Council Policy

Bush Firefighter (Minimum Training Standards)

Purpose

To define the minimum training standards for Volunteer Bush Firefighters to support safe and competent participation in fire response activities, in line with current legislative and hazard management requirements.

Scope

Applies to all registered members of the Shire of Boddington (Shire) Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade members, as well as any other individuals participating in bushfire response activities, including spontaneous volunteers.

Definitions

Term	Meaning
Chief Executive Officer	Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Boddington
DFES	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Hazard Management Agency	The Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner is the Hazard Management Agency (HMA) for fire throughout Western Australia (WA).
Minimum Standard	HMA Recommended Minimum Training Standards for Response Personnel
PPC/E	Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment
State Hazard Plan – Fire	The State Hazard Plan – Fire provides an overview of arrangements for the management of fire in WA and contains information on fire prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery
Spontaneous Volunteer	An unregistered individual who offers assistance during an emergency

Policy Statement

The Shire has a primary duty of care under the Work Health and Safety Act 2020, so far as is reasonably practicable, to ensure that the health and safety of individuals is not put at risk from work carried out as part of its operations. This includes the activities of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades under the control of the Local Government.

The Shire recognises its responsibilities under the State Hazard Plan - Fire to ensure that response personnel are trained and maintained to a standard not less than the minimum recommended by the Hazard Management Agency.

The Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner is the designated Hazard Management Agency for fire across Western Australia.

Ongoing review of training records and alignment with current standards is managed internally by the Shire in coordination with relevant agencies.

Operational Training Standards

To be considered prepared for operational deployment, brigade members are expected to:

- Be registered with a Shire of Boddington Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
- Have completed a Volunteer Firefighter Induction
- Utilise the minimum PPC/E provided by the Shire
- Hold the following training competencies, as outlined in the State Hazard Plan:
    - Bushfire Safety Awareness
    - Firefighting Skills

These training standards reflect the minimum expectation for individuals participating in bushfire suppression and response activities.

Spontaneous Volunteers

Individuals who are not formally registered with a brigade but engage during an incident are expected to have, at a minimum, completed the Rural Fire Awareness training prior to being involved in fireground operations.

Fire Control Officers

To be appointed as a Fire Control Officer by the Chief Executive Officer the volunteer is also required to have completed the DFES Fire Control Officer Program.

Responsible Officer	Executive Manager Development and Community Services
History	Adopted: 26 October 2023 Amended: 24 September 2025
Delegation	
Relevant Legislation	Bush Fires Act 1954 Work Health and Safety Act 2020 Emergency Management Act 2005
Related Documentation	State Hazard Plan – Fire (2025) Bush Fire Division Operating Procedures 2024-2029