



Minutes

Bush Fire Control Officers Committee Meeting
Wednesday 25 September 2024

Date	Wednesday 25 September 2024
Time	3.30pm
Location	Shire of Wickepin 77 Wogolin Road, Wickepin WA 6370
Distribution Date	Tuesday 1 October 2024



Notice of Meeting

Please be informed the Bush Fire Control Officers Committee Meeting of the Shire of Wickepin will be held at 4:00pm on Wednesday 25 September 2024 at the Shire of Wickepin, 77 Wogolin Road, Wickepin WA 6370.

Kellie Bartley
Chief Executive Officer
Tuesday 24 September 2024

Disclaimer

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Wickepin for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during council/committee meetings or during formal/informal conversations with staff. The Shire of Wickepin disclaims any liability for any loss whatsoever and howsoever caused arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during council/committee meetings or discussions. Any person or legal entity that acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement does so at that person's or legal entity's own risk.

In particular and without derogating in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in discussion regarding any planning application or application for a licence, any statement or limitation of approval made by a member or officer of the Shire of Wickepin during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not to be taken as notice of approval from the Shire of Wickepin. The Shire of Wickepin warns that anyone who has an application lodged with the Shire of Wickepin must obtain and only should rely on written confirmation of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Shire of Wickepin in respect of the application.

Terms of Reference

1. Name

Bush Fire Control Officers Committee

2. Members

Voting Members

- Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
- Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
- All Fire Control Officers

Non-Voting Members

- Representative(s) from DFES
- Representative(s) from Wickepin Police
- Shire of Wickepin CEO and nominated staff

3. Function of the Committee

To provide advice to Council in regard to all matters relating to bush fire control, prevention and management including recommendations on the annual firebreak requirements, capital (equipment) purchase, review of firefighting/prevention practices, firefighting training, etc.

4. Role and Scope of the Committee

To advise the local government regarding all matters relating to the preventing, controlling and extinguishing of bush fires, the planning of the layout of fire-breaks in the district, the formation of bush fire brigades and the grouping thereof under group brigade officers, the ensuring of co-operation and co-ordination of bush fire brigades in their efforts and activities, and any other matter relating to bush fire control whether of the same kind as, or a different kind from, those specified in this subsection.

5. Meeting Frequency

Twice per annum with scope to call additional meeting if need arises (i.e. post-emergency events) – actual dates to be determined by the Presiding Member in consultation with Committee Members and applicable Shire officers.

6. Delegated Powers

The Committee has no delegated powers and is an advisory committee to Council only. Recommendations of Committee meetings are to be presented to Council by Shire officers for noting or consideration as soon as practicable after unconfirmed minutes of Committee meetings are available.

Contents

1	Declaration of Opening	6
2	Attendance	6
2.1	Present	6
3	Apologies and Leave of Absence	6
3.1	Apologies	6
4	Presentations	6
4.1	Presentations	6
5	Declarations of Members and Officers Interest	7
6	Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings	7
6.1	Minutes of the Bush Fire Control Officers Meeting held on 26 March 2024	7
6.2	Business Arising From Minutes	7
7	Status Report	7
8	Motions of Which Notice Has Been Given	10
9	Notices of Motions for the Following Meeting	10
10	Reports and Information	10
10.1	Chief Bush Fire Control Officers Report – Trevor Leeson	10
10.2	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – Luke Lansdell	11
10.3	Wickepin Central Brigade	11
10.4	Townsendale Brigade	11
10.5	Yealering Brigade	11
10.6	Tincurrin/Toolibin/Harrismith Brigade	11
10.7	Wickepin East Brigade	11
10.8	Gavin Stevens - Department of Fire and Emergency Services	12
10.9	Shire of Wickepin	20
11	Appointments 2024/2025 Fire Season	20
11.1	Captain – Wickepin Central	20
11.2	Dual Fire Control Officers from adjoining Shires	20
12	General Business	20
12.1	Burning Periods	20
12.2	Harvest and Fire Ban 2024/2025 Season	21
12.3	Facey Group – Weather Stations	21
12.4	ROAC update	21
12.5	Triple 0 agreement	22

13 For Information/Circulars23

13.1 Pre-Season Preparedness Workshops 23

13.2 Operational Considerations 24

14 Closure.....25

1 Declaration of Opening

The Chair declared the meeting open at 3.45pm

2 Attendance

2.1 Present

Members

T Leeson	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	(Townsendale)
L Lansdell	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	(Townsendale)
G McDougall	Fire Control Officer	(Tincurrin/Toolibin/Harrismith)
T Mullan	Fire Control Officer	(Yealering)
T Russell	Fire Control Officer	(Wickepin)

G Stevens Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Employees

E Clement Deputy Chief Executive Officer

3 Apologies and Leave of Absence

3.1 Apologies

Members

R Butler	Fire Control Officer	(Townsendale)
P Russell	Fire Control Officer	(Wickepin)
D White	Fire Control Officer	(Tincurrin/Toolibin/Harrismith)
D Stacey	Fire Control Officer	(Yealering)
W Astbury	Fire Control Officer	(Tincurrin/Toolibin/Harrismith)
J Hamilton	Fire Control Officer	(Yealering)
C Sims	Fire Control Officer	(Yealering)

Employees

K Bartley Chief Executive Officer
G Hedditch Manager Works and Services

4 Presentations

4.1 Presentations

Nil

5 Declarations of Members and Officers Interest

A member or officer who has an impartiality, proximity or financial interest in any matter to be discussed at this meeting must disclose the nature of the interest either in a written notice given to the Chief Executive Officer prior to the meeting or at the meeting immediately before the matter is discussed.

A member who makes a disclosure in respect to an interest must not preside at the part of the meeting which deals with the matter, or participate in, or be present during, any discussion or decision-making process relative to the matter, unless the disclosing member is permitted to do so under Section 5.68 or Section 5.69 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

The following declarations of interest have been disclosed –

Nil disclosures.

6 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings

6.1 Minutes of the Bush Fire Control Officers Meeting held on 26 March 2024.

Officer Recommendation

That the minutes of the Bush Fire Control Officers Meeting held on 26 March 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record,

Committee Decision

Resolution BFCO-240925-01

Moved G McDougall

Seconded L Lansdell

That the minutes of the Bush Fire Control Officer's meeting held 26 March 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record, with the amendment that Jim Hamilton was not present.

Carried 5/0

6.2 Business Arising From Minutes

Detailed under comments in the status report.

7 Status Report

Where a resolution is formal, procedural or lost it has not been recorded (e.g. confirmation of minutes, meeting behind closed doors, lapsed, etc.).

Subject/Action	Officer	Progress	Status	Comment
Additional Fire Radios	CEO	That the Committee recommends to Council to purchase an additional two (2) base station fire radios and four (4) transferable vehicle radios to provide additional radio coverage for Bush Fire Control Officers, some of which are in light radio coverage areas.	✓	Funds allocated in the 2023-2024 Annual Budget.
Comments				
There needs to be some radios changed around. Nathan Astbury radios to Cal Sims Tim Heffernan radios to Todd Mullan. (winter next year) Transfer forms will need to be filled out and sent to DFES Follow up on Base Station in Colin Coxon's house. Ask Matt Pockran to follow up with Colin Coxon regarding this. For servicing of radios, contact RadioComms 94788222 to organise.				
Great Southern Fuels	CEO	Can there be fuel supplies during an emergency	✓	CEO & WMS has met with GSF on this matter and advice for the best situation possible in the case of an emergency. GSF and the Shire will work together to achieve this outcome during an emergency with a point to be able to link in the generator.
Comments				
Todd Mullan offered to talk to Great Southern Fuels over this matter.				
Blackspot Areas	CEO	To investigate the blackspot areas	○	CEO has discussed with WALGA on this matter, pending further information. To also be addressed at LEMC.
Comments				

Due to Telstra turning off the 3g service which is the most reliable (if any) coverage in many areas. Gavin Stevens suggested that this be an agenda item at the LEMC meeting. This can then go to the DEMC meeting.				
Training	CEO	Training to be arranged, FCOS and volunteer members to also log into their portal to access the online training.	○	CEO has arranged training and has also sent out to secretaries to send advice out.
Comments				
Training will be organised for Yealering and Tincurrin fire trucks. Attendees at the training today said the trading was very worthwhile. Liaise with Gavin Stevens to organise this with suitable dates. Encourage farmers with seasonal workers to have them complete the online Rural Awareness course. Seasonal workers do not need to be registered, as long as they have long sleeve shirts, long pants and boots they can attend a fire as spontaneous workers. When entering the fire ground FCO's need to make sure they document that these seasonal workers are directed onto the fire ground.				
White truck training				
Bushfire course - 10 people are required for a course to be run. Gavin Stevens said that there were a few other towns that may have people that want to do this course. Liaise with Gavin regarding this as Wickepin may have three to do this course. Usually, courses are during the winter months.				
Yealering Water	Shire	To continue to search for water and power for the town of Yealering.	○	CEO to continue to search for grant funding opportunities.
Comments				
Promote the new tanks at Yealering through Facebook and the watershed. Advise that it is not for large water tankers. Mainly Farmer units and smaller trucks. Questions were raised about if the tanks were locked? DCEO will follow up on this.				
Standpipe – Yealering & Keys		Standpipe at Yealering 86 to be fixed. Does all FCO's have keys?	✓	Standpipe fixed at Yealering 86. Standpipe keys are listed for Fire truck use at present. Shire controls the standpipes via internet with DCEO.
Comments				
New FCO's need key for standpipes. DCEO will check Register of who has keys and organise this.				

If not noted, please insert numbers of items once attended to and return sheet to CEO.

○ = in progress ✓ = completed ✕ =superseded

8 Motions of Which Notice Has Been Given

9 Notices of Motions for the Following Meeting

10 Reports and Information

10.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officers Report – Trevor Leeson

Thanks to all FCO's for their management of fires and issuing of permits since our last meeting back in March. Your time is very much appreciated.

It has been an interesting fire season with our usual odd paddock burn escapes but having to deal with two Structure fires which was an experience to all of those involved. The structure fires put us in a situation where we had to work together with Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS), WA Police and DFES.

After the first structure fire there were a few lessons learnt on what other equipment is required on our fire trucks. Extra hoses to get water from the Fire Hydrants at a distance being the main one. It was also noted that some of our Fire Hydrants in Wickepin were incorrectly painted. We had Gavin Stevens from DFES visit the Wickepin Brigade to run through the Fire truck to advise us on what extra hoses and safety equipment was required for the Fire trucks. Gavin also ran through the operation and maintenance of fire hydrants with volunteers. Thanks, Gavin, for your time and assistance with this. Thanks to the Shire as well for providing Fire Hydrant maps and correctly painting the hydrants.

New water storage tanks have been installed in Yealering for fire purposes. This will be very welcomed by the Yealering community and surrounds.

Noted Fires:

15/04/24

Unrestricted fire season started.

24/04/24

Flavel's @ Simpsons farm. Chaff heaps and stubble burnt on the 19/04/24. 5 days later with strong winds causing the fire to flare up burning 10 ha and got very close to a Sandle wood tree farm. It was later realized that the fire was in the Pingelly shire.

27/04/24

15 Wickepin Street, Structure Fire. Shed/Garage with a Ford Falcon inside all burnt. No power connected to the structure. Cause Battery? Local Volunteers, Farmer units, Wickepin Fire truck along with VFRS Pingelly and VFRS Narrogin attended the fire. Fire reported to the police.

15/5/24

Mark Graham, Elsinore North Road/86 Gate Road. Paddock burn escape and burnt 200m of road verge, both sides, large timber alight. No one in attendance until I contacted Mark. 000 was called to report the incident.

28/06/24

11 Wickepin Street, Structure Fire. House and shed completely gutted. Western Power were required to disconnect the power line to the structure. Local Volunteers, Wickepin Fire truck,

Wickepin Shire water truck and Staff attended. VFRS Narrogin, VFRS Dumbleyung, VFRS Kulin, VFRS Pingelly and DFES Narrogin attended. Wickepin Police also attended. Everyone worked really well together from all levels. VFRS Narrogin passed on their appreciation for the team work from our local Wickepin Brigade. Ambulance also attended. Narrogin appreciated the team work that was involved.

09/09/24

Williams/Kondinin Road, West of Sparks Road parking bay. Vehicle fire Nissan Navara Dual cab ute Burnt. Nobody around. East Wickepin farmer units attended. Police attended. Suspicious.

Thank you to all of our Volunteers, Shire of Wickepin, DFES, VFRS and WA Police for your services.

With good recent rainfall in July and August the outlook for the fire season ahead has the potential to have a very high fuel load. A very timely reminder for everyone to get their firebreaks and mitigation work in order to be ready for the upcoming season.

10.2 Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – Luke Lansdell

Nil to report

10.3 Wickepin Central Brigade

Nil to report

10.4 Townsendale Brigade

Nil to report

10.5 Yealering Brigade

Nil to report

10.6 Tincurrin/Toolibin/Harrismith Brigade

Nil to report

10.7 Wickepin East Brigade

Nil to report

10.8 Gavin Stevens - Department of Fire and Emergency Services

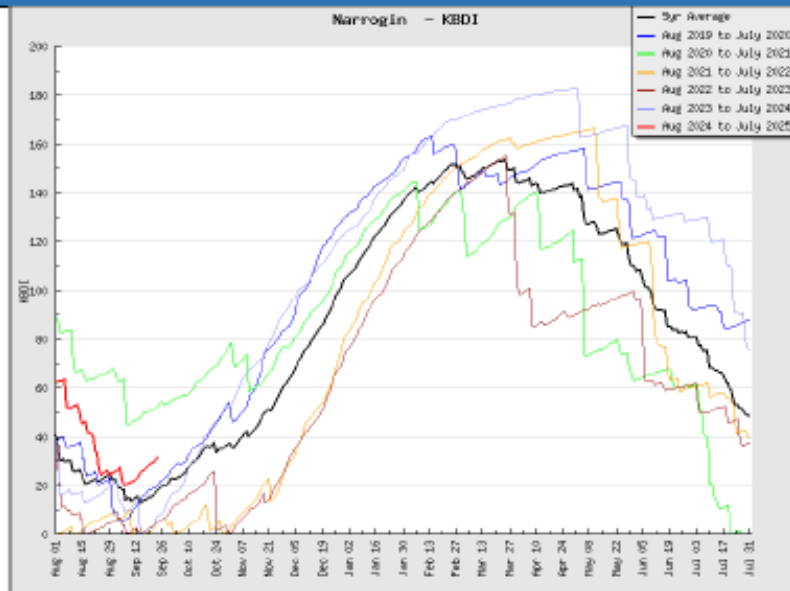


Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



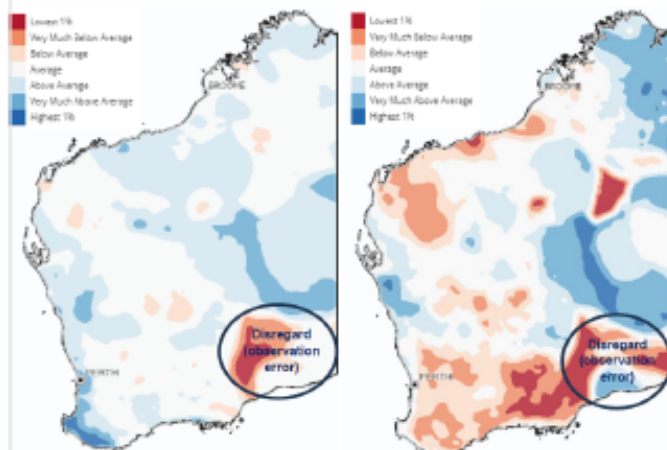
Wickepin BFAC Report – 25 September 2024

BUSHFIRE SEASON OUTLOOK & PREPARATION



The region is unseasonably dry with significant rainfall not occurring till later in the season, currently ahead of 5 year average with forecast warmer than average temps and average to below average rainfall Oct- Dec 2024

Root Zone and Deep Soil Dryness



30 August: root zone (left), deep soils (right)

National seasonal expectations overview due out 8 October 2024 via <https://www.afac.com.au/auxiliary/publications/seasonal-outlook>

Based on this preliminary information being well prepared for Bushfire Season is key and we would encourage all agencies to test plans and be prepared. <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/hazard-information/bushfire>

- Root zone moisture recovery in line with average to above average mid-late winter falls.
- Pronounced soil moisture deficiencies remain at depth.
- Deep soils (typically accessed by the root systems of canopy trees) typically trending from 'below average' to 'very much below average'
- Lowest 1% in areas of GS and GM.



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



Wickepin BFAC Report – 25 September 2024

Key Preparedness Measures and Messages

Three areas of focus we have as an agency in preparation:

- **Safety** – There was a tragic incident resulting in loss of life in Esperance and in our own region several injuries last season. The importance of regular high quality training, suitable PPE and safe operational practise to keep all responders safe is significant. The release of online Rural Fire Awareness for Farmer Response has been helpful in preparing seasonal farm workers,
- **Communication** – Timely and accurate information from **reporting all fires to 000 and good information within the first 15 minutes** then every hour there after are key to making sure we have the resources to suppress the incidents in a timely manner (see attached PAFTACS sheet). To that end we will be running pre-season briefings in October. <https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au/> continues to be a reliable source of truth and information.
- **Risk Mitigation:** Good preparation for the impending season is key and we are:
 - Through our Bushfire Risk Mitigation Co-ordinator, Blake, managing our UCL and UMR parcels within the gazetted town boundaries.
 - Reviewing risk and deploying SOSF High Season vehicles where incident numbers, risk, training and engagement are suitable for suppression resources
 - Continuing the Grain Harvest Strategy of forward basing fixed wing aircraft in Narrogin over the Harvest period.
 - Engaging stakeholders around testing their plans and preparedness activities.

Further Information

Australian Warning System (AWS)

As of 15 July 2024, Western Australia has adopted the Australian Warning System (AWS) for bushfire, cyclone, flood and storm warnings.

The AWS is a national approach to emergency information that aims to deliver consistent warnings to Australian communities, so people know what they need to do to stay safe in an emergency, no matter where they are.

Consistent warning levels, colours and hazard icons supported by a clear and concise action statement will make warnings easier to understand.



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



Wickepin BFAC Report – 25 September 2024



Cyclone represents the most significant change find out more here:

<https://dfes.wa.gov.au/hazard-information/warning-systems/australian-warning-system>

Requesting Aircraft, remember it takes time, requires a ground controller and needs to meet one of these:

MUST BE COMPLETED If not Automatic or Enhanced Response INDICATE REQUESTING ACTIVATION CRITERIA	☐ Public Safety at Risk
	☐ Fire Crews in Imminent Danger
	☐ Assets at Imminent Risk
	☐ Known high fuel loads and likelihood of excessive ROS and/or extreme fire danger
	☐ Prescribed Burn

Preseason event 10th October at Narrogin Golf Club – all FCO's, Captains and interested persons welcome, flyer is attached.

Staffing update: Anika Keeling covering my role from the 27 SEPT – 28 OCT 2024 and is available on the same email and mobile.

Many thanks,

Gavin Stevens
Area Officer Narrogin East
0475 224 640
AOEast@dfes.wa.gov.au

OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS (Checklist for first arriving Firefighters)

The checklist below is a list of operational **considerations** for the first arriving fire crew when giving the first SITREP to COMCEN (first **15 minutes** then every 1hour afterwards). COMCEN can get you Incident Weather also.

P	POSITION AND PROPERTY THREATENED - Assess the situation – where is it? Nearest cross road? - Exposures at risk/critical infrastructure? House? Shed? Tower?
A	AREA Size of fire (Length x Width) – estimate only
F	FUEL DENSITY AND TYPE What is burning? And estimate how fast it is moving (ROS)
T	TIME TO CONTROL - Establish IMT (Who is IC, what Sectors?) - Decide on strategies to extinguish/ make safe - Delegating key functions – get help from others - How many hours to get it contained? Roughly?
A	ASSISTANCE REQUIRED - Traffic Management & Road closures? - Regional Manager to assist? What do you need help with? - Additional resources (ask early as it takes time to arrive)?
C	COMMUNICATIONS AND CONTROL POINT - Radio frequencies/Communications plan - Location of control point - Media and public advice/warnings – 1800 718 288
S	SURFACE WIND STRENGTH AND DIRECTION - Send SITREP - Safety is first priority

COMCEN: 1800 198 140

UGS RDC 1800 865 103

DFES Communication Centre (ComCen)	1800 198 140
• 000 to report bushfire Email: dfescomcen@dfes.wa.gov.au • Provide an incident update / situation report (see below) • Request Incident Weather Forecast • Request DFES assistance / to attend. • Contact WA Police, Main Roads, Western Power	
DFES Regional Duty Coordinator	1800 865 103
• Request water bombers • Request DFES assistance / to attend. • Request DFES to meet machinery costs before engaging contractors	
DFES Public Information	1800 718 288
Email: statepublicinfo@dfes.wa.gov.au • Issue Community Warning (Advice, Watch & Act, Emergency Warning) • Update or change an existing Community Warning	
Telephone Warning System	1300 566 588
• Sends alerts to home phones & mobiles. • Must be used for Emergency Warnings	

Operational Arrangements – Local Government - Fire

DFES Officer Response:

The RDC may consider deploying a DFES Officer (Bushfire Liaison officer – Section 12 & 13 Bushfire Act 1954) for the following:

1. If the IC / controlling agency requests the presence of a DFES Officer
2. The incident has potential to escalate to Level 2.
3. Significant resources are deployed
4. No communication established/PAFTACS received from IC within 1 hour of arrival to incident.
5. Significant assets or private property is under threat.
6. There are injuries or fatalities to responding crews.
7. When there is possible impact on critical infrastructure.
8. Significant road closure which results in disruption to traffic movement.

Note: On arrival the attending DFES Officer will:

- liaise with the IC to develop and provide a situation report
- Provide advice, support and assistance as required including identifying risks, and necessary actions.
- It may be necessary to provide advice to Local Government concerning the process for transferring control of the incident to DFES or DBCA (Section 13 and 45A Bushfires Act 1954)

Section 13 transfer of Control:

Transfer of control to DFES can only occur under a Section 13 which is authorised by the Duty Assistant Commissioner (DAC) when an endorsed DFES level 2 Incident Controller is present at the incident.

The process involves:

1. The Local Government (CEO or other authorised person) requesting that DFES take control,
2. DFES Officer present contacts RDC and relays request
3. RDC seeks Superintendent approval before forwarding the request to the District Officer State Situation (DOSS)
4. DOSS will forward request to the DAC via the Duty Chief Superintendent.
5. If supported the DAC will issue the Section 13 with the document returned to the region
6. If the Section 13 request is not approved the Regional Superintendent will be advised and the information forwarded to the DFES Officer present at the incident

During this time Local Government retains control of this incident. It is important to appreciate that a transfer of control will not happen following every request; there are a range of reasons why the DAC may not issue a Section 13.

Incident Costs:

DFES personnel may supply contract machinery, resources or supplies to Local Governments (LGs) for bushfire response in the following circumstances have been met:

The LG has sought approval from the RDC for funding approval **PRIOR** to sourcing resources.

- The LG has exhausted its appropriate, available and deployable resources;
- The LG is unable to sustain the costs associated with the procurement of specific equipment, resources, supplies or contractors; and/or
- The LG has notified DFES of the incident, an incident created in CAD;
- The size, nature and risk of the incident justify the expenditure.

CBFCO / DCBFO to use DBCA/DFES **Contract Machinery Log Book** to keep track of machinery hours and use. Recommend using same form when tracking cost for LG contract machinery to assist LG with financial accountability.



Course Information

Online Rural Fire Awareness

Background

Rural Fire Awareness is targeted at farmer response brigades and seasonal workers to provide students with a basic awareness of fireground safety, suppression strategies and maintaining their safety when operating on a fireground.

Course Access

For people who are not DFES staff or volunteers, please use the following link to access the online course:
<https://eacademy.dfes.wa.gov.au/?client=externaltenant>

Accounts will only be active for 30 days. If you do not complete the course and need access again, you must contact eacademyhelp@dfes.wa.gov.au to request your account be reactivated.

The course may be accessed on a computer, tablet, or smart phone. However, for the best experience it is recommended a computer or tablet is used. Please ensure your device settings allow pop-ups.

If you experience any issues viewing the course on your tablet or mobile device, we suggest downloading Google Chrome from the App Store and select it as your preferred browser.

To access the online course, start by clicking on the 'Syllabus tab' (circled in red on the image below) then click on 'Rural Fire Awareness – Online Training' (highlighted in yellow on the image below).



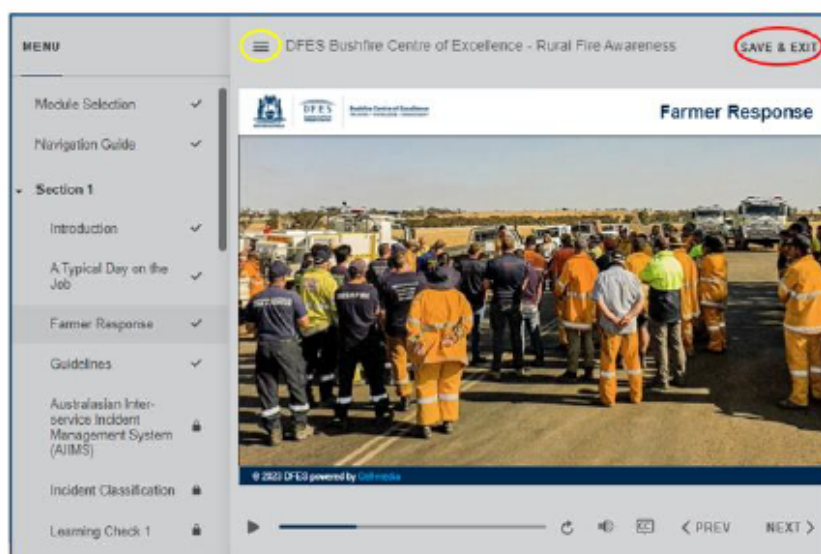


Learning Tips

The online course duration is approximately 2-3 hours. It may be completed in multiple sessions. To ensure your progress is saved, click the 'save and exit' button in the top right-hand corner of the screen when leaving the course (circled in red on the image below).

Always click 'resume' whenever you return to the course. If you select 'start', the course will reset, and you then must start from the beginning again.

Click on the  icon (circled in yellow on the image below) to open the navigation menu. The navigation menu displays completed tasks with a 'tick' and uncompleted tasks with a 'lock' icon. You can revisit completed items by clicking on them within this menu.



A copy of the **Rural Fire Awareness Student Resource** is available to download in the 'Library' section located in the 'Syllabus' tab under the online course. It is advisable to download this before starting, to use as a reference tool.

If you experience any issues downloading the **Guidelines for Operating Private Equipment at Fires**, please skip the download and continue with the training. The following link will access an online version of the publication: [Guidelines-for-Operating-Private-Equipment-at-Fires.pdf](#)

Course Completion

Once you have finished the course, a confirmation email will be sent to you. Please keep the email as evidence that you have completed the course.

Contact

If you have any questions about this course or wish to provide feedback, please email bcoetraining@dfes.wa.gov.au or phone the Bushfire Centre of Excellence on 08 95407100

10.9 Shire of Wickepin

Due to the absence of the CEO nothing was to be report.

11 Appointments 2024/2025 Fire Season

11.1 Captain – Wickepin Central

Noting that Mr Andrew McColl has stepped down as Captain for the Wickepin Central Fire Brigade. A meeting is to be held on the 26th September 2024 to appoint. We wish to thank Andrew for his services as the Captain over this period.

11.2 Dual Fire Control Officers from adjoining Shires

Noting that the following persons have so far been endorsed by Council for the 2024/2025 Bush Fire Season as Dual Fire Control Officers;

Troy Smith	0429 637 240	Shire of Narrogin
Craig Jespersen	0427 887 075	Shire of Corrigin
Joel Bell	0429 657 097	Shire of Corrigin
Brett Blechynden	0473 879 022	Shire of Pingelly
Brodie Cunningham	0488 008 444	Shire of Pingelly
Robert Lee	0428 879 049	Shire of Pingelly
Rodney Shaddick	0427 871 328	Shire of Pingelly
Sam MacNamara	0427 693 275	Shire of Pingelly
Clinton Mullan	0429 001 651	Shire of Kulin
David Lewis	0429 809 041	Shire of Kulin

Officers Recommendation

That the BFCO notes the advice of Dual Fire Control Officers for the surrounding local governments.

Noted 5/0

12 General Business

12.1 Burning Periods

Restricted Burning – 1 October 2024 to 13 November 2025

Prohibited Burning – 14 November 2024 to 7 February 2025

Restricted Burning – 8 February 2025 to 14 April 2025

Noting any dates to be changed due to the current season?

Comments

Season change for Prohibited burning period to start 1st November 2024
Document to be organized and signed by CBFCO and President.

Permanent change to prohibited burning period to be done, changing the date from 14th November to 1st November. This needs to be gazette.

12.2 Harvest and Fire Ban 2024/2025 Season

Shire to advertise dates for media posts.

Harvesting is banned on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Lighting of fires is banned on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Remind Shire to put this on prior to Christmas break.

12.3 Facey Group – Weather Stations

Trevor has received a request for discussion from the Facey Group for weather stations.

From: innovation@faceygroup.org.au <innovation@faceygroup.org.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 4 September 2024 1:51 PM

To: kwleeson@activ8.net.au

Subject: Facey Group - Weather Stations & FCO's

Hi Trevor,

Apologies for the delay in getting this email to you, but as a follow up to our conversation recently in regards to weather stations.

The Facey Group has been able to purchase weather stations which are located around the area with a mixture of 6M & 2M Origo stations to aid in data capture and also therefore in season decision making in regards to farm management. Therefore, I am seeking guidance and feedback if developing a local network of weather stations with live data would be of interest to the FCO's and if it might be any help with decisions during the fire season if you have time to discuss at your next FCO meeting please?

Some surrounding local government areas are looking into this as a strategy (some local government funded some farmer funded) and therefore prompted me to see if this might be of interest in our region too.

Look forward to hearing from you, Maree



Maree Dougall

Innovation Coordinator

(Please note I work part-time Tuesday - Thursday and will endeavor to get back to you as soon as I can)

A: 40 Wogolin Road, Wickepin WA 6370

Ph: (08) 9888 1223 Mobile: 0448 103 747 Email: innovation@faceygroup.org.au

Website: <https://faceygroup.org.au/>

Comments

Further information required. What is plan that the Facey Group have. Are they wanting funding to get more weather stations? Not eligible under the ESL Grant.

12.4 ROAC update

An update for ROAC will be addressed by Trevor.

- Chain of Responsibility and how a situation could reflect on you as the CEO
- Training
- Documentation- need to get up to speed with this, Very important for insurance requirements.. Cover yourself!
- Spontaneous Volunteer – manage them well. Whats app noting who is attending and leaving the fire ground.
- Ground Controller/Aircraft – drop zone Trevor spoke about aircraft won't drop if there are people around. FCO's to clear area. Use fire trucks with sirens to clear area.

Comments

Trevor suggested the use of the **fire app**. You can mark watering points, trucks on maps. Gavin suggested ring other Shires to see what the use of this is – how hard to setup – how reliable with the phone signal.

12.5 Triple 0 agreement

Discussion on the listing for Fire contacts for the Shire of Wickpin. Currently calls are

1. CBFCO
2. DCBFCO
3. CEO

Gavin suggested making the contact list

1. FCO SMS group as the first contact, then
2. CBFCO, then
3. DCBFCO.

FCO Group to be finalised with CBFCO, then created

Gavin Stevens will get this process underway.

Committee Decision

Resolution BFCO-240925-02

Moved G McDougall

Seconded T Russell

That the Triple 0 agreement be amended to make the calls in the following order

1. FCO SMS group,
2. CBFCO,
3. DCBFCO

Carried 5/0

13 For Information/Circulars

13.1 Pre-Season Preparedness Workshops



PRE-SEASON PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOPS

The Upper Great Southern Region will be hosting a number of workshops across the region in preparation for the upcoming fire season



Quick RSVP link or email
vmso.uppergreatsouthern@dfes.wa.gov.au
 by 1 October 2024

All Captains, CBFCOs, CEOs, BGU Leaders, Fire Control Officers, and Fire Weather Officers are invited to join us for a critical pre-season forum to prepare for the upcoming fire season.

Key presentations include:

- **Aviation Services & Grain Harvest Strategy:** Latest updates on aerial firefighting support.
- **AWS (Australian Warning System):** Overview of the new National fire warning system.
- **ComCen Communications:** Enhancing coordination during incidents.
- **Incident Command/Transfer of Control:** Roles and responsibilities for IC, IMT, AIIMS, and RDC.
- **FCO Responsibilities:** Key duties for Fire Control Officers.
- **Community Awareness:** Strategies to improve public engagement.
- **State & National Seasonal Forecast:** Fire season predictions and trends.
- **SOSF Allocations:** Resource distribution updates.

CORRIGIN	3 October 2024 CORRIGIN CRC 12:00 - 13:00 Lunch 13:00 - 16:30 Forum
NARROGIN	10 October 2024 GOLF COURSE 12:00 - 13:00 Lunch 13:00 - 16:30 Forum
LAKE GRACE	11 October 2024 SPORTS COMPLEX 12:00 - 13:00 Lunch 13:00 - 16:30 Forum

13.2 Operational Considerations

OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS (Checklist for first arriving Firefighters)

The checklist below is a list of operational **considerations** for the first arriving fire crew when giving the first SITREP to COMCEN (first **15 minutes** then every 1hour afterwards). COMCEN can get you Incident Weather also.

P

POSITION AND PROPERTY THREATENED

- Assess the situation – where is it? Nearest cross road?
- Exposures at risk/critical infrastructure? House? Shed? Tower?

A

AREA

- Size of fire (Length x Width) – estimate only

F

FUEL DENSITY AND TYPE

- What is burning? And estimate how fast it is moving (ROS)

T

TIME TO CONTROL

- Establish IMT (Who is IC, what Sectors?)
- Decide on strategies to extinguish/ make safe
- Delegating key functions – get help from others
- How many hours to get it contained? Roughly?

A

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

- Traffic Management & Road closures?
- Regional Manager to assist? What do you need help with?
- Additional resources (**ask early as it takes time to arrive**)?

C

COMMUNICATIONS AND CONTROL POINT

- Radio frequencies/Communications plan
- Location of control point
- Media and public advice/warnings – 1800 718 288

S

SURFACE WIND STRENGTH AND DIRECTION

- Send SITREP
- Safety is first priority

COMCEN: 1800 198 140

UGS RDC 1800 865 103

14 Closure

The next Bush Fire Control Officers Committee meeting will be held in March 2025, with the August meeting to be scheduled in the 2nd week of August 2025.

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 5.06pm.