

ES 4 – Bush Fire Brigade Personal Protective Equipment

1 Objectives

To ensure that the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Bush Fire Brigades members have suitable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and that PPE is managed correctly.

2 Policy

The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes currently has ten (10) Bush Fire Brigades, and over 500 registered Bush Fire Brigade Volunteers.

Council receives funding through the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) to provide PPE to its bush fire brigades. Often there is a deficiency on what is received under the ESL and what is required by the Brigades. This Policy is intended to reduce this deficiency.

2.1 Person to be a Registered Member of a Bush Fire Brigade

PPE will only be issued to people who are registered bush fire brigade members as per the Shire's/DFES's membership records.

2.2 PPE will be Supplied to Active Firefighters/Cadets Only

Firefighting PPE will only be supplied to active firefighters and cadets (if applicable) and not to auxiliary members. Other uniforms to be considered for non firefighting members of Bush Fire Brigades.

2.3 PPE to be Handed Out to New Members on Completion of Bush Fire Fighting and Introduction to Fire Fighting Courses

PPE will be supplied to new members upon completion of the Introduction to Fire Fighting Course and Bush Fire Fighters Course.

2.4 PPE will be Replaced on a Fair Wear and Tear Basis

Members requesting replacement overalls or two piece coveralls will need to produce the existing pair for inspection. Helmets will be replaced every 3 years as per the manufacturer's specification or if damaged, before that period. Gloves and Goggles will be replaced on a reasonable as needs basis.

2.5 Brigade Captain or FCO to be Responsible for the Return of PPE from Members that have left the Brigade

Should a member resign from a bush fire brigade, the Brigade Captain, or in his absence, the Brigade FCO is responsible for ensuring that the PPE is returned for reissue to other members.

2.6 Absentee Landowners to be Issued with Second Hand PPE in the First Instance

Should a member of a bush fire brigade be an absentee landowner, they will be issued with second hand PPE which is suitable to be reused in the first instance. If no suitable garments are available, the provision of new PPE to absentee landowners will be considered after residing members PPE requests have been accommodated.

2.7 The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes is Responsible for the purchase of PPE for Brigade Members

The Shire will not reimburse any member or Brigade who purchases PPE and produces a receipt for reimbursement without prior consent from the Chief Executive Officer.

3 Applicable Legislation and Documents

Act	s.2.7(2)(b) <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> – The council is to determine the local government’s policies <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2020</i> <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>
Regulation	<i>Work Health and Safety (General) Regulations 2022</i> <i>Bush Fire Regulations 1954</i>
Local Law	Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Bush fire Brigades Local Law
Shire Policies	N/A
Related Documents	N/a
Related Procedure	N/A

4 Administration

Original Adoption Date	27 July 2006
Last Reviewed	24 November 2022
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