



**Government  
of South Australia**



**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN  
FARMERS FEDERATION**

# **South Australian Country Fire Service and South Australian Farmers Federation**

## **JOINT GUIDELINES FOR OPERATING FARM FIRE UNITS**

***June 2010***

## ENDORSEMENT

These guidelines have been developed in a cooperative partnership between the South Australian Farmers Federation (SAFF) and South Australian Country Fire Service (CFS), in an effort to foster safety for the farming community when they are involved fire fighting activities.

A Bi-annual program of review has been established where the guidelines will be reviewed and updated as required after each summer to capture areas where they can be improved.

The Farm Fire Unit Working Party reviewed this document in April 2010 and it is intend to be reviewed again in April 2012.

SAFF and CFS recognise that the management of fire is a community responsibility and through these guidelines demonstrate their commitment to supporting the community during times of fires.

These guidelines are hereby endorsed.



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**Date: 8 July 2010**

**Date: 14 July 2010**

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## SECTION 1 – BACKGROUND

### 1.1 Background

The ability, (*indeed the responsibility*) for individuals to fight fire on their own land has always been a part of South Australia's fire suppression arrangements. It has always been the custom and practice in South Australia that members of the community attend fires with their own equipment to protect their property and that of others. For that matter, the CFS originally developed from such beginnings.

These guidelines have been developed to help you understand your responsibilities when fighting fires on or near your land. The CFS and the Farmers Federation have developed some basic principles to help you fight fires safely and effectively whether the CFS is present at the fire or not.

### 1.2 Purpose of the Guidelines

The CFS recognises that, in many parts of South Australia, farm fire units are an essential part of the community's response to fire. A key principle of this community response is that it be done with **safety as number one priority**.

Your safety at fires is your responsibility. However, the CFS is committed to working with the operators of farm fire unit to ensure that safety is at the front of everyone's mind at fires.

The guidelines:

- Promote the safe, efficient, effective and cooperative involvement of farm fire units to control a fire in the shortest possible time; and
- Give operators of farm fire units, information so that they can make informed decisions about their actions.

The guidelines identify the broad expectation held by CFS of the operators of farm fire units in terms of their capabilities and that of their equipment to ensure that the tasks undertaken are appropriate and safely performed. It also identifies the expectation that farm fire unit operators will accept responsibility and accountability for their actions at fires.

You are encouraged to speak to your local fire brigade about the guidelines. This discussion will help in the development of a cooperative working relationship when you are at a fire.

### 1.3 Why Guidelines?

Guidelines are normally established when there are no legislative requirements.

These guidelines are in support of local initiatives or arrangements in place and provide a basis for establishing and maintaining a consistent approach in the use of farm fire units at fires across South Australia. They provide equipment operators with information to improve their knowledge in fire behaviour, fire hazards and suppression activities, as well as providing guidance on fire equipment, communications and protective clothing.

### 1.4 Application of the Guidelines

Although guidelines are not mandatory, it is strongly recommended that these Joint Guidelines for Operating Farm Units be followed.

For the purpose of the guidelines, “fire” means all emergencies including bushfires, structure and non-structure fires, hazardous material incidents, motor vehicle and industrial accidents.

“*Farm Fire Unit*” means equipment or machinery (*including tankers*) owned or operated by a private individual or body that may be used to help contain, suppress or reduce the effects of a fire. It does not include:

- Equipment or machinery used for the private defence of domestic dwellings in a bushfire; or
- Equipment or machinery contracted by the fire control agency.

The guidelines will apply to the operation of farm fire units at fires on private land, including burn-off activities managed by the CFS. The CFS expects that compliance with the guidelines is a requirement for those operating farm fire units at fires.

CFS personnel will, where possible, try to work cooperatively with farm fire units to ensure safer and more effective operations. However, where farm fire units are impeding operations or working unsafely, CFS personnel may require that the equipment be deployed to another task or to leave the area.

**Remember to log out with the CFS before leaving the area,** this assists the CFS personnel to account for who is on the fire ground for safety reasons.

The guidelines do not apply to individuals defending their homes using fixed or portable firefighting equipment.

## 1.5 Content of This Publication

The content of this publication is presented in four sections:

- Section 1 provides the context and background;
- Section 2 focuses on the guidelines themselves in terms of what is expected of the operators of farm fire units engaged in firefighting;
- Section 3 contains useful checklists.

## 1.6 Monitoring and Review of the Guidelines

The Farmers Federation and the CFS will monitor the effectiveness of the guidelines. The guidelines will be reviewed within two (2) years of their approval, or sooner if necessary, to consider any relevant field experience, technological change, legislative change, management policy or community expectation.

Owners and operators of farm fire units and other interested members of the community are encouraged to provide feedback at any time, via email to Manager Operations Planning or write to Chief Officer, Country Fire Service, GPO Box 2468 Adelaide South Australia 5000 or Fax (08) 8463 4234.

## 1.7 Provisions Related to Protection of Vehicles and Equipment

This provision covers commercial or industrial vehicles assisting the CFS in an emergency situation at the request of the CFS Officer in charge of an incident.

This provision is intended to cover private fire units, tractors, earthmoving equipment, trailers, boats etc, pressed into use at the request of the CFS and which are not commercially on hire. In relation to this part, no liability will be accepted by the CFS for damage to vehicles or equipment, where such damage is caused by a negligent or reckless act or omission on the part of the owner of the vehicle or equipment or their agent.

The fact that an owner may have listed a vehicle or equipment as available with the local Brigade's pre-planning arrangements, does not in itself, automatically qualify the person for compensation for any damage incurred due to the use of that equipment at or in transit to an incident. It is recommended that owners of such vehicles or equipment contact their insurance company to ensure that they have appropriate cover if the equipment is used for fire fighting. This may be required as a prerequisite for use by the CFS in some circumstances.

In the event of damage to such vehicles or equipment, owners are first required to claim on their own insurance, with CFS liability limited to a maximum of \$1,500 to meet the cost of the owners insurance excess, or reinstatement of a policy no claim bonus or both. In the case of non-insured vehicles, the CFS will meet the cost of the repairs to the vehicle or the market value of the vehicle to a maximum of \$1,500, whichever is the lesser.

The CFS may, through an application made to the SAFECOM Board, consider an ex-gratia payment over and above this established maximum, where an owner can demonstrate personal financial hardship as a result of the loss or damage to their vehicle or equipment.

Where damage is incurred to a vehicle or equipment described in the circumstances above, the owner is to notify a member of the CFS as soon as reasonably possible and the circumstances of the claim logged. A CFS claim form is to be obtained at the earliest opportunity and submitted by the owner of the property through the local brigade to the regional office.

Damage to other vehicles and property, caused by a commandeered vehicle, may also covered under these arrangements.

## **1.8 Provisions Related to Personal Protection.**

When operating private farm fire units in support of the CFS, it is important that all concerned are aware of Section 17 of the SA Workers Rehabilitation & Compensation Regulations 1999 and Section 103A the SA Workers Rehabilitation & Compensation Act 1986.

Essentially, to be covered by the provisions of this legislation and therefore covered from a personal insurance perspective, persons operating private farm fire units should be requested to attend or attend with the approval of the person who is apparently in command pursuant to the Fire and Emergency Services Act Part 4 Division 9 - Powers and duties relating to fires and emergencies.

There should be local arrangements whereby an owner / operator of private farm fire units may make contact with their local CFS to ensure they are '*logged into*' the incident as soon as possible. In this way the CFS will be aware of your presence – effectively covering the requirement for owner / operator to be requested or in attendance with the approval of a CFS Officer.



## **1.9 Fires on Government Land**

Any bushfires on private land that could impact on Government land or bushfires on Government land that will or has the potential to impact on private land, the use of Farm Fire Unit's would be at the Incident Controllers discretion or on advise of the Government Agencies Representative on whether Fire Farm Units should be utilised or utilised on Government land at all.

## SECTION 2 – GUIDELINES

### 2.1 Principles

These guidelines are founded on the following principles.

- Everyone at the fire has responsibility for safety.
- Accept responsibility for your decisions and actions.
- Ensure someone from CFS at the fire is aware of your presence and what tasks you are undertaking.
- Work cooperatively with the emergency services and others.
- Do not work alone – team up with others.
- Be aware of the situation around you and any hazards likely to cause you harm.
- Wear appropriate personal protective clothing.
- Know and work within your personal limits and ability.
- Ensure your equipment is well maintained and you know and operate it within its limits and capability.
- Ensure the tasks you undertake match your capability and that of your equipment.
- Maintain communications.

It is essential for all operators of farm fire units to fully understand these principles and diligently apply them at the fire.

They are based not only on sound common sense, but also the vast experience of many operators of farm fire units involvement at fires across the state over many years.

The rest of this section discusses these principles in more detail.

It is recommended that prior to the Fire Danger Season CFS Brigades and Farmers with Farm Fire Fighting Units conduct an informal gathering to review these guidelines, Joint Fire Awareness Information and the upcoming fire season.

## 2.2 Safety at Fires

Safety at fires is the number one priority of CFS, and must also be yours. Take responsibility for your own safety at fires.

The decision to engage in firefighting should be well considered, and at a time well before the actual outbreak. It is common practice for farm fire units to be at a fire prior to the local brigade. CFS values this early intervention; fires may even have been brought under control before the arrival of the larger CFS fire vehicles.

Nevertheless, it is essential that prior to deployment, all operators of farm fire units must be adequately prepared in terms of themselves and their equipment.

Once a Farm Fire Unit has logged in they become part of the CFS response team, the CFS Chief Officer's Standing Orders, COSO 10 cover "CFS personnel shall consume no alcohol and/ or illegal drug whilst undertaking any task or function associated with incident response, suppression or recovery phases". This also includes responding to a incident that a person may be affected by alcohol or illegal drugs.

CFS volunteers are trained and qualified in the roles they undertake. Operators of farm fire units who have undertaken some basic training in bushfire fighting will already have a good understanding of fire behaviour. This publication will assist you in developing your awareness. However, the best way you can become proficient in fighting bushfires is to be a CFS trained firefighter.

Personal preparation includes:

- Having the appropriate skills and knowledge;
- Being mentally and physically prepared;
- Understanding the risks involved;
- Being prepared to accept responsibility for your decisions and actions; and
- Having suitable personal protective clothing.

Equipment preparation includes:

- Ensuring the vehicle is not overloaded;
- Ensuring the load and fittings are properly secured;
- Ensuring the vehicle and equipment is mechanically sound and reliable; and
- Ensuring the vehicle is equipped with recommended safety equipment and communications.

Operators of farm fire units are encouraged to discuss these matters with their local CFS brigade and to share information and views as part of their preparation. Use of the checklists in Section 3 will assist in being adequately prepared.

## **2.3 Accept Responsibility**

When you elect to engage in firefighting as a private individual, you accept responsibility for your actions. CFS has similar responsibilities to its members. Also, everyone at the fire has a shared responsibility for the safety of others.

The underpinning theme of the guidelines is one of mutual cooperation between the emergency services and the operators of farm fire units.

As you perform your tasks at fires, you will be continually faced with circumstances requiring decisions and actions. In some cases, it may be best to refer a situation to someone from the CFS at the fire, but in others, you will choose to make the decision and take action.

Such decisions should be well considered and not taken lightly, but above all you are expected to take responsibility for that decision. Remember, you are not exempt or above the law when firefighting. Comply with all legal obligations and make safety your priority.

## **2.4 Making Your Presence Known**

If you arrive on scene before the CFS, team up with others and work within your capabilities. It may be your good work that saves the day.

When the CFS is present, it has an obligation to all CFS members and other people who are at the fire. It is essential that you make yourself known as soon as practicable to the CFS Incident Controller or Appliance Officer in Charge, so that you can operate in a coordinated and safe manner. This can be achieved by contacting either the Incident Controller or Officer in Charge on CB radio, face to face, by calling the designated local person or location as per local arrangements. As the CFS become aware of your presence on the fire ground, arrangements can be made to include you in all welfare arrangements and if needed arrange for any first aid/medical treatments. Logging in with the CFS is important not only for the above logistical reasons but for your safety and for this reason it is just as important you log out with the Incident Controller or Appliance Officer in Charge. As more resources arrive, the CFS may assume your tasks allowing you to drop back to a less intense activity.

Understand that uncoordinated and/or incompatible actions by individuals can be dangerous and are strongly discouraged.

## 2.5 Working Cooperatively

Successful firefighting depends heavily on all personnel working cooperatively. As the fire grows in size and complexity, so too does the number of personnel and equipment. While formal organisational structures are put in place to manage the incident and emergency services' resources, a strong commitment to, and spirit of cooperation between agencies and individuals alike, must prevail.

The emergency services operate under pre-determined procedures and protocols and will establish Incident Action Plans to define the tasks to be performed by their available resources. Therefore, it is essential for operators of farm fire units to apply their efforts towards compatible objectives.

The CFS will, where possible, keep you informed on operational and safety issues so that you can make decisions about your actions at the fire. If CFS asks you to conduct particular tasks, someone from CFS will give you a briefing about the incident situation and the tasks involved.

This will ensure you are working safely, effectively and efficiently. If you are unsure on any point, seek clarification by asking questions.

To ensure there a point of contact between Farm Fire Units and the Incident Management Team consideration should be given to the appointment of the following position Farm Fire Unit Liaison Officer during the initial escalation of the incident:

- Local incidents: Appointment of a well known community member should be considered to assist with the interface between local SACFS brigades and the Farm Fire Units.
- When an Incident Management Team (IMT) is established consideration is given to the appointment of a community member/s as appropriate to meet the needs of the incident. These community members should have a wide community network to assist with the interface between Farm Fire Units and the IMT. This role will be referred to as the Farm Fire Unit Liaison Officer.

## 2.6 Team Up With Others

The old saying "*there's strength in numbers*" is true. By working cooperatively and jointly with others, the operation will be safer and more effective. Members of the team can watchout for one another, increasing safety. Communications will also be more effective.

## 2.7 Look for Hazards and Assess the Risk

The Joint Fire Awareness Information for Operating Farm Fire Units document contains detailed information on the hazards related to bushfires. Not only are these hazards associated with bushfire, but also many are also present at other incidents such as structural fires, hazardous materials incidents, motor vehicle accidents and other industrial accidents.

Hazards you may encounter include:

- Smoke;
- High levels of radiant heat and heat related issues;
- Heat related illness (e.g. dehydration, heat stress and heat stroke);
- Danger from falling objects (especially trees and tree limbs), sharp objects, hot surfaces and flames;
- High noise levels for prolonged periods of time;
- Poor visibility due to smoke and dust;
- Live power lines being down;
- Operating equipment in rough terrain or dense vegetation; and
- Close proximity to firefighting vehicles, heavy machinery and emergency vehicle traffic.

Identifying and being aware of the hazards is the first step. Next, it is important to assess the risk that hazard presents to you. Exercise your knowledge, life experience and your common sense to decide, “*What is the likelihood of this hazard causing me or others harm?*” If the answer is extreme, high or medium, you should seriously consider withdrawing to a safer location and/or circumstance.

For further information refer to the SACFS and SAFF Joint Fire Awareness Information for Operating Farm Fire Units.

## 2.8 Reporting an Injury

To ensure a timely claim process is maintained, all operators of Farm Fire Units that sustain an injury, no matter how minor, is to report this injury to their Strike Team Leader, Sector Commander, Incident Safety Advisor or Incident Controller at the Incident Control Centre/ Staging Area or CFS Regional Office within 24hrs of the injury occurring. These

members should record the injury as per CFS Accident/Injury/Near Miss Reporting Procedure.

## **2.9 Wear Appropriate Clothing**

Radiant heat can kill. You need to cover up to protect yourself from radiant heat.

The correct level of protective clothing enables the release of increased metabolic heat generated through increased activity. At the same time, it provides the protection required from radiant heat and from working in hostile and hazardous environments.

The design and fabric of the clothing worn is particularly important because unsuitable or ill fitting clothing can create heat stress, which can range from discomfort to impaired performance, illness, collapse or even death. It can also restrict performance by adding weight and limiting movement.

It is imperative that all personnel, including operators of farm fire units, be suitably equipped and dressed for fires.

As a minimum, all operators of farm fire units should wear the following at a fire:

- Cotton or natural fibre overalls with long sleeves (bib and brace type overalls are not acceptable) **or** cotton or natural fibre work shirt with long sleeves and trouser ensemble (non fire resistant synthetic materials are not acceptable);
- Sturdy leather boots, preferably lace up type;
- Leather work gloves;
- Industrial type helmet with chin strap;
- Industrial type goggles;
- Dust masks and hearing protection (ear muffs or ear plugs) may be required for some tasks; and
- A high visibility industrial type vest is also desirable, particularly for heavy machinery operators.

Protective clothing should cover the main part of the body whilst allowing a reasonably good airflow to aid cooling. It should have closures at the wrists and ankles to prevent entry of heat and embers.

To minimize the build up of body heat it should be loose fitting, sleeves should be rolled down and trouser legs should not be tucked into boots.

If other clothing is worn under the protective apparel, it should also be loose fitting and be of natural fibre. This includes underwear and socks.

Only when in a safe area should you unbutton your clothing or drop your overall tops to provide maximum cooling benefits.

## **2.10 Know Your Limits and Capabilities**

Firefighting can be arduous, both physically and mentally. It requires a good level of fitness to cope with physical exertion in a hostile and ever changing environment. It can exert enormous mental pressures requiring decisions to be made for constantly varying circumstances.

Therefore, you should work well within your limits. Much of this will be dependent on your levels of experience and knowledge. Those who have previously been involved in firefighting will have a better understanding of fire behaviour as well as a greater appreciation of how well they personally can cope with the situation.

To assist in developing your fire awareness, some basic information is included in a separate publication, Joint Fire Awareness Information for Operating Farm Fire Units. Before participating in firefighting you should ensure that you are familiar with this material.

## **2.11 Your Equipment**

If you are planning to use your equipment to fight fires you should ensure that the:

- Operators safety and that of others is not compromised;
- Equipment is suitable and capable of performing the task;
- Equipment is reliable; and
- Equipment has the capability and robustness to operate in a hostile environment.

Operators of farm fire unit are not exempt nor above the law when engaged in firefighting operations. Compliance with all legal obligations, including traffic regulations is imperative for safe operations.

Farm fire units should meet the following requirements to ensure its suitability for firefighting.

### **2.11.1 Vehicles equipped for wet firefighting**

- Vehicles must not be overloaded i.e. the vehicle's Gross Vehicle Mass must not be exceeded. This is a critical safety issue. An overloaded vehicle will be less stable, harder to steer and has reduced braking capacity.



- The load including tank, pump and fittings are to be properly secured. Unsecured loads are illegal and may cause instability. Objects falling from the vehicle can be lethal.
- To reduce the movement of water inside tanks installed on any vehicle it is recommended that all tanks have baffles. Tanks with baffles installed provide stability of the vehicle whilst in motion, especially cornering.
- The vehicle should be roadworthy and registered if operating on public roads. Participation in firefighting does not exempt operators of farm fire units from the law.
- Farm Units and Trailers that are not normally registered, owners/drivers shall meet the requirements of the Motor Vehicle Act 1959 SECT 12 B – Exemption of certain vehicles from requirements of registration and insurance.
- The vehicle and pump should be in sound mechanical condition, be regularly serviced and easily started. Equipment maintenance is essential, and should be undertaken pre fire season to ensure reliable service at a fire.
- Consult your local fire brigade about what form of communication you should use. It may be that your vehicle should be equipped with a good quality UHF CB radio, or that you have access to a mobile phone. These can be an important tool to aid good communications at the fire.
- The vehicle should have a first aid kit and a woollen blanket to use for personal protection at fires.
- The vehicle should be equipped with an amber rotating beacon. At fires you have a responsibility to “*see and be seen*”. Amber rotating beacons as well as the vehicle’s illuminated headlights will assist in making your vehicle more visible particularly in smoky environments.
- The vehicle should have hand railings and heat shields, if personnel are to operate from the tray while the vehicle is moving. These features are absolutely essential to minimise the risk of being thrown from the vehicle and from being effected by the radiant heat from the fire. It is also imperative that the layout of the tray enables the operator to communicate with the driver.

### **2.11.2 Tractor and utility drawn trailer units**

The same criteria as detailed in 2.11.1 above applies to this category. The safety of the tractor driver also needs consideration. Direct attack on a running fire with the unit moving is generally discouraged and should only be undertaken preferably with

the tractor driver in a fully enclosed cabin but a rollover Protection Structure at the least. Drivers in a fully enclosed cabin are offered increased protection from the dangers of radiant heat. Tasks performed by trailer units should be well considered due to their reduced maneuverability, mobility and stability, these units should have any tanks appropriately secured with baffles installed as per 2.11.1. People should not ride on trailer units.

### **2.11.3 Farm Machinery and Implements**

By and large, this category of equipment will be engaged in dry firefighting tactics e.g. slashing, ploughing, ripping, harrowing, grading etc. with an implement being drawn by a tractor.

All criteria in 2.11.1 and 2.11.2 will be applicable to varying degrees. It is essential that the task performed by this equipment is acknowledged by someone from CFS at the fire and that the machine is supported by a unit with wet firefighting capability and communications. All terrain vehicles (ATV's, Quad Bikes) fitted with spray units should only be used on very small spot fires or for blacking out due to their limited capacity. They should not be operated in close proximity to other larger firefighting vehicles on running fire edges.

### **2.11.4 Heavy plant and farm machinery**

This category includes self-propelled machinery such as bulldozers, graders and scrapers. All criteria in 2.11.1, 2.11.2 and 2.11.3 will apply to varying degrees. In circumstances where they are contracted directly at fires, they are subject to rigorous conditions for both the equipment and operator. Where the heavy plant or equipment is being operated independently by a private individual, it is essential that the task performed by the equipment is acknowledged by someone from CFS at the fire and that the machine is supported by a unit with wet firefighting capability and communications.

Note: If CFS observes equipment, which it considers as inappropriate for the task or unsafe, CFS may require that it be withdrawn from that area of the fire or deployed to another task.

## 2.12 Your Tasks

The tasks performed by farm fire units may vary and may include:

- Initial attack;
- Tactical support – direct attack and parallel attack;
- Blacking out operations; and
- Patrolling.

The tasks will vary in terms of hazards and risks involved, the degree of physical effort, the reliance on the equipment used, and the mental exertion required. So the actual tasks you perform will very much depend on your capabilities and experience, and the type, condition and capability of your equipment.

Farmers with Farm Fire Units should consider appointing a lead farmer with a Farm Fire Unit within their area to act as the main liaison person.

As CFS appliances arrive Farm Fire Units may be allocated to an appliance to increase the capability in their area of operation, tag and tail.

For example, it is not appropriate for someone dressed in shorts and tee-shirt, to undertake a direct attack with a hose line at the head of an intense running grass fire.

Nor is it appropriate for a person on a quad bike fitted with a spray unit to be fighting the flank of an intense fire amongst heavy tankers. But the quad bike sprayer may be an excellent tool for blacking out fence posts or tussocks in the burnt area.

## 2.13 Communications

Communications systems are crucial in ensuring that information about new strategies and the associated instructions is rapidly disseminated.

Once an incident gets larger a communication plan should be implemented by the CFS. An incident channel may be allocated for Farm Fire Units, these units should stay on this allocated channel for safety messages and other advises. When you arrive on the fireground initially use local communication arrangements to Log On and ask if there is an appointed CB channel. The recommended CB Channels are 9, 19 and 29 where there are no preplanned local arrangements.

Check with your local CFS brigade to determine the communication arrangements and protocols applying in your area. A combination of UHF radio, CB radio and mobile phones may be used.

Remember, communication at fires is not only confined to radio and mobile phone traffic. Direct contact and interaction between individuals and crews is essential.

### SECTION 3 – CHECKLISTS

The following principles, while modified slightly to meet the needs of farm fire units, are essentially identical to the principles used by the CFS. By being aware of these principles you will be able to align your actions with the other fire fighting resources at the fire and thereby increasing your safety and effectiveness. For more detailed information of fire behaviour refer the Fire Awareness Information for Operating Farm Fire Units.

#### 3.1 TEN STANDARD FIRE ORDERS

1. Keep informed on the weather conditions and forecasts.
2. Know what the fire is doing at all times - observe personally;
3. Base all actions on current and expected behaviour of the fire.
4. Identify escape routes and safety zones, and make them known to your crew.
5. Keep a lookout when there is possible danger.
6. Be alert. Keep calm. Think clearly. Act decisively.
7. Maintain communication with those around you.
8. Give clear instructions to your crew and ensure they are understood.
9. Maintain communication with your crew at all times.
10. Fight fire assertively, having provided for **SAFETY FIRST**.

#### 3.2 SAFETY ON THE FIREGROUND – LACES

##### LOOKOUTS – AWARENESS - COMMUNICATIONS - ESCAPE ROUTES – SAFETY ZONES

- **LOOKOUTS** - Establish lookouts & task all crew-members to be alert.
- **AWARENESS** – Establish and Maintain Situational Awareness
- **COMMUNICATIONS** - Establish clear lines of communication & test them.
- **ESCAPE ROUTES** - Identify escape routes & make them known.

- **SAFETY ZONES** - Identify safety zones & make them known.

### 3.3 Is Your Vehicle Ready?

1	When loaded is your vehicle less than the Gross Vehicle Mass?	Yes	No
2	Is the load including tank, pump and fittings properly secured?	Yes	No
3	Is your vehicle roadworthy?	Yes	No
4	Are the vehicle and pump mechanically sound?	Yes	No
5	Have the vehicle and pump been serviced regularly?	Yes	No
6	Is your vehicle fitted with a UHF Radio transceiver?	Yes	No
7	Is there a first-aid kit in the vehicle?	Yes	No
8	Is there a woollen blanket for fire protection in the vehicle?	Yes	No
9	Is your vehicle fitted with an amber rotating beacon?	Yes	No
10	Is your vehicle fitted with heatshields? (If required.)	Yes	No

### 3.4 Do You Have the Correct Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment?

1	Cotton or natural fibre overalls with long sleeves?	Yes	No
	<b>or</b>		
	Natural fibre work shirt and trouser ensemble?	Yes	No
2	Sturdy leather boots?	Yes	No
3	Leather work gloves?	Yes	No
4	Industrial type helmet with chin-strap?	Yes	No
5	Industrial type goggles?	Yes	No
6	Respirator or dust mask?	Yes	No
7	Hearing protection? <i>(If required.)</i>	Yes	No
8	High visibility vest? <i>(If required.)</i>	Yes	No
9	Drinking water/food/snacks?	Yes	No

### 3.5 Are You Ready to Respond?

- |   |     |    |
|---|-----|----|
| 1. Does your farm fire unit meet the requirements of the guidelines?  | Yes | No |
| 2. Is it suitable for the task and fire operations?                   | Yes | No |
| 3. Are there sufficient crew to efficiently operate your equipment?   | Yes | No |
| 4. Are all crew-members competent to perform tasks at the fire?       | Yes | No |
| 5. Are all crew-members physically fit to perform tasks at the fire?  | Yes | No |
| 6. Do all crew-members have appropriate personal protective clothing? | Yes | No |
| 7. Is there ability to communicate with others at the fire?           | Yes | No |

### 3.6 FINALLY – ONCE YOU HAVE RESPONDED – REMEMBER:

1. Everyone at the fire has responsibility for safety.
2. Accept responsibility for your decisions and actions.
3. Ensure someone from CFS at the fire is aware of your presence and what tasks you are undertaking.
4. Work cooperatively with the emergency services and others.
5. Do not work alone – team up with others.
6. Be aware of the situation around you and any hazards likely to cause you harm.
7. Wear appropriate personal protective clothing.
8. Know and work within your personal limits and ability.
9. Ensure your equipment is well maintained and you know and operate it within its limits and capability.
10. Ensure the tasks you undertake match your capability and that of your equipment.
11. Maintain communications.

## APPENDIX 1:- FARM FIRE UNIT LIAISON OFFICER - ROLE STATEMENT

To ensure there a point of contact between Farm Fire Units and the Incident Management Team consideration should be given to the appointment of a Farm Fire Unit Liaison Officer during the initial escalation of the incident.

The Liaison Officer reports to the Incident Controller and is the point of contact for all Farm Fire Units operating in the area.

The Farm Fire Unit Liaison Officer will need an understanding of how the SACFS operates and what an Incident Action Plan is.

It is important for regular information flow to be maintained to minimise any potential areas of conflict through regular contact. This ensures that a coordinated response is maintained.

### Responsibilities

- Provide a point of contact for all Farm Fire Units and the Incident Controller or delegate
- Ensure the information flow between the Incident Management Team and Farm Fire Units is maintained.
- Respond to requests from Incident Controller or delegate for information on location and status of Farm Fire Units
- Monitor Farm Fire Unit status i.e. Log on or Logged off
- Keep Farm Fire Units supporting the incident aware of incident status and any relevant information i.e. Welfare and other logistical requirements

**12B—Exemption of certain vehicles from requirements of registration and insurance**

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), motor vehicles may be driven on roads without registration or insurance under Part 4 as follows:
  - (a) a motor vehicle may be driven for the purpose of taking measures for extinguishing or controlling a fire that is causing or threatening to cause loss of life or injury or damage to persons, animals or property;
  - (b) a motor vehicle may be driven on a wharf for the purpose of loading or unloading cargo;
  - (c) A self-propelled lawn mower may be driven for the purpose of mowing lawn or grass or to or from a place at which it is to be, or has been, used for that purpose.
- (2) A motor vehicle must not be driven on roads without registration or insurance under Part 4 as authorised by subsection (1) unless there is in force a policy of public liability insurance indemnifying the owner and any authorised driver of the vehicle in an amount of at least five million dollars in relation to death or bodily injury caused by, or arising out of, the use of the vehicle on roads.
- (3) A person who drives a motor vehicle on a road without registration or insurance under Part 4 as authorised by this section must, if requested by a police officer to do so, produce evidence of the person's public liability insurance either—
  - (a) forthwith to the police officer who made the request; or
  - (b) within 48 hours after the making of the request, at a police station conveniently located for the driver, specified by the police officer at the time of making the request.

Maximum penalty: \$250.

**Disclaimer:** This information is an excerpt of the Motor Vehicle Act 1959 and the SACFS takes no responsibility for its accuracy or currency. It is up to the Owner/operators of Farm Fire Units to ensure they comply with the above Act or future changes to this Act.