

VicForests Fire Policy

The Threat...

Bushfire is a significant threat to the State of Victoria's communities and forests, and in turn to VicForests, a State-owned business corporation.

Our Commitment

With a vision to be a leader in a sustainable Victorian timber industry, VicForests is committed to the suppression of wildfire in order to protect communities, assets and environmental and cultural values including valuable timber resources.

Our Contribution

VicForests contributes its skilled staff and contractor resources to wildfire suppression as a member of the Networked Emergency Organisation (NEO) and in accordance with a detailed Bushfire Management Agreement.

The NEO includes the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water and VicForests. The NEO provides over 2,500 full time staff for fire roles and about 700 seasonal project fire-fighters during summer months.

Over 60% of VicForests staff are accredited and experienced in at least one fire suppression or support role. Fifty businesses employing over 300 staff are contracted to VicForests to provide harvest, haul, roading and silvicultural services and be available to assist the NEO in wildfire suppression if required.

Our Commitment to Core Business

During fire suppression campaigns:

- At least one VicForests employee must be available in each office during business hours to deal with unforeseen issues that may arise
- Customers must be able to contact a VicForests regional operations staff member during business hours.

Our Commitment to Fire Suppression

Staff fit for fire duties will be rostered to be available for immediate deployment to first attack for the duration of the first attack operation. All other accredited VicForests staff will respond to first attack requests as a priority where possible.

VicForests will coordinate with DELWP the availability of staff for longer duration deployments, with the general commitment to provide up to 80% of accredited staff to ongoing fire suppression within areas of operation and up to 50% of accredited staff to deployments outside VicForests area of operation.

VicForests is best placed to focus on the provision of fire fighters to work within operations rather than as incident control support staff.

Our Commitment to Training

VicForests aims to maintain fire accreditation for at least 60% of all staff (including 80% of all regionally based staff). VicForests also aims for at least 80% of operational forester staff to gain at least level one front line fire operations accreditation.

Our Commitment to Fire Management Planning

VicForests will actively contribute to the development and sign-off of fire operations plans for areas of operations, including input into forest management issues.

Our Commitment to Fuel Reduction Burning and Regeneration Burning

VicForests has a priority to achieve its regeneration burning program and appreciates DELWP assistance with regeneration burning. VicForests will in turn assist DELWP to achieve its fuel reduction program according to the terms of the VicForests/DELWP Bushfire Management Agreement.