Background & Issues

As a result of the Black Cat Creek Bushfire the State Government reviewed all operational Fire Fighting Fleet for crew protection in a "Burn Over" situation. The outcome was to fit out all State Government supplied Fire Fighting Appliances with crew protection measures (burn over blankets, AVL's, role down in cab curtains, in cab air, water deluge system and shielding).

Currently the Shire of Manjimup Bushfire Brigade Network has a number of Shire / Brigade owned appliances that don't meet the current standard for crew protection in a "Burn Over" situation.

Objectives

To minimise the risk to volunteer fire fighters and Council when Shire / Brigade owned firefighting appliances are used in bushfire operational roles.

Area of Application

Shire of Manjimup Bush Fire Brigade Network

Policy Measures

The policy applies to appliances that have been purchased by either the Shire of Manjimup, a Bush Fire Brigade or combination (Shire / Brigade owned appliances). The policy does not apply to private vehicles.

Shire / Brigade owned appliances are not to be used for the following:

- Direct attack when a bushfire is burning in a forest environment.
- Fire investigation when a bushfire is burning in a forest environment.
- Any activity that may place the appliance in a "Burn Over" situation in a forest environment.
- Appliances are not to be used outside of the Shire of Manjimup.

Shire / Brigade owned appliances can be used for the following:

- Approved prescribed burns.
- Runner Vehicle.
- Sector Commander Vehicles, (only where the Sector boundaries are outside of a forest environment).
- Firefighting when a bushfire is burning in low lying heath lands or pasture.
- When the appliance can safely work on a large road network that has two or more escape routes.
- When a Bushfire is burning in a forest environment and has been deemed to be in the "Mop-up" stage.

All Shire / Brigade owned appliances will be fitted as a minimum with a Bushfire Radio and Burn Over Blankets.

All Shire / Brigade owned appliances are not Emergency Services Vehicles and as such cannot be used or operate under Lights and Sirens on route to fires. Where an appliance has Emergency Lighting fitted that appliance can only use those lights when operating on a fire ground.

Appliances

| Appliance | Brigade |
|---|---|
| 1.4 Broad Acre | Walpole |
| 3 x Light Fleet | Northcliffe |
| 1 Light Tanker | Smith Brook |

No additional Shire / Brigade owned appliances will be supported by the Shire of Manjimup.

Administration

Development Services Directorate

Adoption and Date Due for Revision

**ADOPTED 2021**
**REVIEWED AND ADOPTED AUGUST 2025**

**NEXT DUE FOR REVIEW 2029**

**The Administration of this Policy is by Development Services Directorate**