following issues:

- Auxiliary engine surging and cutting out (fuel filter issue); and
- Jerry cans over-heating and pressurising due to radiant heat from the auxiliary engine.

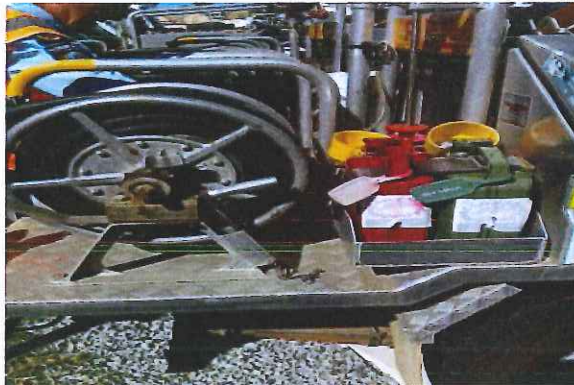
FES are trialling a number of engineering controls and will rectify both problems, the current trials include:

- Changing the fuel filter on the auxiliary engine back to OEM, this has resulted in the engine operating in the correct manner and being capable of running until empty (no more surging or cutting out).
- Repositioning the jerry can to a location where it is no longer exposed to radiant heat from the auxiliary engine exhaust.
- Covering the fuel funnel to protect from falling debris.

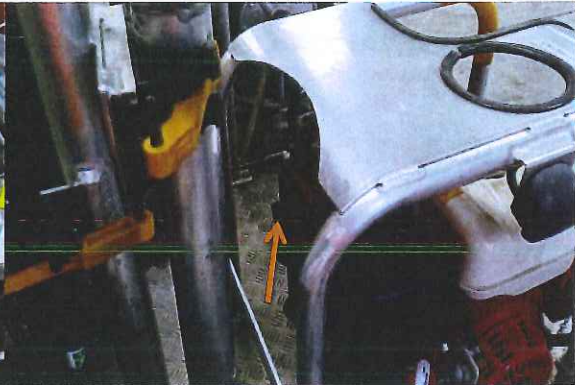


Repositioning of the jerry can to the nearside and covered to protect from falling debris.

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O.I.C. is to read this circular to all station personnel and discuss. Then sign the appropriate box above to confirm that this has been completed				



Repositioning of Jerry can to offside



Modification of exhaust facing upwards

In conjunction with the engineering controls there will also be an in-service trial of a new type of jerry can across the state. The new type of jerry can allows for a controlled release of pressure build up to minimise the risk of fuel eruption. Both engineering and substitution control trials are expected to be completed and evaluated by July 2015.



The long term solution is to eliminate the issues by removing the need to store jerry cans on the light tankers altogether. To implement this solution DFES has sourced 2 diesel powered pump sets to trial as replacements for the current petrol powered pump sets on the light tankers. The fuel supply for the diesel powered pump sets will come directly from the vehicles fuel tank, which will negate the need for carrying jerry cans for refuelling static engines on the fireground.

All personnel are to remain cautious when refuelling static engines and to strictly adhere to [Safety Circular 04/2015 Removal of Jerry Cans from Light Tankers During Bushfire Incidents](#).

STEVE FEWSTER
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CAPABILITY

A	B	C	D	Vol
O.I.C. is to read this circular to all station personnel and discuss. Then sign the appropriate box above to confirm that this has been completed				



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Parks and Wildlife**
Regional and Fire Management Services, South Coast Region,
Albany District, Ravensthorpe Work Centre

Your ref: Parks & Wildlife BFAC Report
Our ref: April 2015
Enquiries: Peter Masters
Phone: 98381967
Email: peter.masters@dpaw.wa.gov.au

To Charmaine Solomon, Shire of Jerramungup

Parks and Wildlife, Report, BFAC Jerramungup Shire, 28 April 2015

Fire Management Services

- ❖ 0 bushfire was reported within the Jerramungup Shire, on Department of Parks and Wildlife, managed estate.
- ❖ Bushfires within the southwest of the state had required the deployment of staff and equipment from the Ravensthorpe Work Centre to assist with these large bushfires, all equipment has now returned.
- ❖ Autumn 2015 program, prescriptions are nearing final approval process, for autumn burns planned for the Shire of Jerramungup.
ALB_004 Telegraph Track, Aircraft Burn FRNP 25,580 ha, priority 1
ALB_024_Point Ann, FRNP 845 ha, priority 2
ALB_009 UCL Burn Doubtful Islands area 135 ha Hand Burn priority 2.
- ❖ Fire Management Branch will fund helicopter operations for the Autumn burn program, which will allow us to complete the large burn within the middle of the FRNP
- ❖ FRNP Fire Advisory Committee, meeting was held for in early April, at Jerramungup CRC.
- ❖ Conducted training course for Fireline Construction with machines.
- ❖ Water bomber reloader training was completed in November at Bremer bay and Jerramungup airstrips
- ❖ Bushfire FA roster is ongoing, and the Albany Regional Duty Officer on call 24/7, and can be contacted on 98424500.
- ❖ 2 Water Bomber aircraft and air-attack platform, are based in Albany, have now been stood down for the winter months, and won't resume till mid-November
- ❖ The Southern fire line between Drummond Track and Cuiss road is currently being upgraded using a contract dozer.
- ❖ Slashing of UCL fire breaks around Bremer Bay will commence as soon as the tractor is available.
- ❖ Grading works, on Pabelup Drive, will also commence when a grader becomes available.
- ❖ Upgrades are being planned for the fire breaks at the Peniup UCL reserve for the 2015-16 financial year.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Masters

Peter Masters
Senior Operations Officer
Parks and Wildlife, Ravensthorpe Work Centre
24 April 2015



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



Parks and Wildlife, Ravensthorpe Work Centre
PO Box 307, Ravensthorpe, Western Australia 6346
Phone: (08) [98381967] Mobile [0488919598] Fax (08) [98381965] Email: peter.masters@dpaw.wa.gov.au
www.dpaw.wa.gov.au

Chief Bushfire Control Officers Report 2015.

First of all thank you to all for commitment to bushfires again this season. I think I calculated out the other day we conducted 84 sked's for the season and that didn't include extra's for weather checks. It's a big commitment from everybody that we need to recognise as a great effort by everyone.

Coming off the back of a good season last year with lots of fuel around we came through relatively unscathed, we had 5 grass fires started by various means, 1 pole top, 1 lightning and 1 permit burn. All in all I think this is a great result considering what could have been especially with the amount of lightning around this year.

Our restricted burning period has been very uneventful with only the one escaped fire that we know of, and as I put in my report last year I think the main reason for that is we put the correct control measures in place to avoid any problems. Sometimes I worry we are over restricting on our permits but when we have the results that we have I feel more comfortable. A good gauge of this is when your neighbouring shire follows your similar lead and there changes seemed to of curved there problem with escaping controlled fires.

Going forward we are going to come under more and more scrutiny with our fire management and as long as we don't become complacent we will be able to control our own destiny. The powers above would love to have more control over us but we need to stand united if we want to maintain some control.

It would be remiss of me if I didn't thank some people for their help and assistance over the last twelve months. First of all is our ex CEO Bill Parker, he was a great supporter of bushfire and myself and I wish him luck in his new pursuits. Welcome to Brent and I look forward to working closely with you in the future. To Charmaine I thank you, you great to work alongside and your promptness and efficiency with everything makes my job so much easier. To my two deputy's Trevor and Alex thank you for all your assistance through the year and filling in when I'm not around, I think I managed to be around for most fires this year.

Cheers Dave Edwards

