



ACT Rural Fire Service
Standard Operating Procedure 4.2
Weight Of Response

4.2
Service
Management

Purpose

This procedure is to be used by the RFS Duty Coordinator and COMCEN operators to determine the number of RFS units required for response to any bushfire incident. The business rules in CAD are automatically programmed to prompt such advice.

Operating Procedure.

During response, the rostered brigade officer of the first unit called will respond. Brigade Captains or rostered Deputy Captains for other brigades involved in the weight of response will respond only as requested.

Table 1. Minimal weight of initial response.

State of readiness	No. of tankers	No. of light tankers
Red	3	3
Orange	3	2
Yellow	2	2
Blue	2	1
Green	1	1
Outside stand-by hours	1	1

Note: During out-of-season fires, the risk of vehicles being bogged may require a greater emphasis on the use of light tankers. The above chart is the minimal weight of response required by the RFS. This weight of initial response maybe exceeded at the discretion of the RFS Duty Coordinator.

STANDARD FOR WEIGHT OF SECOND RESPONSE

If the initial response was found to be insufficient, the Incident Controller may request through COMCEN to the RFS Duty Coordinator the assistance of additional units. This constitutes the second response.

The standards for second response are:

The type of units responded are as requested by the Incident Controller. The number of units responded will normally be as requested by the Incident Controller, but may be modified by the RFS Duty Coordinator based on:

- Competing demands for available resources;
- Concerns about other on-going incidents;
- The risk of further incidents and the time it takes to mobilise additional resources;



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- Considerations regarding back-fill operations (bringing in other units from further out to fill in the holes in coverage caused by the initial response and other incidents).

Second response may require field communications and the establishment of an Incident Management Team.

STANDARD FOR BACKFILL

The RFS Duty Co-ordinator will determine backfill arrangements. The goal of back-fill is to ensure that there is continuous response capability in the event that a significant number of available units have been deployed to an incident or a number of incidents. The desired back-fill equivalent as shown below is the level of readiness those units or Brigades should be at when tasked for back-fill. Based on the readiness levels, Table 2 below gives guidelines to aim for.

Table 2. Guidelines for back-fill levels.

Current readiness level	Desired back-fill equivalent readiness
Red	Yellow
Orange	Blue
Yellow	Green
Blue	Outside standby hours
Green	Outside standby hours
Nil	Outside standby hours

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Signature:

Date:

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Cross Reference SOP/s:

SOP 3.2 Urgent duty driving
SOP 3.4 Crewing arrangements for operational incidents
SOP 4.1 Response
SOP 5.4 Resource location tracking

Amendments: