

RED FLAG WARNINGS SOP 68

Purpose

To provide a means to ensure critical information (such as fire weather changes) is received and understood by relevant personnel at incidents.

Introduction

Incident experience across Australia, in particular during major bushfires, has shown that a lack of access to timely and critical information by personnel on an incident ground has led to unnecessary injury, or worse still, fatalities.

For instance, it is critical that firefighters working the flanks of a bushfire are made immediately aware of an impending wind change. Similarly, firefighters at a structure fire must be made aware of impending structural collapse.

There are therefore a number of situations in which information that is gained during the course of an incident must be conveyed to those potentially affected in a timely, effective way. The 'Red Flag Warning' system has been adopted by other fire services in Australia as a distinct and standardised method of achieving such warnings.

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| Procedure | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Red Flag Warnings are used to communicate essential information to incident ground personnel outside the normal shift or deployment briefings.• Red Flag Warnings are not general messages, and usually relate to existing or impending hazards to firefighters such as weather changes, hazardous materials, fire behavior, structural integrity, equipment failures and the like.• Red Flag Warnings can be initiated by the Incident Controller, Operations Officer, Division Commander, Sector Commander or Regional Duty Co-ordinator.• Red Flag Warnings must be very specific and relevant to the intended recipient(s), and must be clearly acknowledged by the recipient(s).• The format for a Red Flag Warning will be: “Red Flag Warning. Personnel are advised of (actual/forecast where appropriate) conditions that may present a hazard to personnel as follows:... (actual/forecast conditions and any actions required to be taken). This message is to be passed to all personnel under your command. Acknowledgements are required.”• When a Red Flag Warning is issued, a notation is to be entered in the incident log. |
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SOI 1 – RED FLAG WARNINGS

Purpose To ensure Red Flag Warnings are issued and acknowledged in accordance with SOP68 Red Flag Warnings.



