

# NEW SOUTH WALES FIRE BRIGADES



## OPERATIONS BULLETIN 2003/4

### RFS Aviation Support to NSWFB during Total Fire Bans

1. During Total Fire Bans, the RFS may operate contracted reconnaissance aircraft (RFS Aircraft) in urban interface areas to detect bush and grass fires. These aircraft are staffed by an observer or air attack supervisor and are supported by water bombing aircraft.
2. RFS aviation support for bush and grass fires within or adjacent to NSWFB jurisdictions may be requested at any time. All costs incurred will be the responsibility of the NSWFB unless a Section 44 is declared.
3. If a NSWFB Incident Controller (IC) decides to use RFS Aircraft for bushfire water bombing, observation or for the deployment of specialist personnel and equipment, the request is made to the Response Coordinator or the Major Incident Coordination Centre (MICC). The Response Coordinator or the MICC will contact the NSWFB Liaison Officer at RFS State Operations or the NSWFB Manager Bushfire / Natural Hazards to initiate the deployment.
4. All RFS Aircraft are equipped to communicate by radio and telephone. When RFS Aircraft are deployed to support operations in Fire Districts, simplex 1301 is the primary talkgroup for ground-to-air communication; however, other 1300 series talkgroups can be made available by the IC on request.
5. RFS Aircraft will monitor 1301 and contact the IC on arrival. The aircraft may land for a briefing or to pick up a NSWFB Officer to assist with the aerial operations.
6. Communication with RFS aircraft is the responsibility of the IC however, if necessary, the IC may approve the Operations Officer, a Divisional Commander or a Sector Commander talking directly with the aircraft to direct water bombing operations and ensure the safety of firefighters.
7. RFS Aircraft may be allocated alternative talkgroups when operating during a Section 44 incident. Radio communication with RFS aircraft during Section 44's will be managed by the Incident Management Team consistent with the communication plan developed for the emergency.
8. The above information should be read in conjunction with SOG Sect 1 Incident Control System, SOG Sect 2 Communications and the Delegations Manual Sect 2.1.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>File Number:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
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