

NEW SOUTH WALES FIRE BRIGADES OPERATIONS BULLETIN 2005/06 NSWFB support for Police Special Operations



This Operations Bulletin must be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- ✓ Standard Operational Guidelines Section 10 *Hazardous Materials*, particularly 10.12 *Clandestine Drug Laboratories*
- ✓ Standard Operational Guidelines Section 8 *Special Incidents*, particularly 8.13 *Civil Disturbances*

Where the NSWFB is requested to provide support to Police following law enforcement operations, the provision of any such support is on the clear understanding that NSWFB personnel will **not** be committed into any area where there is a continuing or unresolved threat that may endanger the safety of NSWFB personnel.

NSWFB roles will always be confined to fire, rescue or hazardous materials operations and only then, when law enforcement (apprehension) activities have ceased and each location has been secured.

Should Police make a direct request for assistance to a NSWFB fire station, the officer in charge *must* refer the request to the NSWFB Response Coordinator (RESCO) at State Communications Alexandria on (02) 9318-4354. The Response Coordinator will contact the Duty Officer Inspector (DOI) at the Police Operations Centre, confirm the request and allocate the appropriate resources, provided the above safety requirements have been guaranteed by Police.

Operations

In addition to existing alarm response protocols, an Operational Commander will be responded to Police special operations until further notice. The first arriving Officer in Charge must attend the Police Forward Control Point (FCP) and:

- (1) Ascertain incident conditions and confirm NSWFB safety requirements
- (2) Identify potential NSWFB support role operations
- (3) Identify fire, hazmat and other risks and develop control measures to ensure firefighter safety
- (4) Communicate all precautions to be observed by briefing attending NSWFB personnel.

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Radio Transmissions: If it is necessary to transmit information to a Communication Centre, all personnel are reminded that it is not uncommon for members of the public and media to monitor NSWFB GRN radio transmissions.

When transmitting sensitive information to a Communication Centre eg names, addresses, telephone numbers and particularly details of Police operations or chemicals found at the scene, NSWFB personnel should consider use of the private call facility on GRN equipment or a mobile or fixed telephone if available.

Media: At all times NSWFB personnel need to be aware of possible media presence at Police special operations. Should the media request information from the NSWFB, no statement or information whatsoever is to be provided. All media enquires must be referred to on-scene Police in the first instance. If difficulties are encountered in managing media requests, the Police and State Operations Liaison Officer (SOLO) are to be advised.

Be aware that media technology is sophisticated and can film, record and photograph personnel from long distances. Even conversations between crew members can be monitored. Care should be taken in this regard.

Personal Protective Equipment: NSWFB personnel must ensure correct wearing of PPE commensurate to the task at all times. Even if "dressing down" while standing by, either yellow over-trousers or bushfire jackets should be worn in order to differentiate NSWFB personnel from Police. If standing by, personnel should generally stay close to the fire appliance/s, again to ensure that there is no possibility that NSWFB personnel are mistaken for Police personnel.

Records: All NSWFB personnel are requested to maintain personal records for involvement in special operations. It is recommended that particulars of attendance and details of tactical operations be recorded in the NSWFB Incident Note Book issued to all personnel. Note Books can be ordered through the NSWFB *Supply Catalogue*. Be aware that diary and contemporaneous notes can later be subpoenaed by a court of law.

Cultural sensitivity: In some instances Police operations may be perceived as targeting people of certain religious beliefs or ethnic backgrounds. At all times NSWFB personnel must maintain awareness of and respect for differing cultural

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backgrounds, beliefs and customs, and the stress that people from certain communities may be under.

Scene Preservation: The site of a Police Special Operation will generally have been deemed a “crime scene” with the gathering of evidence a primary objective. Any NSWFB support operations, including fire suppression, rescue, and hazardous materials operations, must be conducted with minimal disturbance eg responsible use of hose lines to achieve extinguishment.

Salvage and overhaul operations should not be conducted without approval from the Senior Police Officer in attendance. Personnel must pay particular attention to the environment in which they are working as personal observations may assist Police in subsequent investigations

Noted, Station Commander	A	B	C	D	Other

Contact Officer:	File Number:	Date:
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Previous Operations Bulletin: 2005/5 Salvage and Overhaul-hidden fires