

PASTORAL / FARMER RESPONSE INCIDENT GUIDELINES



For all emergencies, call

000

Volunteer Firefighter Decision Tool

Are you having trouble determining whether you are a **Spontaneous Volunteer** or a **Bush Fire Brigade Volunteer**?

Please use the decision-making tool listed below to assist in making that decision.

Spontaneous Volunteers, better known as ‘farmer response,’ use their own farm response units to attend bushfires on their own initiative. They are the backbone of incident response in many areas; however, they are spontaneous and may have varying levels of experience and equipment.

Bush Fire Brigade Volunteers are registered members of a Local Government Bush Fire Brigade. The requirements of a *Bush Fire Brigade Volunteer* are higher than that of a *Spontaneous Volunteer* due to the training and skillsets required to operate Shire-owned fire appliances. They are requested to attend incidents, operational call-outs, and mitigation activities (through official pathways). They are required to participate in regular training sessions and meetings, maintain vehicles, and occasionally assist other local governments as a part of a coordinated response.

Spontaneous Volunteers <i>‘Farmer Response’</i>	Bush Fire Brigade Volunteers <i>‘Registered Members’</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must maintain their own appliance as per DFES’ <i>Guidelines for Operating Private Equipment at Fires</i>• Must wear basic PPE as per guidelines• Must report their attendance to the fire ground to the Shire• Must have a vehicle ID sticker• Must take directions from the Incident Controller• Undertake Rural Fire Awareness training• Are not obliged to respond to incidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must attend Bush Fire Brigade meetings• Must complete AIIIMS Awareness, Bushfire Safety Awareness & Firefighting Skills training• Must complete an annual skills refresher• Must actively contribute to appliance checks• Must comply with Shire PPE standards when attending incidents• Attend incidents on fire appliance when available

Further advice about volunteering as a **Spontaneous** or **Bush Fire Brigade Volunteer** can be provided by the Shire of Shark Bay Community Emergency Services Manager via admin@sharkbay.wa.gov.au or Ph: 08 9943 0988

Online Rural Fire Awareness Training

The Online Rural Fire Awareness training course is targeted at Pastoral / Farmer Response brigades and includes seasonal workers. It gives students an essential awareness of ground safety, suppression strategies and maintaining safety when operating on the fire ground.

Access to the **free** course for non-DFES volunteers can be found at:
<https://eacademy.dfes.wa.gov.au/?client=externaltenant>

Once an online account for the training has been created it will be active for 30 days. If you have not completed the course in this time and need extended access, contact eacademyhelp@dfes.wa.gov.au to request your account be reactivated.

The course may be accessed on a computer, tablet or smartphone; however, a computer or tablet is recommended for the best training experience.

Please ensure your device settings allow pop-ups.

Further instructions are available at:

<https://publications.dfes.wa.gov.au/publications/course-information-online-rural-fire-awareness>



Responding to an Incident as a Pastoral / Farmer Response Unit

- 1) All Pastoralists/Farmers have obligations under the *Bush Fires Act 1954* in relation to fires burning on the land they occupy. Immediately upon becoming aware of a fire, the occupier must take all possible steps to extinguish the fire.
- 2) Report the fire or incident promptly to 000 (if any practicable means of communication are available).
- 3) Notify the CESM, CEO, or Shire of Shark Bay staff that you are attending.
- 4) Notify your neighbours of the fire.
- 5) Ensure you are wearing appropriate PPE (cotton or other natural fibre).

Long Sleeved Shirt	Long Trousers	Safety Boots
Gloves	Safety Glasses	Hat

- 6) Ensure your vehicle is safe and the water tank is secured correctly.
- 7) Ensure your vehicle has a UHF Radio for communications.
- 8) If you arrive on scene before the Bush Fire Brigade, team up with others, work within your capabilities, your good work may be what saves the day.
- 9) If Fire services are already present at the scene, ensure you report to the Incident Controller on arrival.
- 10) Follow the instructions issued by the Incident Controller.
- 11) Ensure you manage fatigue and rehydrate regularly.
- 12) Notify the Incident Controller before you depart the fire or incident.

The Shire of Shark Bay does not endorse trailer operated fire units for active firefighting due to manoeuvrability issues



Bushfire Incident / Accident Claim Procedure

What to do if any damage, incident or injury occurs.

- 1) Immediately notify the Incident Controller and the CESM at the time of the incident or as soon as practicable afterward.
- 2) Take pictures of any damage at the scene - if it is safe to do so.
- 3) Obtain a Shire Accident Incident Report Form and LGIS Property Bushfire Claim form from the Shire's Insurance Administrator.
- 4) Get a quote for any repairs required because of the fire or incident.
- 5) Provide a copy of your driver's license and your report to the Shire's Insurance Administrator to process the claim.
- 6) Complete and sign the Shire Accident Incident Report Form and LGIS Property Bushfire Claim form.
- 7) Email a copy of all documentation to:
Shire's Insurance Administrator; admin@uppergascoyne.wa.gov.au and
Community Emergency Services manager
Michael.antony@dfes.wa.gov.au
Ph: 9941 0000
- 8) CESM to complete the LGIS declaration form.



Safety First – Remember L.A.C.E.S

LOOKOUTS

Lookouts and firefighters should have an uninterrupted view of the section of the fire for which they have responsibility. Regular patrols are necessary if the lookout cannot see the full length of the fire line.

AWARENESS

Remain aware of the fire situation including current and potential weather, terrain and aspect, fuel type and fuel loads, hazards and crew locations. All personnel have a responsibility to be alert and act decisively before situations become critical.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ensure you receive a briefing, stay in communication with others, communication changes in situation and provide regular updates.

ESCAPE ROUTES

Know your escape routes at all times and ensure your fire line colleagues are also fully informed. Vehicles must be positioned to allow rapid escape.

SAFETY ZONES

Always have a safety zone (anchor point) to which you can retreat if fire behaviour escalates. Well burnt ground is a safe area. The safety zone must be large enough to offer protection.

Vehicle Safety Checklist

Y / N

1	When loaded, is the weight of your vehicle less than the rated Gross Vehicle Mass?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Is the load, including the tank, pump, and fittings, adequately secured?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Is your vehicle roadworthy to Department of Transport standards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Are the vehicle and pump mechanically sound?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Have the vehicle and pump been serviced regularly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Is your vehicle fitted with a UHF Radiator?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Is there a first aid kit in the vehicle?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Is there a woollen blanket for fire protection in the vehicle?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Is your vehicle fitted with an amber rotating beacon?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment (PPE & PPC) Checklist

	Y / N
1 Cotton or natural fibre overalls with long sleeves or natural fibre work shirt and trousers OR Level 1 bushfire personal protective clothing	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
2 Sturdy leather boots	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
3 Leather work gloves	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
4 Industrial type helmet with chin strap	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
5 Industrial type goggles	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
6 Respirator or dust mask	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
7 Hearing protection (if required)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
8 High visibility clothing or vest (if required)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
9 Drinking water, food and snacks	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Recommended Equipment

Specifications and Guidelines

Item	Guideline
Water carrying capacity	300 litres minimum, 400 litres preferred
Pump	Internal combustion engine rated at 3.5kW (5hp), capable of a minimum pressure of 250kps, and self-filling capability (via suction)
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lap sash seatbelt for all crew when travelling• 1 x woollen blanket per crew member• 1 x portable first aid kit• 1 x UHF radio• Work lights
Delivery hose	30m of 19mm hose on a hose reel 2 x 25mm lay flat hose (if available)
Suction hose	Hard suction hose complete with a strainer to match operations of the pump
Hand tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 x rake hoes• 1 x shovel• Tools and safety gear
Fuel	Ensure the pump is fully fuelled At least 10 litres of pump fuel should also be readily available at a safe location
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food, electrolyte replacements and drinking water sufficient for a shift (four hours minimum)• Maps of the station