BUSHFIRE BULLETIN VOL 24#1

SECTION 44

DUMPED CAR SPARKS FIRE

DAY 1 MONDAY 5 JANUARY 2004

Crew located a dumped stolen car, ignited in the northeast corner of block 72 in the Goonoo State Forest. At 2145 hrs the fire was controlled and contained.

DAY 2 TUESDAY 6 JANUARY 2004

Extreme fire weather was predicted with 41 degree heat, 31-56 km/h winds and 19 percent relative humidity. The southern and eastern flanks of blocks 70 and 71 remained uncontained as overnight backburning operations were abandoned while the northern run of the fire was contained.

DAY 3 WEDNESDAY 7 JANUARY 2004

Crew worked overnight to contain the southern flank from Barrys Rd to Goan Creek Rd. At 0500 hrs this fire was controlled and contained.

DAY 4 THURSDAY 8 JANUARY 2004

The fire was contained except for a small section of private property forest east of block 70.

DAY 5 FRIDAY 9 JANUARY 2004

The fire was contained except for a small section of private property forest east of block 70.

DAY 6 SATURDAY 10 JANUARY 2004

The fire was contained except for a small section of private property forest east of block 70.

FIRE FACTS

AGENCIES INVOLVED

NSW Rural Fire Service
State Forests of NSW
NSW Police
State Emergency Service
NSW Ambulance Service
National Parks and Wildlife Service
Country Energy
Department of Agriculture

RESOURCES UTILISED

150 Personnel
45 Tankers
10 Plant
9 Aircraft

A memo of the NSW Rural Fire Service ranking and helmet identification standard has been undertaken to establish a consistent approach for all members across the State. The following standards have been approved by the Commissioner.

The ranking system depicted on the centre page will be incorporated into Service Standard 3.2.1. Ranking and Insignia. The helmets depicted on the centre page will be incorporated into Service Standard 3.2.1. Protective Clothing. Details of the reflective markings and graphics are shown on the following page.

There will be a change to the reflective markings on new helmets issued. Both bushfire and structural firefighting helmets will be supplied with yellow fluorescent and retro-reflective tape 30mm wide to the base of the helmets in accordance with AS 1490.1997 and AS 4067:2004 and this tape is not to be removed or obscured. The standard helmet list is to be affixed above the yellow tape. Names on helmets are optional but if used, the name shall be the Surname (Last Name) only in Helvetica Narrow Bold 25mm high x maximum 140mm long. The name shall be placed centrally across the back of the helmet and is not to be removed or obscured. The name list is to be affixed above the yellow tape.

Apart from the markings noted above NO other markings shall appear on RFS helmets.

To assist in achieving this standard the Rural Fire Service Association (RFSA) has offered to facilitate the production of the "Names" at $5.00 each. See attached form or the RFSA website at www.rfsa.org.au

Chief Superintendent Alan Brickworth
Manager Operations, Policy and Standards.
Markings apply to bushfire and structural firefighting helmets.
OPERATIONAL HELMETS

RANK/POSITION | COLOUR | REFLECTIVE MARKING/ GRAPHIC
--- | --- | ---
Trainee | White | 25mm Blue band around base
Firefighter Including Communications and Catering | White | 25mm White band around base
Deputy Captain Including Communications and Catering | White | 2 x 10mm Red stripes over crown and 25mm Red band around base
Senior Deputy Captain Including Communications and Catering | Red | 2 x 10mm White stripes over crown and 25mm White band around base
Captain Including Communications and Catering | Red | 25mm Red band around base
Group Captain | Orange | 2 x 10mm White stripes over crown and 25mm White band around base
Inspector/Deputy Fire Control Officer | Orange | 25mm White band around base
Superintendent/Fire Control Officer | Orange | $ in 50mm Black lettering to each side and 25mm Orange band around base
Chief Superintendent | Black | $ in 50mm White lettering to each side and 25mm Orange band around base
Assistant Commissioner | Black | AC in 50mm White lettering to each side and 25mm White band around base
Commissioner | Black | $ in 50mm White lettering to each side

NAMES on helmets are optional – if used the name shall be placed centrally across the back as low to the base as possible.

Non-operational Helmets

RANK/POSITION | COLOUR | REFLECTIVE MARKING/ GRAPHIC
--- | --- | ---
Chaplain | Purple | $ in 50mm White and CHAPLAIN in 25mm White lettering to each side
Rear Investigation | Blue | $ in 50mm White lettering to each side
Training Instructor | Blue | $ in 25mm White lettering to each side
Media Officer | Yellow | MEDIA OFFICER in 25mm Black lettering to each side and 2 x 10mm Black stripes over crown and 25mm Black band around base
Media Liaison | Yellow | MEDIA LIAISON in 25mm Black lettering to each side
Commercial Media Personnel | Yellow | MEDIA LIAISON in 25mm Black lettering to each side but having no RFS logo

CADET HELMETS

RANK/POSITION | COLOUR | REFLECTIVE MARKING/ GRAPHIC
--- | --- | ---
Cadet Recruit | White | CADETS in 25mm Green lettering to each side and 25mm Green band around base
Cadet | White | CADETS in 25mm Green lettering to each side and 25mm Green band around base
Cadet Deputy Captain | White | CADETS in 25mm Green lettering to each side and 25mm Green band around base
Cadet Senior Deputy Captain | White | CADETS in 25mm Green lettering to each side and 25mm Green band around base
Cadet Captain | White | CADETS in 25mm Green lettering to each side and 25mm Green band around base
Cadet Instructor | White | CADET INSTRUCTOR in 25mm Green lettering to each side and 25mm Green band around base
Cadet Coordinator and Cadet Deputy Coordinator | White | CADET COORDINATOR in 25mm Green lettering to each side and 25mm Green band around base

Non-Occupied Cadet Helmets

RANK/POSITION | COLOUR | REFLECTIVE MARKING/ GRAPHIC
--- | --- | ---
Trainee | White | 25mm Blue band around base
Firefighter | White | 25mm White band around base
Deputy Firefighter | White | 2 x 10mm Red stripes over crown and 25mm Red band around base
Senior Deputy Firefighter | Red | 2 x 10mm White stripes over crown and 25mm White band around base
Captain | Red | 25mm Red band around base
Group Captain | Orange | 2 x 10mm White stripes over crown and 25mm White band around base
Inspector/Deputy Fire Control Officer | Orange | 25mm White band around base
Superintendent/Fire Control Officer | Orange | $ in 50mm Black lettering to each side and 25mm Orange band around base
Chief Superintendent | Black | $ in 50mm White lettering to each side and 25mm Orange band around base
Assistant Commissioner | Black | AC in 50mm White lettering to each side and 25mm White band around base
Commissioner | Black | $ in 50mm White lettering to each side

COMPARISON FACTS

FIRE SEASON

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of S44 Declarations</th>
<th>Local Government Area Affected</th>
<th>Area Burnt</th>
<th>Total Fire Bans Declared</th>
<th>Residential Homes Destroyed</th>
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<td>27</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>375,000</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>23</td>
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<td>53,500</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>1-4 (unoccupied)</td>
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UPDATE

2003-04 SEASON A WELCOME BREAK FROM CAMPAIGN FIRES

Firefighters were given a welcome break this last summer after two arduous, extended fire seasons from 2003-2005.

There were fewer long-running bushfires because of generally milder weather conditions which resulted in a "normal" fire season this year, rather than the extreme seasons experienced over the past two years.

The 2003-04 fire season saw over 57,000ha burned and one residential house and four unoccupied dwellings destroyed compared to 1,465,000ha and 86 homes last year, and 754,000 ha and 136 homes in 2002-2003.

"It must be said that even though bushfires were less extensive this year, firefighters were very actively protecting their communities by attending fire calls, accidents and providing flood and storm relief and search and rescue services," RFS Commissioner Phil Koperberg said.

The RFS reported 608 significant incidents between July 2003 and March 2004 compared to 2596 last year.

The significant fires in September/October 2003 were in the north eastern part of the State from the Hunter District to the Queensland border and in December/index were in Shoalhaven, Dubbo and Wagga Wagga.

"But brigades were attending smaller incidents as well, providing the day-to-day emergency services that don’t get media attention," the Commissioner said.

The RFS reported 13,036 brigade attendances at 13,136 incidents this year.

"However, it is fair to say that the number of long, campaign bushfire events witnessed in recent years did not eventuate this season.

"The extreme weather conditions of 2002-2003 where consecutive days of hot, dry, windy weather persisted were noticeably absent.

There were fewer “Section 48 Bushfire Emergency” declarations required to coordinate firefighting operations on major bushfires.

Seven fire tasks formed up of up to 1800 personnel travelled away from their homes to attend emergencies this year, while 485 task forces with 11,836 personnel were deployed.

"It sounds like a lot less people, but these firefighters were coming back for a third season after two very hard years to form these task forces and that really highlights their dedication.

I would like to thank all emergency services personnel for their hard work this summer.

COLOURS TO BE USED UNDER THE STANDARD ARE:

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NOTES:
- "S" underlines are optional.
- "O" underlines are optional.

RFSA SHOP ORDER FORM

233 High Street, Penrith 2750
Phone: (02) 4722 2122
Fax: (02) 4722 2144
www.rfsa.org.au

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Card No:
Card Name:
Signature:
Expire Date:
Credit Card orders can not be processed without your signature.

PAYMENT DETAILS (please circle)

DELIVERY DETAILS (please give street address)

Name:
Address:

Cost: $5.00 each including Postage & Handling

Contact Phone Number: