

RURAL AREAS PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION DIRECTORY

- In the period after Ash Wednesday (1983), the Emergency Services participated in a program to identify rural properties. The system became known as the Rural Areas Property Identification Directory (RAPID) and was initially implemented by some local Disaster Committees through Councils, the SES, SA Ambulance, CFS and SAPolice. The system was adopted with varying levels of success around the State. While some council areas have maintained the system very well, other councils have either never adopted the system or allowed their data to become out of date.
- RAPID is based a unique 6-figure grid reference and map name obtained from the standard 1:50,000 map sheets sold by the former Department of Lands. These maps are now quite old and are based on an old datum, either AGD66 or AGD84. Modern Global Positioning Systems (GPS Units) use a new datum either WGS84 or GDA94. All CFS maps are based on the new datum.
- The progressive adoption of the new datum (GDA94) across Australia has resulted in a nominal shift in grid references derived from the older maps as compared to grid references derived from new maps based on the new datum. This shift means a difference of approximately 200 meters in South Australia.
- While RAPID has been very valuable in helping emergency services locate many rural properties, there is a quite a number systems currently being used to collect, store and retrieve the data. The key issue is that RAPID is managed and maintained at a local level by a variety of localised groups and organisations. While the CFS may have some involvement at a local level in running the RAPID system, the CFS does not own, manage or control RAPID across the State.
- As a direct outcome of the Premier's Bushfire Summit in May 2003, the Department for Transport Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI) are now running a Project aimed at implementing the new Australian Standard for Rural Addressing across rural South Australia.
- The introduction of the new Australian Standard for Rural Addressing will (in time) make RAPID a 'legacy' system. That is not to say that areas that want to keep RAPID running will be forced to close it down. Simply that the new standard for rural addressing will be implemented in a consistent manner across the State and will effectively replace RAPID.

FACT SHEET

- While RAPID will eventually become a 'legacy' system, the new South Australian Computer Aided Dispatch system (SACAD) currently being implemented across the Emergency Services will be able to locate a property based on a wide range of inputs – including RAPID, where it exists. A caller from rural South Australia may simply provide their rural address or their RAPID number if they have one. SACAD will be able to use either system to locate the caller along with other technical assistance such as Caller Line Identification (CLI).
- Members of the public, who would like to obtain a RAPID number prior to the implementation of the new standard for rural addressing, are encouraged to make contact with their local District Council Office. While their Council may not have implemented RAPID in their area, they should know if one was implemented locally and if so, who may be running it now. In some cases the local emergency services (CFS and/or SES) may still be running a RAPID scheme at a local level.
- The CFS is actively contributing to the implementation of new standard for rural addressing and while CFS is a key contributor, CFS is simply one of the users of the system. The key contributors include Local Government, the other Emergency Services (SES, SAAS, SAMFS & SAPolice) and a wide range of public instrumentalities.
- The new standard for rural addressing provides a unique rural property identifier based on a road name and the distance from a known intersection. The advantages of the proposed standard are that it will ensure consistency with inter-state rural addressing systems and that it is similar to the urban street addressing system. An untrained user (without a detailed knowledge of maps or GPS units) should be able to find a particular property, provided they are familiar with a normal street directory.
- DTEI have established a website explaining the new standard for rural addressing and when it is going to be implemented across the State. The site also provides answers to many of the frequently asked questions about the new standard. The website may be accessed via the link below:

www.landservices.sa.gov.au/1Online_Services/56Rural_Property_Addressng/