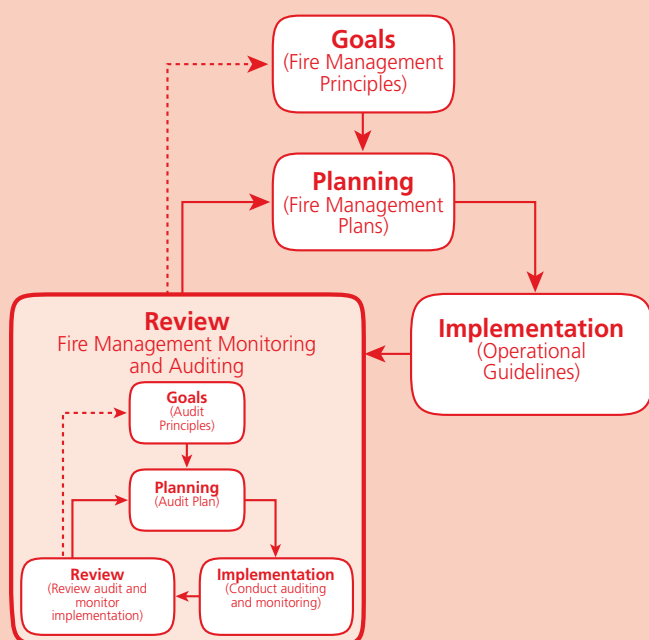


5

Compliance With This Code



Overview:

453 Part 5 of this Code of Practice complements the final stage in the quality management framework – the review stage. Review of fire management activities is undertaken through analysis of records, research, on-going monitoring and specific audits of compliance with this Code of Practice (see Figure 4). While monitoring standards are specified in each Part of this Code of Practice, Part 5 formalises the monitoring of the broader Code of Practice framework. Performance areas to assist auditing are listed in Appendix K of this Code of Practice.

5.1 General Principles for Compliance With This Code

454 Auditing of compliance with this Code of Practice should:

- 455 • be conducted in a manner which is accurate, transparent, effective, operationally safe, with due regard for fire behaviour, ecological requirements and community expectations;
- 456 • be planned and conducted in partnership with the general Victorian community, in a transparent and accountable manner; and

457 • provide for continuous improvement in relation to the effective implementation of this Code of Practice.

458 Audits may review evidence from a variety of sources including on-site observations, retrospective assessment, examination of plans and other relevant documentation, and records of discussions with personnel.

5.2 Planning

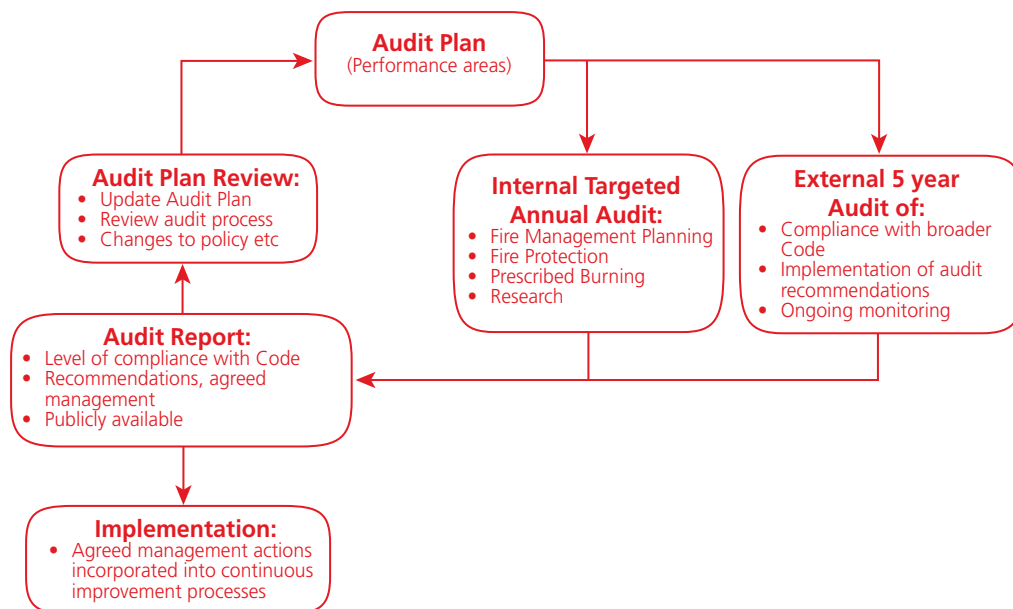
459 The Department must annually prepare and make publicly available an Audit Plan which details: ♦

- 460 • the objectives, scope, criteria, procedures and timelines for audits;
- 461 • information regarding how performance measures* and targets* are determined and agreed to with stakeholders; and
- 462 • procedures for publicly reporting all audit outcomes.

463 Each Audit Plan must schedule a minimum of six audits across a five-year planning cycle as follows:

- 464 • one audit per year targeting specific themes, to be conducted by the Department;
- 465 • one comprehensive independent compliance audit every five years, conducted by an external agency.

Figure 4: Description of Audit Framework



5.3 Implementation

466 All compliance auditing conducted in relation to this Code of Practice must be undertaken in accordance with the Audit Plan.

467 To assist the audit function, the Department must maintain records and other relevant evidence in relation to activities conducted against performance areas contained within Appendix K of this Code of Practice.

468 The Department may enter into agreements with other agencies involved in incident management to allow for the opportunistic conduct of performance monitoring activities at multi-agency incidents.

5.3.1 Audit Reporting

469 All Audit Reports must be made available to the public.

470 Audit reports must document the Department's compliance with aims, planning, operational procedures and Departmental manuals and guidelines. Specifically, they must also: ♦

- 471 • include an outline of audit procedure, discussion of findings, conclusions about level of compliance with this Code of Practice and recommendations for improvement;
- 472 • outline agreed management actions, developed after consultation with the Department, that address each recommendation made within an Audit Report;
- 473 • describe the implementation status of previously published agreed management actions, until such time as those actions have been finalised; and
- 474 • contain recommendations for improving the audit function where the auditor deems it appropriate.

5.4 Records

475 The Department must maintain records of Audit Plans, Audit Reports, and other evidence that demonstrates action taken as a result of audit recommendations.

5.5 Review

476 The Department must annually review the Audit Plan to confirm its currency, and to ensure the following (where appropriate) are incorporated:

- 477 • changes to policy and prescriptions;
- 478 • stakeholder feedback; and
- 479 • relevant findings of previous audits.

6

Appendices

Appendix A: Fire Management Maps

Refer to section 2.2

Maps ♦

480 The Department must prepare, or have prepared, planning maps which present the following information for each Fire Management Plan or relevant strategy as appropriate:

General

- 481 • planning area* boundaries;
- 482 • land use*;
- 483 • fire history;
- 484 • topography;
- 485 • fuel or vegetation types;
- 486 • water catchments and waterways; and
- 487 • sites with significant scenic or recreational values;

Fire Protection Strategy

- 488 • fire protected area*;
- 489 • fire origins and/or causes;
- 490 • natural assets such as regenerating forests requiring protection from wildfire or inappropriate fire regimes*;
- 491 • areas known or likely to contain Indigenous and other cultural heritage places, including archaeological sites, which may be vulnerable to disturbance by wildfire or fire suppression activities;
- 492 • significant areas of housing and other private or community improvements on public land and adjacent private land as mapped or indicated by the adjoining Municipal Fire Prevention Plan (or its future equivalent);
- 493 • existing fire suppression* infrastructure such as water points* and helipads;
- 494 • existing road and track network and travel times from major centres; and
- 495 • where appropriate and practicable, an indication of the combined affects of one or more of the above factors, including fire risk*, and/or levels of fire suppression* response.

Fire Ecology Strategy

- 496 • significant sites for rare or threatened* species or plant communities, including sites for species or communities that are particularly sensitive to fire or inappropriate fire management activities;
 - 497 • natural values which are highly localised and restricted to high points in the landscape and need to be considered when locating and constructing fire lookouts, helipads and tracks;
 - 498 • natural values which are particularly sensitive to soil or hydrological disturbance and need to be considered when planning the use of heavy machinery during firefighting operations*;
 - 499 • known areas of soil-borne disease or weeds likely to be spread by firefighting operations*, and the nature of the risk (ie. transportation method).
- 500 Maps will be periodically reviewed and updated to incorporate new data as required.

Appendix B: Prescribed Burn Plans

Refer to section 3.2.

Burn Plan ♦

- 501 Each prescribed burn must be the subject of an approved Burn Plan* which details:
- 502 • the primary and secondary objectives of the burn;
 - 503 • the planned area to be burnt, including a map of the planned burn area;
 - 504 • any specific areas within the control lines* from which fire is to be excluded;
 - 505 • land tenure(s);
 - 506 • dominant vegetation type;
 - 507 • when the area was last burnt and by what type of fire (if known);
 - 508 • the limits of acceptable fire behaviour, weather and fuel conditions for the burn in accordance with relevant Departmental instructions, prescriptions and guidelines;
 - 509 • any Departmental prescriptions (local and other) which have been prepared in accordance with this Code of Practice and other relevant Departmental policies, standards and guidelines;
 - 510 • any other constraints, including timing;
 - 511 • perimeter control lines*;
 - 512 • fall-back control lines* and contingency areas*;
 - 513 • location of nearest available water supplies;
 - 514 • any ecological issues including the known or likely presence of very rare, threatened* or fire-sensitive species or communities in or near the area to be burned; particular habitats needing protection; sensitive life stages of species; and any known local events such as heavy budding, flowering or seeding of trees or other plants which may influence the timing of the burn;
 - 515 • any other assets and values*, requiring protection during the burn (such as assets on adjoining private property, regenerating areas, areas known or likely to contain Indigenous and other cultural heritage places);
 - 516 • relevant soil and water protection issues;
 - 517 • any special measures to be taken to protect other values, such as vehicle wash down points;
 - 518 • resource levels appropriate to managing the burn under the prescribed conditions;
 - 519 • any smoke management considerations including any measures required to minimise impacts on townships or other sensitive areas;
 - 520 • roads and tracks in the area including those which are to be closed during the burn;
 - 521 • any traffic and public management arrangements including the location of signs on access to and from the area advising of the conduct of burning and, where appropriate, advising of potential reduction in visibility caused by smoke;
 - 522 • any neighbours, other agencies, and those with pecuniary interests such as licensed forest operators and beekeepers within or near the burning unit*, who must be notified prior to and on the day of the burn;
 - 523 • potential containment problems;
 - 524 • ignition method and lighting pattern;
 - 525 • escape routes; and
 - 526 • refuge/assembly areas.

Appendix C: Prescribed Burn Road Traffic Guidelines

Refer to section 3.3.8.

Road Traffic

- 527 Following appropriate consultation with the road management authority, the officer in charge of a prescribed burn must:
- 528 • close a road to non-fire traffic where traffic conditions become, or may become hazardous due to reduced visibility, the presence of fire operations equipment, and/or falling trees until the hazardous conditions have ended; and
- 529 • take appropriate actions to ensure control and safety of the redirected traffic.
- 530 Where the officer in charge of a prescribed burn does not close roads adjacent to the burning unit*, they must ensure notices are displayed at appropriate locations advising that burning is in progress or must make other arrangements with the road management authority to control traffic movement.
- 531 At the end of each day the officer in charge of a prescribed burn must:
- 532 • take all reasonable steps to locate any potential hazards, such as burning trees or logs which would endanger traffic on roads or tracks if they fell or rolled; and
- 533 • take appropriate action to deal with such hazards.

Appendix D: Prescribed Burn Briefing Requirements

Refer to section 3.3.13.

Briefings

534 Briefing details must include:

- 535 • specific safety precautions including arrangements for monitoring the safety of individual
personnel, escape routes and areas in which to shelter in the event of the burn escaping;
- 536 • objectives of the burn;
- 537 • maps or equivalent means of illustrating the layout of the burn area;
- 538 • lighting pattern;
- 539 • constraints in conducting the burn;
- 540 • organisation and communication at the burn;
- 541 • refuge / assembly areas; and
- 542 • allocation of tasks.

Appendix E: Prescribed Burn Records

Refer to section 3.5.

Records ♦

- 543 The Department will ensure its annual expenditure on prescribed burning is recorded.
- 544 The Department will ensure the following information for each prescribed burn is recorded and stored with a copy of the approved Burn Plan*:
- 545 • the objectives of the burn – both land management and those objectives held by the officer in charge of the burn;
 - 546 • date and time of the burn;
 - 547 • weather conditions in the area of the burn at appropriate times before and regularly during the burn as indicated by air temperature, relative humidity, general wind speed and direction, and Drought Index (or equivalent) for the day;
 - 548 • lighting pattern;
 - 549 • fuel moisture differentials if used as perimeter control;
 - 550 • fuel moisture contents within, and where appropriate, outside the burning unit*, immediately prior to and during the burn;
 - 551 • Fire Danger Index*;
 - 552 • summary of fire behaviour;
 - 553 • indicators of areas burnt/not burnt and fire severity (eg. crown fire, canopy scorch, partial scorch) recorded on a map of the burning unit*;
 - 554 • extent of any escapes beyond the planned control lines*;
 - 555 • maximum resources actually used, including personnel present;
 - 556 • rehabilitation works undertaken on control lines*;
 - 557 • degree of success in achieving primary and secondary objectives;
 - 558 • burn prescriptions as per the Burn Plan; and
 - 559 • concerns raised by community and action taken.
- 560 The Department must ensure any accidents, injuries or near misses are recorded and investigated.

Appendix F: Fire Prevention Records

Refer to section 4.1.6

Records

561 The Department must maintain records of:

- 562 • wildfire origins (where and when they originated);
- 563 • wildfire causes (their sources and causes if known);
- 564 • location and area (hectares) burnt;
- 565 • annual Departmental cost of fire prevention programs;
- 566 • estimated annual fire damage;
- 567 • other economic or ecological consequences; and
- 568 • community education and partnership programs.

Appendix G: Personnel Competence and Training

Refer to section 4.2.8

Competence and Training

- 569 Training and assessment for firefighting operations* must address relevant occupational health and safety legislation, Codes of Practice, criteria, risk management approaches, and the correct use of equipment.
- 570 Competency* based training must include familiarity with the environmental aspects of fire control* operations.
- 571 All Departmental firefighters* deployed to a fireline sector* must be endorsed to at least General Firefighter level or National Fire Industry equivalent prior to undertaking firefighting operations.
- 572 The Department must endorse Departmental firefighters* required to perform at advanced levels or in specialist roles where it has adopted a system of corresponding endorsements.
- 573 Unless exceptional circumstances exist, the Department should deploy an employee to perform tasks only within his or her level of endorsement unless the employee is being trained under supervision for a higher level.
- 574 The Department should use competency-based training packages and systems of endorsement, and regularly validate training, assessment and endorsement requirements against operational performance criteria.

Appendix H: Fire Response Operational Guidelines

Refer to section 4.3.7

Operational Guidelines

575 The operational methods preferred for environmental reasons are:

For minimising disturbance generally

- 576 • where vehicle access is required, use existing tracks instead of constructing new ones;
- 577 • use existing roads, tracks or suitable natural features for control lines* instead of constructing new control lines*; and
- 578 • where the construction of control lines* is required, use hand-constructed trails or other less intrusive techniques instead of bulldozed trails.

For minimising soil disturbance and impact on remoteness* values

- 579 • where access for personnel and equipment is required, construct helipads instead of new access tracks;
- 580 • use aircraft instead of heavy earth-moving machinery to support ground crews; and
- 581 • where temporary access for vehicles is required, use existing surfaces instead of side-cutting.

For minimising impact on landscape

- 582 • where the construction of relatively straight fire control lines* by machinery is required, use a series of shorter straight lines at slightly differing angles instead of longer, unbroken straight lines; and
- 583 • where removal of overstorey vegetation is required, locate the activity away from the skyline and areas known to be of high visual value.

For minimising impact on water values

- 584 • where the construction of fire control lines* is required, locate them out of stream-beds and identifiable riparian zones; and
- 585 • construct control lines* following the contour on sloping ground.

For minimising impact on archaeological, historical and Indigenous cultural heritage places

- 586 • where the construction of fire control lines* is required, avoid using, where possible, known linear historic sites such as water races, tramways and ridgelines, that may have Indigenous artefacts, in accordance with relevant Departmental standards and guidelines.

For minimising impact on flora and fauna values

- 587 • where construction of control lines is required, avoid known sites of rare and threatened species and communities as far as possible.

Backburning and burning-out

- 588 Where backburning* or burning-out* is employed it must:
- 589 • be conducted in a manner which satisfies considerations of personnel safety;
 - 590 • increase fire area to the minimum extent necessary to achieve fire suppression* objectives;
 - 591 • be conducted in a manner which minimises the likelihood of fire escaping;
 - 592 • aim for a continuous burnt edge along the inside of control lines* and be of a depth and extent of fuel removal that is generally sufficient to prevent fire escaping across control lines*; and
 - 593 • be conducted in accordance with the relevant Departmental instructions, standards and guidelines.

Fuel dumps and machinery servicing

- 594 Fuel dumps and places for servicing machinery must be on sites from which pollution of streams or wetlands is unlikely.
- 595 Waste oil, empty drums, discarded machinery parts and other waste must be removed.

Aircraft

- 596 Departmental use of aircraft for fire suppression must be thoroughly planned and satisfy Departmental and aviation authority requirements regarding competence and endorsement of personnel.
- 597 Precautions must be taken to ensure that harmful chemical residues from previous non-fire operations are not spread on public land during firebombing. This should include the flushing of aircraft hoppers prior to firebombing.
- 598 Where retardants are being considered for use in firebombing operations, consideration must be given to the land management objectives.

Disease, pest plants and animals

- 599 The Department must follow appropriate guidelines to ensure care is taken to prevent the introduction and/or spread of disease or insect and plant pests during fire suppression* (eg. the transfer of virulent soil pathogens such as *Phytophthora cinnamomi* by machinery and equipment).
- 600 Care should be taken to avoid disturbance to areas that provide refuge for fauna, especially where they increase predation (eg. avoid tracks along dense riparian areas).

Removal of rubbish

- 601 The Department must ensure that any rubbish generated during firefighting is removed as soon as practicable.

Temporary fire base camps

- 602 Preferred sites for temporary fire base camps must be identified as part of preparedness planning following consideration of personnel safety, strategic location, water catchments* and other significant local values.
- 603 If additional sites are required during fire suppression*, the Incident Controller* must give similar consideration to personnel safety, water catchments* and other significant local values.

Appendix I: Fire Response Records

Refer to section 4.3.10

Suppression Records ♦

604 Records must include:

- 605 • time and date of ignition (estimated if unknown);
- 606 • location, including origin;
- 607 • cause and agency of ignition, if identified;
- 608 • size of the fire;
- 609 • land status of area burnt;
- 610 • vegetation type(s) burnt on public land;
- 611 • estimate of economic damage caused by the fire on public land;
- 612 • fire weather at designated weather stations;
- 613 • maximum level of resources, both personnel and equipment (Departmental and other), employed on fire suppression*;
- 614 • date and time of change in fire status;
- 615 • estimated Departmental cost of suppression;
- 616 • a map of the area of public land burnt including indicators of fire severity; and
- 617 • any accidents, injuries or near misses that occurred.

618 The Department must maintain these records in a format which is, as far as practicable, consistent with an Australian standard endorsed by the Department.

619 The Department will ensure that information recorded is used to inform future fire operations.

Appendix J: Fire Rehabilitation Plan

Refer to section 4.4.3

Formal Fire Rehabilitation Plan

620 The following must be considered and addressed in a Rehabilitation Plan* appropriate to the size and
impacts of the wildfire:

- 621 • impacts on adjacent private land;
- 622 • potential erosion;
- 623 • water quality particularly in domestic water catchments;
- 624 • potential forest pathogen activity;
- 625 • potential invasion by pest plant and animals;
- 626 • animal welfare issues;
- 627 • impact on rare or threatened* species or communities;
- 628 • damage to bridges, roads, installations, and other public land assets*;
- 629 • damage to archaeological, historical, Indigenous and other cultural sites and values;
- 630 • damage to timber growing stock and the need for timber salvage from the fire area; and
- 631 • landscape and wilderness values.

Appendix K: Performance Areas[#]

[#]Denoted by ♦ in the text

This Appendix provides a brief overview of the primary sources of information that will be used to test compliance with this Code of Practice. There may, in some cases, be other information that can be used to assist the assessment process: the selection of alternative or additional assessment material will be at the discretion of the auditor.

| Paragraph | Performance Areas |
|------------|--|
| 75–80 | Community participation standards, objectives and guidelines |
| 87 | Fire Management Plans |
| 115 | Fire Protection Strategies |
| Appendix A | Maps to accompany Fire Protection Strategies |
| 121 | Ecological Fire Strategies |
| 133 | Demonstrated alignment to Municipal Fire Prevention Plans |
| 141–146 | Fire Operations Plans and maps |
| 160 | Co-operative arrangements with adjacent landowners |
| 171 | Preferred fire regimes accommodated |
| 175 | Asset Protection and Strategic Wildfire Moderation Zone factors explained |
| 178–181 | Ecological Management Zone summary data |
| 187, App B | Approved Burn Plans |
| 189, 191 | Prescribed burning directions, standards, prescriptions or guidelines and monitoring objectives |
| 200–201 | Smoke management guidelines |
| 231 | Prescribed burning records |
| 235 | Prescribed burning monitoring |
| 237 | Appropriate monitoring of fuel, flora, fauna and other values in areas subject to prescribed burns |
| 242 | Prescribed burning research |
| 255 | Hazard reduction directions and compliance records |
| 265, 268 | Wildfire prevention records and research |
| 282 | Model of Fire Cover prepared |
| 283 | Annual Readiness and Response Plans |
| 292–292 | Grazing specifications in Fire Management Plans |
| 293 | Grazing monitored, outcomes recorded |
| 299 | Fuelbreak strategies and standards |
| 306 | Specified minimum and actual resource levels at Departmental despatch centres |
| 320 | Arrangements under the State Emergency Response Plan |
| 321–322 | Inter-agency, interstate and international reciprocal arrangements |
| 326 | Fire access roads and tracks records |
| 336–337 | Water point strategies, standards and construction in Fire Protection Strategies |
| 341 | Aircraft support facilities strategies, standards in Fire Protection Strategies |
| 347 | Seasonal and daily fire danger monitoring |
| 350 | Wildfire detection strategies, standards and methods in Fire Protection Strategies |
| 356–366 | Wildfire detection records and research |
| 378 | Incident Action Plans prepared |
| 405, App I | Wildfire suppression records |
| 406–407 | Wildfire suppression research |
| 419 | Routine Rehabilitation standards |
| 425 | Formal Rehabilitation Plan |
| 442 | Wildfire debriefing reports |
| 459 | Audit Plan |
| 469 | Audit Report |

7

Definitions

The following definitions shall apply to the interpretation of terms used in this Code:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Airshed | An “Air Quality Control Region” declared by proclamation in the Victoria Government Gazette. |
| Assets and values | Recognised features of the built, natural and cultural environments. Built assets may include buildings, roads and bridges or structures managed by utility and service providers as well as recognised features of private land such as houses, property, stock and crops and associated buildings and equipment. Natural assets may include forest produce, forest regeneration, conservation values including vegetation types, fauna, air and water catchments*. Cultural values may include recreational, Indigenous, historical, archaeological, and landscape values. |
| Authorised Officer | Any person appointed in accordance with Part 9 of the <i>Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987</i> . |
| Backburning | A fire control action, where a fire is ignited along the inner edge of a fire control line to consume the fuel in the path of a wildfire, producing a burnt area to expand the depth of the fire control line. As distinct from burning out*. |
| Biodiversity | The variety of Indigenous life forms: the different plants, animals and micro- organisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems they form. |
| Burn Plan | The plan which, in the required Departmental format, is approved for the conduct of prescribed burning and contains a map identifying the area to be burned and incorporates the specifications and conditions under which the operation is to be conducted. |
| Burning program | All the prescribed burns scheduled for a designated area over a nominated period of time. |
| Burning-out | A fire control action, where fire is ignited to consume unburnt fuel inside a fire control line to prevent further ignition or to minimise the potential of fire crossing the fire control line. |
| Burning unit | A specific land area for which prescribed burning is planned. |
| Competency | Skills and knowledge and their application within an occupation to the standard of performance required in the workplace. |
| Contingency area | An area adjoining the burning unit for which burning is an acceptable option should control lines around the planned area fail to contain the burn. |
| Control line | See fire control line. |
| Country Area of Victoria | As defined by section 3 of the <i>Country Fire Authority Act 1958</i> and includes all that part of the State outside of the Metropolitan Fire District which is not public land. |
| Critical incident | The most likely unfavourable fire suppression outcome of an existing fire situation(s) in a planning area*, based on previous fire situations, which will fully utilise local resources (people and other) in meeting the Department’s fire suppression* performance criteria. |
| Critical incident stress | Unusually strong emotional reactions which have the potential to interfere with the ability of personnel to function, either at the scene or later, arising from any situation faced during Departmental operations. |
| Department | The Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment or its future equivalent. |
| Departmental | Relating to the Department of Sustainability and Environment or its future equivalents. |

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| Ecological Fire Strategy | A strategy prepared by the relevant land manager to address the appropriate use or exclusion of fire at a landscape scale*. |
| Emergency Management Manual Victoria | The manual developed under the <i>Emergency Management Act 1986</i> (Vic) which integrates into a single multi-part book the principal policy and planning documents for emergency management in Victoria and is produced by the Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner. |
| Fall-back control line | (= secondary control line) Any fire control line* which is located at a distance from the fire perimeter and is a second control line * at which the fire perimeter may be stopped should fire cross the first control line*. |
| Fire access road | A road constructed and/or maintained expressly for fire management* purposes which is generally of a standard adequate for all weather use by two wheel drive vehicles. |
| Fire access track | A track constructed and/or maintained expressly for fire management* purposes which does not meet fire access road* standards. |
| Fire control | See fire suppression. |
| Fire control line | A natural or constructed barrier, or treated fire edge, used in fire suppression* and prescribed burning to limit the spread of fire. |
| Fire danger | The resultant of all factors which determine whether fires start, spread, and do damage, and whether and to what extent they can be controlled. |
| Fire danger index | A relative number denoting an evaluation of rate of spread, or suppression difficulty for specific combinations of fuel, fuel moisture and wind speed. |
| Fire investigator | A person accredited by the Department for the purpose of investigating the origin and cause of wildfire. |
| Fire load | The combination of the probable number of wildfires in a given period, the number of existing wildfires, and their anticipated difficulty of control, in a specific area. |
| Fire management | All activities associated with the management of fire-prone public land values, including the use of fire, to meet land management goals and objectives. |
| Fire management partners | Relating to Victorian Government departments, agencies and those partners who by agreement are involved in fire management activities on public land, such as Parks Victoria, VicForests, the Department of Primary Industries, the Country Fire Authority, or their future equivalents. |
| Fire Management Plan | A plan prepared jointly by the Department, other public land managers, the Country Fire Authority, local governments and the community as appropriate. It contains specific goals, objectives and standards for the use, application, exclusion and control of fire to meet land and resource management objectives in a defined area. Reference to Fire Management Plans may also mean Fire Protection Plans as prepared in accordance with the <i>Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land 1995</i> . |
| Fire Management Zone | A fire management zone is an area of land upon which fire is managed for specific asset, fuel and ecological objectives. |
| Fire prevention | All activities concerned with minimising the incidence of wildfire, particularly those of human origin. |
| Fire protected area | As defined in section 3 of the <i>Forests Act 1958</i> . viz: 'any land which is — (a) within any State forest (as also defined in the Act); (b) within any national park; (c) (unless excised ...) within 1.5 km of — i any reserved forest or area of unoccupied Crown land proclaimed as a protected forest ...; ii any national park; iii any protected public land; (d) within any protected public land.' |
| Fire protection | All activities designed to protect an area (including human life, property, assets and values*) from damage by wildfire. |
| Fire Protection Plan | A plan prepared by the Department for the purpose of planning proper and sufficient works for the prevention and suppression of wildfire on public land. Fire protection plans have either been previously prepared in accordance with the <i>Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land 1995</i> , or outline a fire protection strategy* as described in this Code of Practice. |
| Fire Protection Strategy | A strategy prepared by the Department for the purpose of planning proper and sufficient works for the prevention and suppression of wildfire on public land. It will address fire protection at a regional (geographic) level. Note that these are equivalent to a Fire Protection Plan previously prepared in accordance with the <i>Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land 1995</i> . |

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| Fire Recovery | The post-fire phase during which damaged assets are salvaged, repaired or replaced; sites disturbed by fire suppression* operations are rehabilitated; the natural response of the ecosystem is monitored, and managed if necessary; health and safety issues arising from the fire suppression* operation are addressed; and lessons learned from the incident are incorporated into planning for future wildfire events. |
| Fire regime | The season, intensity and frequency of fire in a given area over a period of time. (see also inappropriate fire regime) |
| Fire retardant | Any substance (except water or foam) that by chemical or physical action reduces the flammability* of fuels or slows their rate of combustion. |
| Fire risk | The probability of a fire starting. |
| Fire specialist | For the purposes of this Code of Practice is the Departmental officer directly responsible for the preparation and implementation of a Fire Management Plan*. |
| Fire suppression | (= fire control*) The activities connected with restricting the spread of wildfire following its detection and making it safe* following its detection. (See response.) |
| Fire suppression event | All activities associated with the suppression of an individual wildfire. |
| Firefighter | Any employee or agent of the Department who occupies or is designated to occupy a position in the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (or its future equivalents) for the purpose of fire suppression*. |
| Firefighting operations | Any work or activity associated directly with the control of wildfire. |
| Fireline sector | A defined section of the fire control line* being constructed and /or used to contain or control a wildfire, or being constructed as a backup to other control lines* being used to control a wildfire. |
| First Attack | The suppression work undertaken in the initial response to an incident. |
| Flammability | The ease with which a substance is set on fire. |
| Fuel moisture differential | A term used to describe the situation where the difference in the moisture content between fuels on adjacent areas results in noticeably different fire behaviour in each area. |
| Fuel reduction burning | The planned use of fire to reduce fuel levels in a specified area. |
| Fuelbreak | A strip of land (not including areas subject to broad-area fuel reduction burning*) where vegetation has been removed or modified to reduce the risk of fires starting and/or to reduce the rate of spread and intensity of any fire that may occur in or enter the treated area. |
| Hazard | A fuel complex defined by volume, type, condition, arrangement and location that determines both the ease of ignition and fire suppression difficulty. |
| Incident Action Plan | The course of action taken to restrict the spread of wildfire. This plan will generally be documented when the wildfire is not likely to be controlled before 7.00 am on the day following its detection. |
| Incident Controller | The person having overall management of a fire in accordance with the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management (or its future equivalent). |
| Inappropriate fire regimes | Fires occurring at intervals, intensities, seasons and scales that lie outside the ecological or physiological tolerances of the resident biota. Such tolerances are set by each species' life history characteristics. (See also fire regime) |
| Landscape scale | Relating to the scale at which fire management activities may be undertaken, where 'landscape' refers to the traits, patterns, and structure of a geographic area where interacting ecosystems are grouped and repeated in similar form. |
| Land use | Current or intended statutory use and tenure of public land. |
| Mineral earth | When used in the context of fire suppression*, refers to a non-flammable surface (either natural or prepared) which provides a break in understorey, litter and humus fuels and hence a barrier (of varied effectiveness depending, amongst other things, on the width of mineral earth and the intensity of the approaching fire) to fire travelling on or near the ground surface. |
| Model of Fire Cover | Sets the resource requirements needed to meet the responsibilities for fire suppression on public land. |

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| Municipal Fire Prevention Committee | A committee convened in accordance with section 54 of the <i>Country Fire Authority Act 1958</i> for the purpose of coordinating fire planning within a municipality. |
| Municipal Fire Prevention Officer | Any person appointed in accordance with section 96A of the <i>Country Fire Authority Act 1958</i> for the purposes of the Act, including the issuing of directions to owners or occupiers to remove hazards* or clear fire-breaks. |
| Performance measure | The method used to assess achievement against a performance indicator. These methods can either directly assess compliance or measure things that contribute to the achievement of compliance. |
| Performance Target | A pre-determined threshold related to a performance measure that when met indicates the agreed minimum level of compliance for that performance measure. |
| Planning area | The area defined by the Department for an individual Fire Management Plan*. |
| Preparedness | All activities undertaken in advance of wildfire occurrence to decrease wildfire area and severity and to ensure more effective fire suppression*. |
| Prescribed burning | The controlled application of fire under specified environmental conditions to a predetermined area and at the time, intensity and rate of spread required to attain planned resource management objectives. |
| Prohibited period | The period of the year during which a permit is required to light, kindle or maintain fires in the fire protected area*. This applies for the whole year on public land, and for a period as declared for those areas within 1.5 km of public land as defined in section 3 of the <i>Forests Act 1958</i> (or its future equivalent). |
| Public land | All State forest, national park, and protected public land as defined by section 3 of the <i>Forests Act 1958</i> (or its future equivalent) except that which is managed by the Victorian Plantations Corporation. |
| Rare or threatened | When used in the context of species or communities of terrestrial and aquatic flora or fauna, refers to those Indigenous species or communities which are listed under schedule 2 of the <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i> and/or on other lists maintained by the Department, including lists of vulnerable or endangered species. |
| Readiness and Response Plan | A plan outlining desirable levels of readiness of personnel, systems and equipment and their locations and availability for the detection and control of wildfire. |
| Recovery | The post-emergency phase which establishes the process of assisting individuals and communities to manage the re-establishment of those elements of society necessary for their well-being. This process involves cooperation between all levels of government, non-government organisations, community agencies and the private sector in consideration of the environmental, economic, social and built environment impacts. |
| Recovery Strategy | A plan developed by the Department of Human Services (or its future equivalent), in conjunction with other Government Departments, agencies, and local councils, which details activities to ensure the emotional, social, economic and physical well-being of emergency-affected communities and land is restored. (See Recovery) |
| Regional Fire Prevention Committee | A committee convened in accordance with section 52 of the <i>Country Fire Authority Act 1958</i> for the purpose of coordinating fire prevention planning for the municipalities within a Country Fire Authority Region. |
| Regional manager | The senior field manager of any one of the largest geographical units defined at a State level for Departmental administrative purposes. |
| Rehabilitation Plan | A plan which details the activities (other than routine post-fire rehabilitation of temporary tracks and constructed fire control lines*) which are considered necessary to assist the recovery of both infrastructure, other assets and environmental values from the impact of wildfire and fire suppression*. |
| Remoteness | Describes isolation from the sights, sounds and obvious evidence of human activity. Areas with remoteness qualities offer visitors the experience of independence, closeness to nature, tranquillity, and self-reliance. |
| Response | The term used in disaster management to describe the processes, procedures and actions taken/not taken to combat a disaster. |
| Risk | See fire risk. |
| Safe | The stage of fire suppression when it is considered that no further suppression action or patrols are necessary. |
| Secretary | As defined in section 3 of the <i>Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987</i> , is the body corporate established by Part 2 of the Act, that is, the Department of Sustainability and Environment or its future equivalents. |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Secure | No further burning activities or patrol will be required on site. Rehabilitation, record keeping and mapping to be completed. |
| State Emergency Response Plan | State Emergency Response Plan – formerly known as DISPLAN – is incorporated in the Emergency Management Manual Victoria* and identifies organisational arrangements for managing the response to emergencies in Victoria. It applies to all agencies having roles or responsibilities in response to those emergencies. This plan, together with the State Emergency Recovery Plan, provides the framework within which specific agency or multi-agency response and recovery plans are developed and operate. |
| Threatened | See rare or threatened. |
| Water point | Any natural or artificial source of water that can be used for firefighting operations*. |
| Water catchment(s) | An area of land where run-off from rainfall flows into one river system. |
| Wildfire | An unplanned fire. A generic term which includes grass fires, forest fires and scrub fires. |

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