

LIGHTNING?

LIGHTING FIRES GNANGARA PLANTATION

5/1/73

RECAPITULATION

A meeting of all Staff was held at Wanneroo today to discuss the above.

REASONS FOR SUCCESS

The basic principle of successful fire control applied, viz. rapid detection and attack. All personnel are again congratulated on their efforts.

Following an intelligent tower report, one HD was deployed to the general area a few minutes before the strikes. Towermen had been told to forgo lunch break.

WHERE CAN WE IMPROVE?Communications

- (1) Again the need for a new office at Wanneroo was demonstrated.
- (2) VHF reception was noisy. Although it did not affect us, channel 2 was coming through on 3 and Como Fire Control could not monitor.
- (3) Our FD phone box on the junction of Warbrook and Silver Roads was well placed as a Control Point. Use of the phone took pressure off radio and made communication positive.
This phone line is invaluable and we must
 - (a) Put field phone with suitable leads in Gnangara HD and have another held at Wanneroo. Regular two weekly test. On all phone batteries show dates where installed.
 - (b) Accelerate construction of the field cable layer. Phone could then reach most of the plantation if required.
 - (c) Call sign for a phone on this line will be ..
 - (d) List of call signs to be in phone box. (G.K. to fix)
- (4) VHF radio traffic. This was generally well controlled. However towerman's radio should not be used to discuss smokes when fires are running. All reports on smokes must go to DHQ by phone where available. Some confusion occurred because personnel in the field acted on tower radio reports and DHQ was not aware of action taken.
- (5) Pony radios reached fires but were not required due to small size. More training of staff and O/S is required so they feel completely at home with these sets.
- (6) The multiple fire situation highlights the need for VHF on all HD's. This will mean three more radios for next year. The expenditure will be justified.

Field Efficiency

At the first fire at least, pumper motor was running when H.D. arrived. This is good.

Plans and Location

- (1) The Wanneroo 80 is revised nearly every year and recently there were extensive alterations at Gnangara. All our plans in use are up to date but other Divisions involved and Fire Control should check that they have December 1972 issue. In future F/A Wanneroo will be responsible for advising others involved each time the Wanneroo 80 is revised.
- (2) Although all forces were aware of the fires, the announcement Red Action Group Section Compartment was not put over both radio channels. This should be done by DHQ as each fire occurs. One HD headed to the right compartment in the wrong Section.
- (3) Fuel age plans on 1:12500. Four small plans required for Gnangara plantation. Lack of space at Wanneroo office resulted in a composite plan stuck on at an angle. This is not satisfactory. In future we will send a copy to Fire Control.
- (4) PAFTAC reports were not given well partly due to radio traffic. These are most important to the organisers and must always be given.

Procedure should be set on a wall of office

Condition of Plant

Out of four HD's at Gnangara only two were of any use and in fact put out all three fires.

One Bedford HD was in workshop.
One Blitz broke universal as it drove out. This is a risk we take with these old trucks. It was repaired by its workshop crew and reached control point in quite good time.

All other units including F.L. plow made good time to the control point.

Wanneroo gang was attending a strike near Pinjar with rakes on Kombi. Yanchep gang put out a strike in PP adjoining Gnangara just after the plantation fires.

Due to a misunderstanding Brearly took a ute when he could have taken a L/R. 4x4 vehicles where available must always be taken in preference to 4x2.

Yanchep Inter. with tank and pump was not despatched. NOTE In a Red Action, all vehicles carrying water must go.

PIECE WORK FALLERS

Only one working. We must obtain siren for Treever. It can take some time rounding up a dozen fallers.

In the event of future dry lightning storms we should marshal the fallers when the storm appears.

TIME TAKEN

First Fire	1230 tower report	HD arrived 1256	- 8 miles from HQ.
Second Fire	1237 tower report	HD arrived 1245	
Third Fire	1245 tower report	HD arrived 1313	

STAFF

We have now reached the stage when an additional officer on fire control full time is justified. This should greatly assist overall efficiency.

At present staff is so short that we cannot keep up to the mark. A larger office at Wanneroo will be required.

Metro hydrants

A test indicates normal time taken is:
 Fitting to hydrant - 3 minutes
 Filling tank - 4 minutes

From this we can decide whether or not to travel empty to Metro fires.

D.R. LEJEUNE
 INSPECTOR

WANNEROO
 17/1/73

Distribution

Officer in Charge Gnangara
 Officer in Charge Yanchep
 Officer in Charge Somerville
 Mr Watson, Como
 Fire Control - please show to T/A Birch
 Superintendent Grace, Como
 All Wanneroo Staff to note
 Conservator of Forests - J.B. Campbell to note.

2/2.

CDIA
 2/2/73