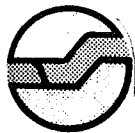


DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

FIRE CONTROL WORKING PLAN 1985/86

SOUTH COAST REGION



DECEMBER 1985

## CONTENTS

### PART A

### OBJECTIVES AND CONTROL PROCEDURES

1. DESCRIPTION OF PROTECTION AREAS
2. OBJECTIVES
  - 2.1. General Objectives
  - 2.2. Specific Protection Objectives
  - 2.3. Estate Priorities for Fire Suppression
    - 2.3.1. Priorities
    - 2.3.2. Automatic Response Zones
    - 2.3.3. Assistance from Neighbouring Regions
      - ( i) Southern Forest Region
      - (ii) Wheatbelt Region
    - 2.3.4.
  - 2.4. Strategies for Fire Suppression
3. STAFFING
  - 3.1. General
  - 3.2. Staffing of Large Fire Organisation
    - ( i) Regional/District Controller
    - ( ii) Fire Boss
    - (iii) Supply Officer
    - ( iv) Sector Boss
    - ( v) Environmental Advisor
4. PLANNING
  - 4.1. Plans
  - 4.2. Communication System
  - 4.3. Standby Radio Communication
  - 4.4. Radio Communications during Fire Emergencies
  - 4.5. Fire Weather Forecasting
  - 4.6. Security Access
  - 4.7. Fuel Access
  - 4.8. LFO Trailer

PART B

INVENTORY

1. Office Staff
2. Field Staff
3. Adjoining Regions
4. Call Signs
5. Local Authorities

PART C

LFO PROCEDURES

## PART A

### OBJECTIVES AND CONTROL PROCEDURES

This plan is written with the aim of identifying procedures for Conservation and Land Management (CALM) wildfire suppression in the South Coast Region for the 1985/86 fire season.

Copies of the plan are held by all CALM staff within the Region, at the Albany Regional Office, and the Esperance District Office, at the Fire Protection Branch in Como, and by the neighbouring Southern Forest, Wheatbelt and Goldfields Regions of the Department. Copies are also held by the Chief Fire Control Officer of each local authority within the Region and by the Bush Fires Board of WA.

#### 1. DESCRIPTION OF PROTECTION AREAS

All, or part of 10 local authority areas are included within the CALM South Coast Region (Figures 1 and 2). CALM estate totals more than 2 500 000 hectares, and almost all of this consists of National Parks and Nature Reserves. The Esperance Forestry Block which contains Helms Arboretum, is the most important of the small number of Timber Reserves within the Region.

Vegetation forms vary considerably within the Region with outliers of karri forest and jarrah/marri/wandoo woodlands in the west and extensive areas of coastal heath and mallee scrub in the central and eastern portions of the Region. Weather patterns, fuel types and associated fire behaviour vary considerably within the region and it is therefore impossible to generalise across the total estate.

Specific factors which affect fire protection in the region include:

- ( i) Most CALM land is situated on or near to the coastline. It therefore has high recreational value, especially in summer.
- ( ii) Inland CALM reserves are generally surrounded by private land in the west of the Region and by Vacant Crown Land or uncleared farmland in east of the Region.
- ( iii) Land clearing continues adjoining CALM land, particularly in the eastern part of the Region and clearing burns therefore pose a significant fire threat.
- ( iv) CALM reserves in the Region have extremely high conservation value for flora and fauna due to the diversity of species and habitats found there and the high number of endemic species, many of which are classed as rare or endangered.
- ( v) Dieback disease (Phytophthora cinnamoni) is widespread within the Region and is known to extend as far east as Cape Arid National Park beyond Esperance. However many of the major CALM reserves within the Region have either largely or totally escaped infection with dieback disease to date and hence special care must be taken with

FIGURE 1

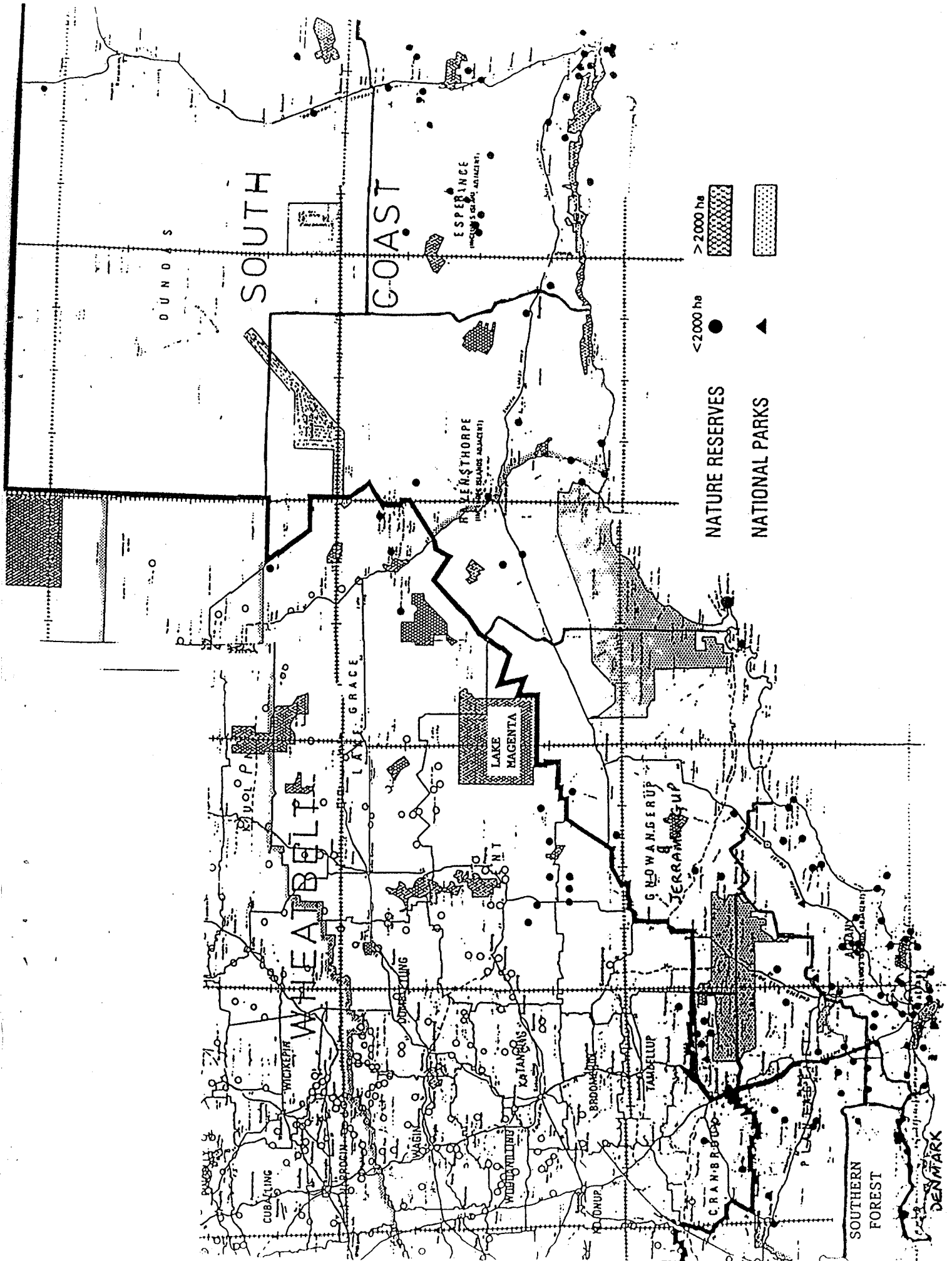
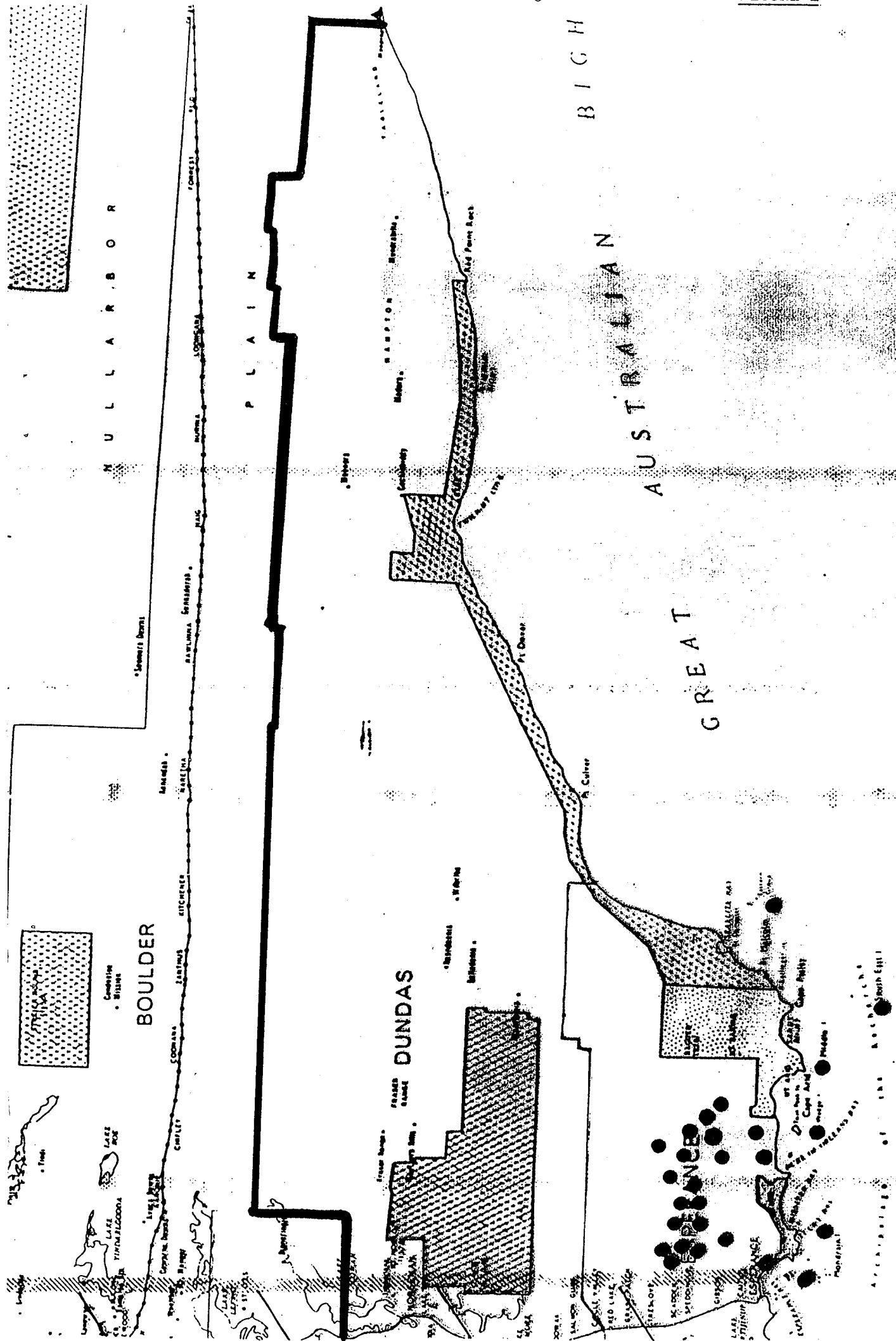


FIGURE 2

- 6 -



all fire protection measures in these areas to avoid introduction or further spread of this insidious disease.

- ( vi) CALM personnel within the Region are widely dispersed (Figure 3) especially in the Esperance District, thus successful suppression of wildfires will frequently depend upon local bush fire brigades.
- (vii) Most CALM field staff are Bush Fire Control Officers for the National Parks or Nature Reserves under their control. Established staff have first hand knowledge of their areas and are generally nominated by local authorities to act in control of wildfire suppression in these areas. However first hand knowledge of many Nature Reserves in the Region is limited and close co-operation with other Bush Fire Control Officers and CALM Wildlife Officers will be essential in such cases.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

### 2.1. General Objectives

To protect life, property and estate values. Priority will be given to protection of (i) life, (ii) private property (including residences of CALM staff where these are located within reserves), (iii) CALM estate values.

The major CALM estate values within the Region are national parks, conservation of flora and fauna, recreation and landscape protection, and forest demonstration areas. Values ascribed to a particular piece of estate will reflect the gazetted purpose of the land, however, where necessary, land will be zoned to clarify priorities.

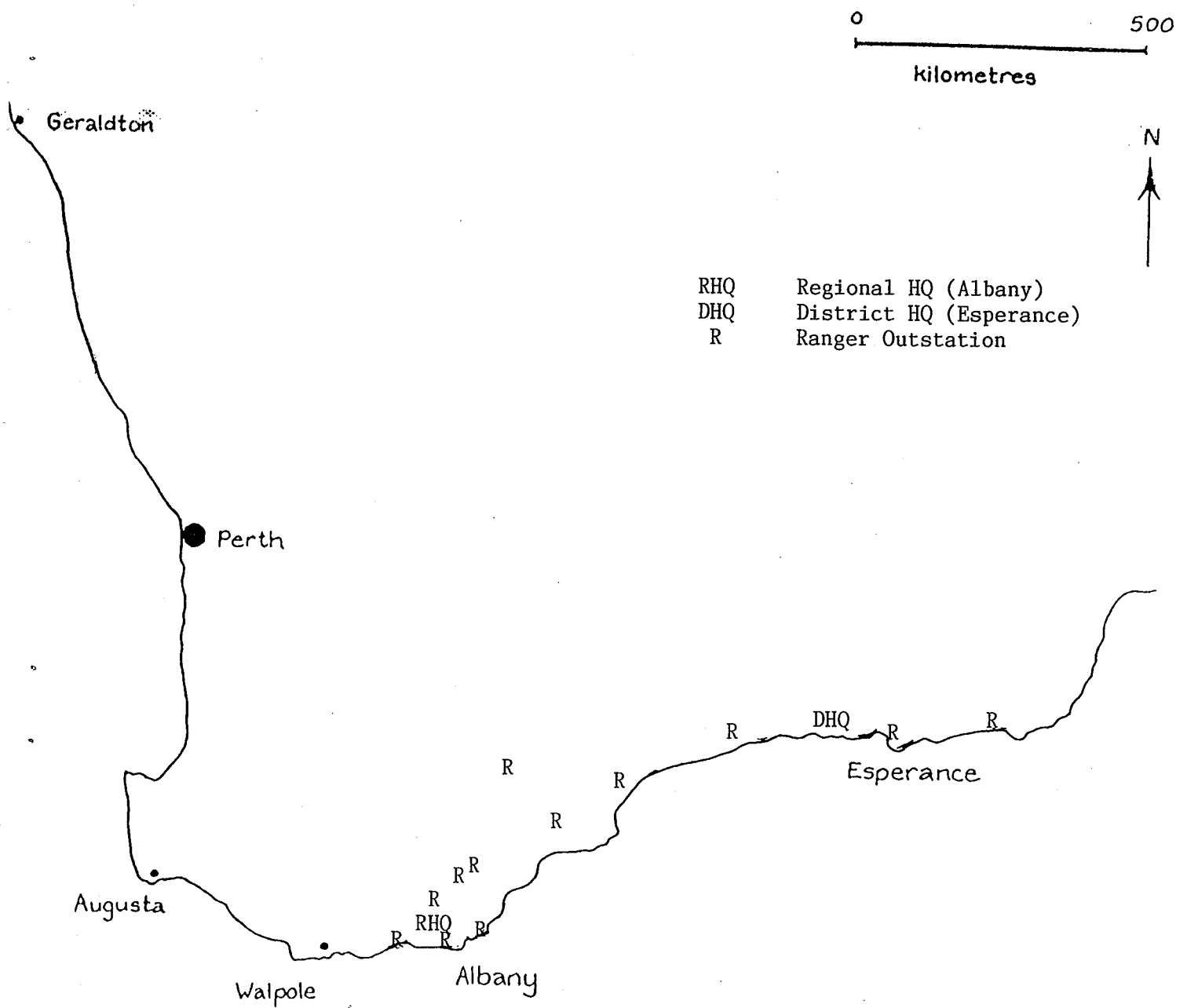
### 2.2. Specific Protection Objectives

- ( i) Life and property: to prevent fires spreading from CALM lands onto private property or other land tenures. Wherever possible to arrange for immediate despatch of one or more fire fighting units to all fires on departmental lands or to any fire on adjoining lands which may have the potential to threaten CALM estate.
- ( ii) To protect park visitors from wildfires and to ensure adequate access signposting for effective evacuation during fire emergencies.
- ( iii) To limit wildfires in departmental estate to the minimum area possible, subject to appropriate conservation considerations including dieback risks.
- ( iv) To protect rare and endangered species of flora and fauna, and to protect unique or poorly conserved habitats.
- ( v) To protect departmental timber plantations and Helms Arboretum near Esperance.

FIGURE 3

DISTRIBUTION OF CALM STAFF  
IN SOUTH COAST REGION

(Note wide distribution of staff  
in Esperance District and lack of  
staff beyond Cape Arid to the  
east of Esperance)





- ( vi) To take all necessary precautions to minimise the spread of dieback disease and exotic species.
- ( vii) To ensure that no individual area of CALM estate is entirely burnt in a single fire episode or frequent wildfires.
- (viii) To evaluate and improve all techniques and procedures used for recording and monitoring fire protection activities.
- ( ix) To protect landscape values - for example, heavy equipment should not be used in sensitive or fragile areas such as granite outcrops, wetlands, vegetated sand dunes, breakways, etc, unless no reasonable alternative exists.
- ( x) To protect recreation areas and high useage sites within CALM estate. Where possible such areas will be identified in individual park fire control plans or in reserve fire suppression kits.
- ( xi) To protect study areas or monitoring sites. These should also be identified in fire control plans and fire suppression kits.

### 2.3. Estate Priorities for Fire Suppression

The following list of CALM reserves in the South Coast Region indicates the priority for fire attack in case of fires within or threatening these lands. This priority list is only a guide and may vary from day to day depending on such factors as the fire damage in each zone, the property and ecological values at risk, and the level of fire suppression support available from bushfire brigades.

#### 2.3.1. Priorities      NR - Nature Reserve      NP = National Park

PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3
<u>ALBANY District</u> Two Peoples Bay NR Porongurup NP Stirling Range NP Fitzgerald River NP Torndirrup NP	Millbrook NR William Bay NP* Lake Magenta NR**	Hassell NP Cocanarup TR West Cape Howe NP Other Nature Reserves*** Other Timber Reserves
<u>ESPERANCE District</u> Helms Arboretum Cape Le Grand NP (West of Dunns Rock) Cape Arid NP (Thomas River Area)	Stokes NP Cape Arid NP (other areas) Cape Le Grand (East of Dunns)	Peak Charles NP Frank Hann NP  Eucla NP Other Nature Reserves Island Reserves Other Timber Reserves

- \* Fire Control to be from Walpole District by inter-regional agreement
- \*\* Within neighbouring Wheatbelt Region
- \*\*\* Including those Nature Reserves in Southern Forest Region which lie to the east of the Hay River

### 2.3.2. Automatic Response Zones

Areas of high risk, high value and special significance are to be designated as Automatic Response Zones. Any fires located in these areas require immediate despatch of nearby fire fighting resources. These are shown in following table:

LOCATION	RESPONSE (Indicate Units and where from, etc)	TIME*
1. Torndirrup NP Little Grove	Light Duty Units: Torndirrup NP (2) Two Peoples Bay NR (1) Porongurup NP (1)  Heavy Duty Unit (if required) Stirling Range NP (1)	- 40 mins 60 mins  100 mins
2. Two Peoples Bay NR	Light Duty Units: Two Peoples Bay NR (1) Torndirrup NP (2) Porongurup NP (1)  Heavy Duty Unit (if required) Stirling Range NP (1)	- 40 mins 60 mins  100 mins
3. Porongurup NP	Light Duty Units: Porongurup NP (1) Stirling Range NP (1 or 2) Torndirrup NP (2)  Heavy Duty Unit (if required) Stirling Range NP (1)	- 40-50 mins 60 mins  60 mins

\* Approx driving time from local base to park/reserve HQ.

### 2.3.3. Assistance from Neighbouring Regions

#### ( i) Southern Forest Region

Fire suppression to the west of Denmark will be co-ordinated by the Walpole District of the neighbouring Southern Forest Region. Fires in the Albany District may require the assistance of fire fighting resources from Districts in the Southern Forest Region. Requests for assistance will be directed by the Regional Duty Officer to the Departmental Duty Officer, who will liaise with the Southern Forest Region for assistance.

( ii) Wheatbelt Region

It is possible that assistance may be required from the Wheatbelt Region for major fires in the Fitzgerald River and Stirling Range National Parks, or in Nature Reserves to the north of the Stirling Range.

2.3.4. Assistance to Neighbouring Regions

( i) Southern Forest Region

Fires in those Nature Reserves of the Southern Forest Region located to the east of the Hay River will be initially attacked by the South Coast Region. Other help to the Southern Forest Region will be through appropriate liaison.

( ii) Wheatbelt Region

Fires in the Lake Magenta Nature Reserve will generally be attended by units from both the South Coast and Wheatbelt Regions following direct liaison between the respective Duty Officers of both regions.

2.4. Strategies for Fire Suppression

All fires on or threatening CALM estate should be reported immediately to the Albany Regional Office which has overall control of fire suppression activities in the CALM South Coast Region. However, due to the enormous distances across the Region and the dispersed location of field personnel (most of whom are appointed as Bush Fire Control Officers), minor wildfires may be controlled from the most appropriate outstation or from the Esperance District Office in accordance to procedure laid down in local Fire Control Working Plans. On receipt of a fire report, the Regional Duty Officer will:

- ( i) Record all fires on or threatening CALM estate in the Region and maintain a fire log of communication and decisions.
- ( ii) Determine with local staff the appropriate fire suppression strategy.
- (iii) Liaise with the Fire Boss on fire strategies and requirements for CALM fire resources.
- ( iv) Provide Departmental Duty Officer with fire situation report, and where necessary request inter-regional support.
- ( v) Where required, provide Fire Boss with spot weather forecasts and other regional intelligence. Forecasts will usually be obtained through the Protection Branch in Como or the Duty Officer of the Bureau of Meteorology.
- ( vi) Arrange fire surveillance if required.
- (vii) Monitor public safety and crew safety in fires.
- (viii) Provide Departmental Duty Officer with information for media reports as required.

### 3. STAFFING

#### 3.1. General

As at November 1985 the Albany Regional Office is staffed by three personnel, two of which act as Fire Duty Officers. However a third duty officer (Operations Officer) is to be appointed to the region shortly.

The Esperance District Office is also staffed by three personnel, none of whom act as Fire Duty Officers at this stage.

National Park Rangers and the Two Peoples Bay Reserves Officer work a six day week which includes all weekends and public holidays. District Wildlife Officers (3 in Albany, 1 in Esperance) work 10 days on and 4 days off per fortnight.

A full list of Regional/District staff, addresses, phone numbers and radio call signs are given in the Inventory section.

#### 3.2. Staffing of LFO (Large Fire Organisation)

Fires which require the attendance of five or more Light Patrol Units from the South Coast Region, or which require assistance from neighbouring regions will be generally declared a Large Fire. LFO will also generally be set up during multiple (2 or more) fires in the Region, or whenever lightning storms are likely to lead to multiple fires.

The extent to which an LFO is set up in the Region will depend on the severity of the fire emergency. However, in each case the following LFO roles must be catered for.

##### ( i ) Regional/District Controller

The positions of Regional Controller and District Controller (Albany) are normally filled by the Regional Manager, the Regional Supervisor or the Operations Officer.

The position of District Controller (Esperance) is normally filled by the Acting District Manager or Regional Supervisor.

##### The Controller

- sets priorities for utilising fire fighting resources within Region/District
- liaises with Departmental Duty Officer for inter-regional resources (eg crews, machinery, maps, aircraft, etc) and provides him with situation reports
- liaises with Fire Boss on fire strategy/tactics and resource requirements
- is in charge of the Supply Officer to ensure adequate support for incoming crews and equipment
- monitors crew safety, public safety, dieback hygiene, fire costs, etc

- provides information for media reports where necessary.

Regional Control Headquarters is normally at the Albany Regional Office, Esperance District Office, Shire Office or National Park/Nature Reserve headquarters.

( ii) Fire Boss

This position is normally filled by the Ranger in Charge, Reserves Officer, Operations Officer, or Regional Supervisor. In cases where fire is also on private lands, the position will be filled by the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (or shared by a CALM officer and Bush Fire Control Officer.)

The Fire Boss

- is responsible to the Regional Controller for implementation of suppression strategy, through appropriate tactics
- supervises Sector Bosses allots crews to sectors, and co-ordinates work between sectors
- sets up and operates from a control point headquarters.

(iii) Supply Officer

This position is normally filled by other staff from the Albany or Esperance offices.

The Supply Officer

- is responsible to the Regional or District Controller for provisions of food, fuel, equipment, accommodation, maps, etc, for CALM fire crews and staff
- procures all necessary supplies, anticipates likely supply problems, and advises Regional Controller
- ensures LFO trailer is effectively utilised.

( iv) Sector Boss

These positions will normally be filled by National Park Rangers or Reserves Officers, or Wildlife Officers.

A Sector Boss

- is responsible to the Fire Boss for implementing tactics on a designated sector. Reports to the Fire Boss on work progress in sector, fire situation and behaviour, problems, resource requirements
- in charge of CALM fire crews allocated to his sector, and responsible for their performance, safety and welfare
- where necessary, informs Fire Boss of environmental protection problems or requirements in his sector.

( v) Environmental Advisor

This position will normally filled by abovementioned Fire Boss or Sector Boss. Wildlife Officers will generally be utilised in this role whenever fires are within Nature Reserves.

An Environmental Advisor

- advises Fire Boss on the purpose and land management objectives of an area and on the environmental protection requirements of the Park or Reserve.
- advises fire break location and condition, dieback disease location and hygiene requirements; location or rare and endangered wildlife species, potential impact of suppression activity on soil erosion, landscape values, dune stability, etc.

The Environmental Advisor may also be required to fill the field functions of Control Point Officer or Reconnaissance Officer, or Field Supply Officer (refer to Part C "Large Fire Organisation - Staff Duties and Responsibilities, 1985").

Examples of likely LFO control structures are given in Figure 4.

4. PLANNING

4.1. Plans

A complete set of all relevant documents including maps, fire history maps, fire suppression kits, files, fire control plans, etc, for the entire Region will be held at the Albany Regional Office.

Similar information resources for the Esperance District and for the Fitzgerald River National Park will be held at the Esperance District Office.

Copies of all relevant documents will also be held at each outstation plus copies of the documentation available on neighbouring or nearby CALM estate as considered appropriate by the Regional Manager.

All maps, files and other relevant documents are to be updated promptly and progressively and this information is also to be relayed to the Fire Protection Branch in Como.

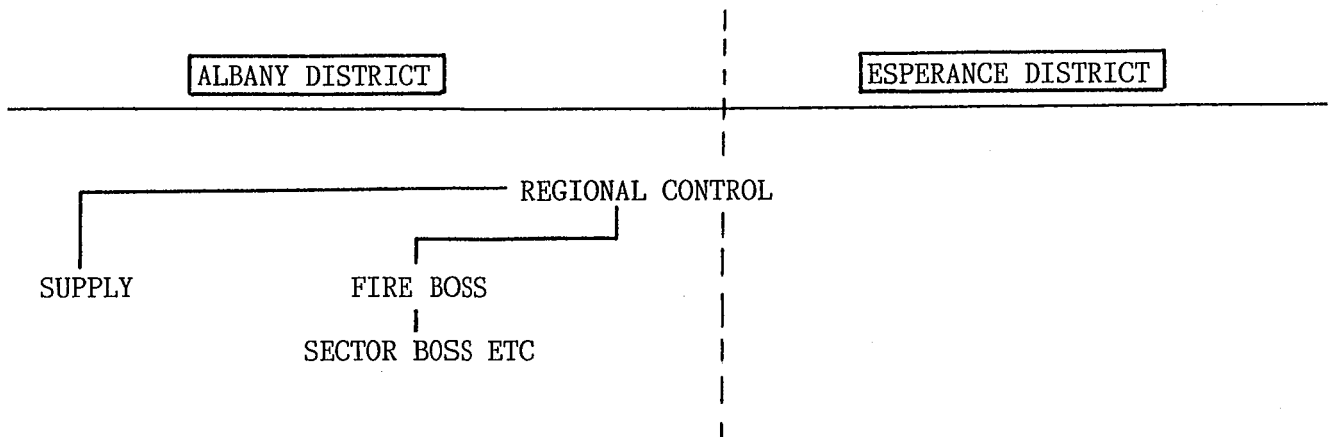
4.2. Communication Systems

The South Coast Region is well served by communications as follows:

All offices and outstations are equipped with telephones.

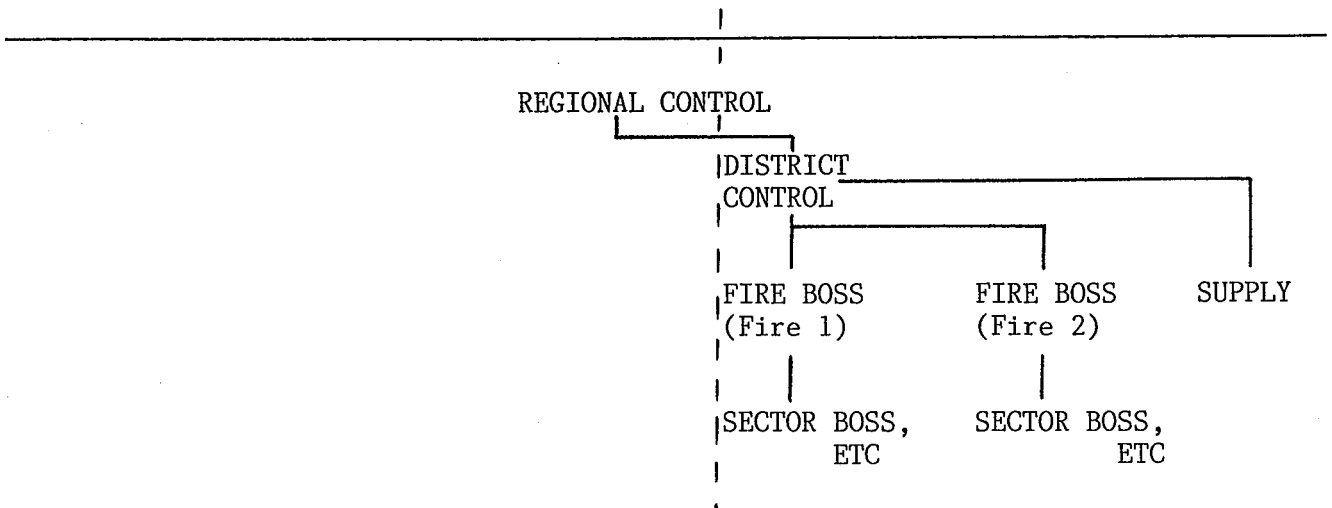
All mobile units are equipped with HF and/or VHF radios.

EXAMPLES OF LFO STRUCTURES THAT MAY ARISE WITHIN REGION



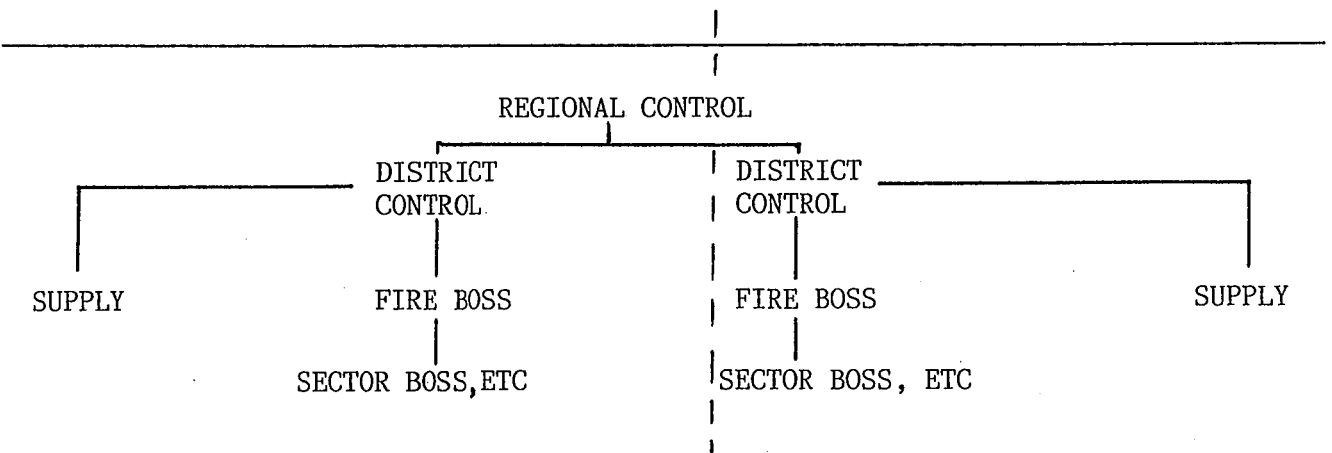
Example 1

LFO in Albany District only (single fire)



Example 2

LFO in Esperance District only (multiple fires)



Example 3

Regional LFO with fires in both districts  
(Note in this case District Control is instigated in Albany District as well as overall Regional Control)

The Albany Regional Office and selected outstations are also equipped with both VHF and HF radios.

The Albany and Esperance Offices are equipped with telephone facsimile facilities which enable the rapid transfer of written information, maps, plans, etc, between each office, the Protection Branch in Como and other regional offices. The Albany facsimile machine is automatic but the Esperance machine requires manual operation.

The radio call signs for all Regional and District staff are shown in the Inventory section.

#### 4.3. Standby Radio Communications

- (1) A roll call on HF radios will be held for all outstations or mobile units commencing at 8.20 am each day. A brief weather forecast will be provided at this time whenever considered necessary.
- (2) All radio units are to be held on "squelch" (VHF) or "mute" (HF) control during normal working hours when the office or mobile unit is occupied by departmental staff.
- (3) The rostered Duty Officer is to be contactable by either telephone or radio during rostered hours.
- (4) A safety radio standby call is to be held at 2.00 pm on weekends and public holidays in addition to the 8.20 am roll call.
- (5) HF communications will normally be on 5270 MHz. VHF communications will normally be on Channel 1 in the Albany District and on Channels 21 and 24 in the Esperance District.

#### 4.4. Radio Communications During Fire Emergencies

- (1) Provided clearance is given by the Regional Duty Officer standby radio procedures may be temporarily dispensed with for those personnel involved in fire emergencies.
- (2) In such instances radio communications will be by the most appropriate HF frequency or VHF channel as determined by the Fire Boss in liaison with the Regional Duty Officer.
- (3) VHF portable repeaters will be set up at selected Fire Control Points at fires where repeater coverage is inadequate.

#### 4.5. Fire Weather Forecasting

Selected outstations will eventually be provided with high quality meteorological instruments to enable accurate localised fire weather forecasting.



The Regional Duty Officer will arrange for provision of spot weather forecasts for fire emergency areas where required.

4.6. Security Access

Arrangements will be made to ensure that 24 hour emergency access is available to all CALM vehicle compounds, offices, vehicles and workshops within the Region. These arrangements are a District responsibility.

4.7. Fuel Access

Vehicles should be kept fuelled or have immediate access to fuel on a 24 hour emergency basis. This is especially important for vehicles based in Albany or Esperance where fuel may be impossible to obtain after hours.

4.8. LFO Trailer

A LFO trailer containing all necessary overnight camping gear and provisions will be based at the Stirling Range National Park headquarters for use by visiting fire crews during large fire emergencies in the region. In addition caravan facilities may be available from time to time at selected outstations

I N V E N T O R Y

PART B

1. OFFICE STAFF

ALBANY DISTRICT

ALBANY OFFICE AND TEMPORARY RHQ		098	414088	
REGIONAL MANAGER	- JOHN WATSON	098	415373	A/HRS
REGIONAL SUPERVISOR	- TERRY PASSMORE	098	412762	"
OPERATIONS OFFICER	- Vacant		-	
FOREST RANGER	- GLYN YATES	098	413170	"
WILDLIFE OFFICER	- RAY SMITH	098	446312	"
WILDLIFE OFFICER	- LES COYNE	098	<del>413869</del>	"
WILDLIFE OFFICER	- PETER COLLINS	098	417403	"

ESPERANCE DISTRICT

ESPERANCE OFFICE		090	713733	
FORESTER	- KLAUS TIEDEMANN	090	711370	A/HRS
WILDLIFE OFFICER	- BERNIE HABERLEY	090	713686	"

2. FIELD STAFF

ALBANY DISTRICT

WILLIAM BAY NATIONAL PARK

NATIONAL PARK RANGER	- LEE ROGERS	098	409255	
----------------------	--------------	-----	--------	--

TORNDIRUP NATIONAL PARK

NATIONAL PARK RANGER	- (R.I.C) JACK ANDREWS	098	412032	
NATIONAL PARK RANGER	- STEVE KEELAN	098	444090	

TWO PEOPLES BAY NATURE RESERVE

RESERVE MANAGEMENT OFFICER	- GRAEME FOLLEY	098	464276	
----------------------------	-----------------	-----	--------	--

PORONGURUP NATIONAL PARK

NATIONAL PARK RANGER	- STEVE STRACHAN	098	531095	
----------------------	------------------	-----	--------	--

STIRLING RANGE NATIONAL PARK

NATIONAL PARK RANGER	- (R.I.C) BRAD COCKMAN	098	279230	
NATIONAL PARK RANGER	- PHIL GRAY	098	279278	

FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK

NATIONAL PARK RANGER	-	(R.I.C) MARTIN LLOYD	098	355043
NATIONAL PARK RANGER	-	GEOFF KEEN	098	374025
NATIONAL PARK RANGER	-	Vacant	098	383060

ESPERANCE DISTRICT

STOKES NATIONAL PARK / PEAK CHARLES

NATIONAL PARK RANGER	-	Vacant	090	768541
----------------------	---	--------	-----	--------

CAPE LE GRAND NATIONAL PARK

NATIONAL PARK RANGER	-	IAN SOLOMAN	090	759022
----------------------	---	-------------	-----	--------

CAPE ARID NATIONAL PARK

NATIONAL PARK RANGER	-	CHRIS HART	090	750055
----------------------	---	------------	-----	--------

3. ADJOINING REGIONS & STATE OPERATIONS HEADQUARTERS

SOHQ

HEAD OFFICE : COMO		09	367 6333	
PRINCIPAL FIRE OFFICER	- J. SMART	097	52 3737	A/HRS
SENIOR FIRE OFFICER	- R. SNEEUWJAGT	09	367 9831	"

SOUTHERN FOREST REGION

MANJIMUP OFFICE		097	711988	
A/REGIONAL MANAGER	- G. HEBERLE	097	711252	A/HRS
SENIOR DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER	- A. WALKER	097	711871	"
SENIOR DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER	- A. LUSH	097	711733	"
SENIOR DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER	- P. JONES	097	711614	"

WALPOLE DISTRICT

OFFICE		098	401027	
--------	--	-----	--------	--

WHEATBELT REGION

KATANNING OFFICE AND TEMPORARY RHQ		098	211296	
REGIONAL MANAGER	- K. WALLACE	098	211282	A/HRS
RESERVES OFFICER	- M. GRAHAM	098	211434	"

GOLDFIELDS REGION

KALGOORLIE OFFICE		090	212095	
A/REGIONAL MANAGER	- I. KEALLEY	090	211807	A/HRS

4. C A L L S I G N S

(VL 6 DE)

REGIONAL OFFICE

6DE ALBANY OFFICE

JOHN WATSON

(6 DE) ALBANY 1

TERRY PASSMORE

ALBANY 2

OPERATIONS OFFICER

ALBANY 3

GLYN YATES

ALBANY 4

RAY SMITH

WILDLIFE 16

PETER COLLINS

WILDLIFE 8

LES COYNE

WILDLIFE 29

KLAUS TIEDEMANN

ESPERANCE 1

BERNIE HABERLEY

WILDLIFE 12

TONY BYRNE

ESPERANCE 6

BILL RUSSELL

ESPERANCE 3

LEE ROGERS

WILLIAM BAY 1

JACK ANDREWS

TORNDIRRUP 1

STEVE KEELAN

TORNDIRRUP 2

STEVE STRACHAN

PORONGURUPS 1

BRAD COCKMAN

STIRLINGS 1

PHIL GRAY

STIRLINGS 2

MARTIN LLOYD

FITZGERALD 1

GEOFF KEEN

FITZGERALD 2

Vacant

FITZGERALD 3

IAN SOLOMAN

CAPE LE GRAND 1

CHRIS HART

CAPE ARID 1

GRAEME FOLLEY

TWO PEOPLES BAY 1

5.

S H I R E S

**SHIRE OF DENMARK**  
STRICKLAND STREET

DENMARK 6333 PH: 098 481106

CFCO MR OWEN McINTOSH PH: 098 481344

**SHIRE OF ALBANY**

MERCER ROAD

ALBANY 6330 PH: 098 412311

CFCO MR STAN NEGRI PH: 098 443235

**SHIRE OF PLANTAGENET**

LOWOOD ROAD

MOUNT BARKER 6324 PH: 098 511344

CFCO MR RON WILLIS PH: 098 551020

**SHIRE OF GNOWANGERUP**

28 YUGENUP ROAD

GNOWANGERUP 6335 PH: 098 271007

CFCO MR KEITH DAVIS PH: 098 276017

**SHIRE OF CRANBROOK**

GATHORNE STREET

CRANBROOK 6321 PH: 098 261008

CFCO MR RON DENNEY PH: 098 343049

**SHIRE OF DUNDAS**

PRINCEP STREET

NORSEMAN 6443 PH: 090 391205

CFCO TO BE APPOINTED

**SHIRE OF ESPERANCE**

WINDICH STREET

ESPERANCE 6450 PH: 090 711666

CFCO MR DON MARCH PH: 090 750022

**SHIRE OF JERRAMUNGUP**

VASEY STREET

JERRAMUNGUP 6337 PH: 098 351022

CFCO MR JIM SAUNDERS PH: 098 355032

**SHIRE OF RAVENSTHORPE**

20 MORGAN STREET

RAVENSTHORPE 6346

PH: 098 381001

CFCO

MR ROD DAW

PH: 098 381018

**ALBANY TOWN**

YORK STREET

ALBANY 6330

PH: 098 412333

CFCO

MR PETER CRAWFORD

PH; 098 411568

AIRCRAFT HIRE

ALBANY - Beeck Aviation Phone 415562  
Cessna 206 High Wing Seat 6  
Rate \$130 per hour

ESPERANCE - Esair Pty Ltd Phone 712162



## PART C

### LARGE FIRE ORGANISATION

#### STAFF DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

NOTE: The information presented here is selectively extracted from the 35 page departmental booklet on Large Fire Organisations

## LARGE FIRE ORGANIZATION — AN EXPLANATION

### THE NEED FOR A LARGE FIRE ORGANISATION

Fire fighting is always in the nature of an emergency operation. It calls for fast, aggressive and efficient action. To achieve such action, good organisation of fire fighting forces is essential. Without good organisation, disastrous consequences brought about by uncertainty, slowness, conflicts in authority, and lack of teamwork are likely. Thus, the chance to control a fire at small size, or later to prevent it becoming a damaging conflagration is lost.

Case histories of past wildfires exposed the need for a preplanned large fire organisation that ensures that all the function required to combat and control a wildfire are catered for by trained personnel.

### WHAT CONSTITUTES A LARGE FIRE?

The "large fire" may be defined as a single, or series of multiple fires which require men, equipment and organisation beyond that available and within the control of the local District fire organisation.

## PRINCIPLES OF L.F.O.'S

Large fire organizational requirements parallel those of military practise in the relationships of the private soldier to officers!in command positions. These proven organisations are based on certain principles. The three most important are unity of command, span of control, and organisation of function.

To achieve, unity of command each person must know to whom he reports and who reports to him. He should not be expected to report to more than one superior. He must have a clearly defined responsibility and the specific authority needed to enable him to discharge that responsibility.

A second important principle is to avoid exceeding the span of control. This is the practical limit to the number of men or organisation units one person can direct successfully. Exceeding the span of control is a common failure. When a fire escapes control and reaches threatening proportions, the fire boss too often tries to carry on with a constantly enlarged force of men and machines without taking time to organise properly.

Experience indicates that reasonable limits to span of control for the following positions are accordingly:

Crew Leader - not more than 6 men

Sector Boss - not more than 3 gangs

Fire Boss - not more than 4 sector bosses

Controller - not more than 2 active large fires.

Time and distance also enter into these relationships. For example, the ability of a Sector Boss to supervise several gangs of men through their Crew Leaders will depend on the length of the designated sector, so that if a gang on his sector cannot be reached quickly because of distance or lack of communication when emergency decisions are required, authority to make such decisions must be further delegated or some re-organisation affected to ensure against critical delay.

A third principle requirement of large fire suppression is the need for organisation by functions. Four broad groupings of the essential functions can be recognised. These are termed:

1. The Control (or Command) function.
2. The Intelligence (Plans) function.
3. The Suppression (or Line) function.
4. The Supply (Service) function.

The Control Function must remain clear-cut. There must be only one Controller and the line of authority must be clear. The responsibility should be his until he is relieved, although he may be given assistance as necessary to keep his duties within manageable proportions. For example, the District Liaison Officer runs the District with regard to all activities not connected with the fire, as well as being responsible for liaison with outside organisations in all matters whether connected with the fire or otherwise.

The Intelligence Function provides the Controller with information and predictions on fire behaviour, weather forecasts, maps, manpower and equipment requirements and relative costs and benefits of alternative fire fighting strategies.

The Suppression Function involves the organisation of work on the fire line. It is the Fire Boss's job to supervise the execution of the suppression strategy laid down by the Controller. He does this by selecting and applying the most suitable tactics by way of co-ordinating the activities on each of the sectors. The suppression job involves not only the containment of running fire, but also the mop-up of all perimeters. This function includes the "Environmental Advisor" role which involves advise on all environmental aspects (e.g., dieback, soil erosion, landscape values) and on local knowledge (e.g., location of best access, fire trials etc).

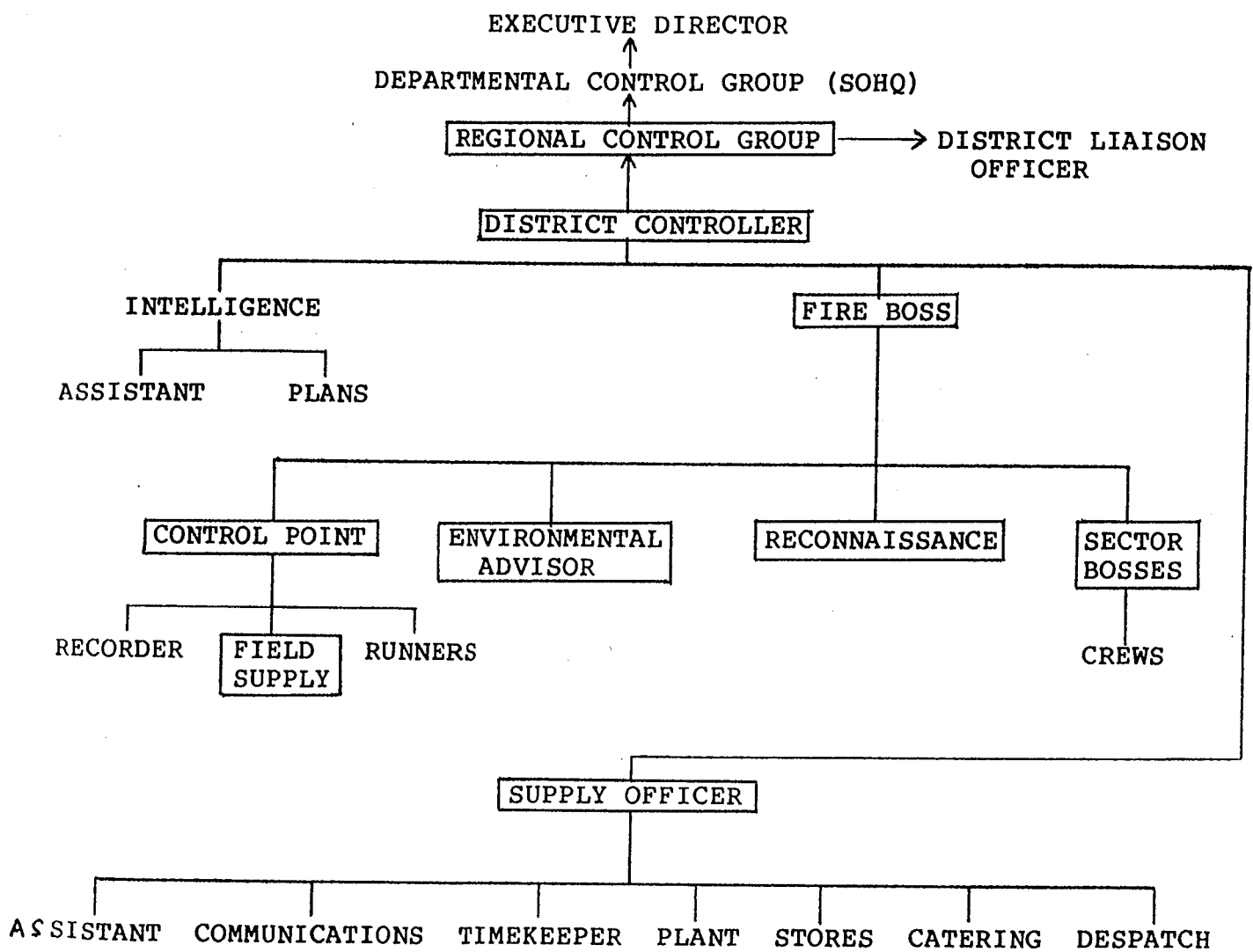
The Supply Function is essential on all fires, but becomes increasingly complex when large numbers of men, and mechanized equipment is required. The supply function is responsible to the Controller and directs the activities of the Communication Officer, Plant Officer, Despatch, Caterer, Storeman, and Time Keeper. Through these officers he arranges for procurement and despatch of all fire fighting resources (men, machines, stores and fuel), food and accommodation, and communications. The function maintains the headquarters message centre and keeps records on the movement of personnel, machinery, shift changes, and costs incurred around the fire face.

On many fires, not all of these functions are carried out by separate staff, and the order in which officers are added may vary as well. Yet each of the four functions must be served in some way. Consequently a clearly defined model organisation for large fires provides useful guidelines. Such a model and the roles and responsibilities of all L.F.O. staff are provided in this L.F.O. booklet.

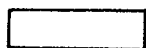
---

## L.F.O. CHAIN OF COMMAND

### FUNCTIONS AND LINE OF RESPONSIBILITY



NOTE: MORE THAN ONE FUNCTION MAY BE FILLED BY ONE PERSON.



## REGIONAL CONTROL GROUP

---

### RESPONSIBLE TO DEPARTMENTAL CONTROLLER

Subject to Departmental requirements sets priorities for utilisation of fire fighting resources within the region.

Arranges inter-regional supply of men and equipment.

Arranges resources not readily available to the districts.

Provides Department Control Group with situation reports.

Maintains close liaison with district controller and arranges supply of relief forces including shift and fire costs.

Monitors public safety, dieback hygiene requirements and fire costs.

Checks weather forecasts and forwards planning on fire strategy.

Liaises with other organisations at regional level.

Prepares media information for checking or dissemination by Departmental Control Group.

## DISTRICT CONTROLLER

---

SOLELY RESPONSIBLE TO REGIONAL CONTROLLER for the overall organisation and direction of the fire suppression operation within the district.

Decides the initial attack force and nominates a person to direct its despatch.

Completes controllers Fire Suppression Guide and checklists.

Sets up large fire organisation - using the following guidelines:

- (a) Once three or more gangs are committed on one or more fires.
- (b) When the fire danger index is in excess of 140 m/hr.

Responsible for performance, welfare and safety of all personnel at the fire.

Prepares a plan of action to achieve control of the fire with due regard to the objectives laid down in existing Fire Management Plan for the area.

Ensures that Dieback Quarantine and Hygiene requirements are met for all aspects of the fire.

Designates sectors.

Maintains controllers notes to record decisions taken and reasons for them.

Inspects critical sectors of the fire - once per shift if it is logistically possible.

Calls and conducts briefing sessions for senior staff on the fire.

Designates the relief force required, and briefs the relieving Controller.

Prepares handing-over report at change-of-shift.

Prepares situation report for Regional Controller and other senior staff as required.

### In Conjunction with Regional Controller

Carries out priorities set by Regional Control.

Prepares information for new media for checking or dissemination by Departmental Control Group.

Organises fire fighting forces and anticipates the need for additional resources for each section of the organisation. Discusses and organises the time and level of scaling down the organisation.

Reviews performance on completion of exercise and recommends remedial action.

## SUPPLY OFFICER

---

### RESPONSIBLE TO THE CONTROLLER

Responsible to the Controller for the organisation of the supply section.

Procures all fire fighting resources including men, machines, stores and fuel.

Arranges, through the caterer, feeding and accommodation for ALL personnel.

Anticipates the likely supply problems and advises the Controller.

Advises the Intelligence Officer of movements of men and equipment.

Ensures shift changes are arranged to consider excessive penalties and overtime costs provided under the industrial agreement for field staff and employees when fire fighting.

Procures adequate radio and telephone communications and supervises the headquarters message centre.

Investigates reported accidents.

Arranges to keep DHQ clean and tidy.

<u>Controls directly</u>	Assistant Supply Officer
	Communications Officer
	Timekeeper
	Plant Officer
	Storeman
	Caterer
	Despatcher



## FIRE BOSS

---

### SOLELY RESPONSIBLE TO THE CONTROLLER

Solely responsible to the Controller for directing and supervising all work on the fire face.

Selects and applies the most suitable tactics to achieve the strategic plan of control laid down by the Controller.

Ensures Dieback Quarantine and Hygiene procedure are maintained at the fire.

Maintains "Fire Boss" Dieback hygiene checklists.

Obtains the strategic plan and alternative course of action from the Controller.

Keeps himself informed of conditions and progress on the fire face and regularly inspects trouble sectors of the fire line.

Maintains contact with his sector bosses and informs them of his movements and of any changes in the plan of action.

Informs the Controller of the conditions and progress of the fire.

Anticipates problems and the requirements for additional or surplus resources, briefs sector bosses on the fire situation and behaviour, sector boundaries, work required, tactics to be employed.

Allots crews to sector and co-ordinates work between sectors.

Briefs the incoming fire boss on the situation personally on completion of a shift (the new fire boss will carry out all shift changes).

Sets up and operates from a control point headquarters.

## APPENDIX — FIRE BOSS CHECKLIST

---

### BEFORE ARRIVAL AT FIRE

Obtain basic information on:

1. Fire location
2. Forces despatched
3. Despatch instructions for incoming forces
4. Intelligence information (values at risk, fuels, fire behaviour).
5. Weather forecast
6. Consider strategies and alternatives
7. Action for fire cause investigation.

### ON ARRIVAL AT FIRE

1. Obtain PAFTACC information for Controller
2. Establish Control Point
3. Confirm strategy and tactics with Controller
4. Sectorize and allocate forces
5. Brief crews
6. Resources adequate? Request additions if required.
7. Communication arrangements - including other organisations.

### DURING FIRE

1. Maintain regular progress reports:
    - from the fire via Sector Bosses and Field Inspectors
    - to the Controller
  2. Plan ahead, watch for changes in weather, fire behaviour, danger spots, etc.
  3. Safety (crews, neighbours, public)
  4. Supply (food, fuel, etc)
  5. Maintain liaison with other organisations (B.F.B., Shires, etc)
  6. Check requirements and hire arrangements of contract machines
  7. Departure arrangements for outgoing forces
  8. Brief incoming Fire Boss.
-

## SECTOR BOSS

---

SOLELY RESPONSIBLE TO THE FIRE BOSS for directing and supervising all work in his sector.

### DUTIES:

Obtains definition of his sector:  
instructions on work to be done.  
tactics decided by the Fire Boss

Briefs his crew leaders.

Allots, co-ordinates and supervises the work of the crews and plant assigned to him.

Is responsible for the performance, safety and welfare of personnel in his sector.

Regularly - inspects work progress and quality  
- assesses fire situation and behaviour  
- maintains contact with his crew leaders and informs them of his movements.

Ensures that dieback hygiene requirements are met.  
Completes and implements dieback checklist.

Ensures that meal breaks and rest periods are taken in accordance with AWU requirements, allowing for the fire situation.

Remains on his sector unless otherwise directed.

Reports to the fire Boss about:

work progress  
fire situation and behaviour  
anticipated problems  
possible courses of action  
the need for more resources or any surplus to requirements.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISOR

---

### RESPONSIBLE TO FIRE BOSS

Provides advice on objectives, strategies and requirements of the environmental and ecological requirements of the Fire Management Plan for the area.

Advises on firebreak locations and conditions.

Advises on dieback disease location, precautions, and washdown sites. Advises on known location of rare and endangered wildlife species.

Advises on potential for soil erosion, dune stability and need for soil rehabilitation.

Advises on potential visual impact resulting from suppression activities.

This function may be allocated to local Reserve Managers, National Park Rangers or Ecology Research Officer.

## CONTROL POINT OFFICER

---

### DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THE FIRE BOSS

Sets up a control point at a designated locality and directs control point staff in the absence of the Fire Boss.

### IMPORTANT

When selecting a control point ensure the following conditions are met:

- (a) Communication - site is suitable for VHF radio
- (b) Access - has good access (through if possible), for incoming crews and heavy plant
- (c) Safety - area is safe from being burnt out by the fire.

Maintains a map and movements board showing fire situation and disposition of forces.

Arranges adequate communications and supervises recording.

In the absence of the Fire Boss -

Receives messages concerning the fire situation, briefs field staff and crew leaders.

## RECONNAISSANCE OFFICER

---

### DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THE FIRE BOSS

Directly responsible to the fire boss and reports to him on:

Location of fire edge

Location of suspect or known dieback areas

Work progress

Track conditions

Water supplies

Signposting

Any allied intelligence required by Fire Boss.

## FIELD SUPPLY OFFICER

---

RESPONSIBLE TO THE FIRE BOSS OR HIS DEPUTY

Requests, receives and despatches as directed by the Fire Boss.

- Stores
- Men
- Equipment
- Fuel
- Food and Supplies

Organises catering.

Advises movements of men and materials to control point officer.

When necessary arranges marshalling of stores, men and equipment at the control point.

Arranges transport of equipment and repairs to vehicles around the fire.

Directs runners and mechanics.