

New South Wales Fire Brigades Operations Bulletin 2009/06 Bush and grass fires - first informative and sitrep messages



Information required

When bush and grass fires occur, accurate information from the fireground is vital for providing the Incident Controller with the resources required, coordinating joint operations, and issuing accurate and timely warnings and information to the public.

A checklist has been developed showing the information required in first informative and sitrep messages (see page 2).

Incident Controllers *must* use this checklist at bush and grass fires to ensure their messages contain the required information.

Bushfire alerts and warning messages

Information on the type of fire, its status and size, the wind conditions, exposures and evacuations is used to determine the bushfire alert level and issue community warnings. For more information on bushfire alerts and warning messages, see Operations Bulletin 2009/05, [Fire danger ratings and bushfire alert messages](#).

The information is also passed on to the Rural Fire Service for inclusion in its incident database and the [current incidents page](#) of the Rural Fire Service website so the public can see what is happening.

Sitreps

In accordance with SOG 2.6, [Standard radio messages](#), Section 6.7, sitreps must be sent at regular intervals. As a guide, they should be sent 5 minutes after the first informative message and then every 15 to 20 minutes.

There is no need to repeat information already transmitted if there has been no change.

Incident Controllers must take into account other agencies' firefighting resources when determining the Alarm Response level in NSWFB Metropolitan areas where the [Alarm Response Protocol](#) applies.

Noted, Station Commander	A	B	C	D	Other
Contact Officer			File No	Date	
SO Warwick Richardson, Deputy Manager Operational Communications - Training, Phone (02) 9318 4352			CHO/06238 and NFB/03377	25 November 2009	

Previous Operations Bulletin: 2009/05 — Fire Danger Ratings and bushfire alert messages



Bush and Grass Fires First Informative and Sitrep Messages

- Send first informative messages by radio. Subsequent detailed messages may be given by phone.
- Send sitreps at regular intervals, eg 5 mins after the first informative message and then every 15 to 20 mins.
- Do not repeat information already transmitted if there has been no change.

C A A T S S W E E C

C	Call sign and Control Point	State the name of the Control Point, eg <i>Springwood Control</i> . This may become the fire name.	
A	Assistance	Higher ARP assignment or assistance required outside the ARP area. Take firefighting resources from other agencies into account.	
A	Address or Location	Clearly state the location of the fire, including a UBD or map grid reference	
T	Type and classification	<input type="checkbox"/> Bush fire <input type="checkbox"/> Grass fire	<input type="checkbox"/> Class 1 Incidental or low-level assistance from other agencies. <input type="checkbox"/> Class 2 More than one agency, controlled by BFMC appointee. <input type="checkbox"/> Class 3 Major bushfire, Section 44
S	Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Going <input type="checkbox"/> Being controlled <input type="checkbox"/> Contained <input type="checkbox"/> Patrol <input type="checkbox"/> Out	
S	Size	Quote the approximate size in hectares, eg two football fields = one hectare	
W	Wind conditions	Eg <i>wind gusting from the north west</i>	
E	Exposures	State if properties / infrastructure (road, rail etc) are in danger or potentially at risk from ember attack or flame impingement, how many, their location and the likely time to impact	
E	Evacuations	State if evacuations are likely or are occurring, and the approximate number of people	
C	Communications	State the tactical and liaison channels	