

Attending Fires on Majura Field Firing Range

The ACT Rural Fire Service Chief Officer has issued this standard operating procedure under Section 38(1) of the *Emergencies Act 2004* – A Chief Officer may determine standards and protocols.

Purpose

This standard operating procedure (SOP) provides information for members of the ACT Rural Fire Service (ACT RFS) attending an incident at the Majura Field Firing Range (Range), also known as Majura Military Training Area. It addresses the operational safety issues of conducting fire suppression activities on the Range.

Applicability

This SOP is applicable to all personnel from the ACT RFS, as defined in the *Emergencies Act 2004*, engaged in firefighting operations within the ACT.

Background

The Range is a military training facility that allows Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel to undertake live fire training in the use of ammunition and pyrotechnics. On the Range, there is potential for being in the vicinity of ordnance that might explode as a result of a fire or fire suppression activity.

The main potential sources of fire are the latent heat of ordnance falling on the ground cover of the range or flares continuing to burn after they have reached the ground.

Responsibilities

Members	Must only enter the Range as instructed by the Incident Controller. Should be escorted by Range personnel while on the Range. Must advise ComCen when entering and exiting the Range.
Crew Leaders / Incident Controllers	Must liaise with Range Control Officer (RCO). Must ensure all crew members are aware of risks and conditions of operating within the Range.

Operating procedure

Military standing orders

When an uncontrolled fire occurs:

1. The Range has standing orders that require all users of the Range to immediately cease firing operations and to make the ordnance safe.
2. The Range Control Officer will receive immediate confirmation of each training unit's status and will provide in-coming fire crews with both assistance and information on the location of all personnel on the range.
3. Military personnel within the Range will be evacuated from the immediate area if the fire puts them at risk. However, they may not always have vehicles immediately available and may need to evacuate on foot.

Callout process

The original fire call may be by military units temporarily operating on the range, range personnel (military staff or permanent civilian contractors), by fire towers or the "000" network. Depending on the source of information, the exact location of the fire and therefore the best access may not always be known. The following access instructions apply:

- Unless told otherwise by ComCen, responding units should enter the Range via the Main Gate off Old Majura Road (GR 999984M) and report to the Staging Area at the Range Control Office (GR009974M).
- If instructed to meet at an alternate gate into the Range, under no circumstances should personnel enter the Range without first getting instructions to do so by Range personnel.
- Units must inform ComCen when they are entering and exiting the Range at all times.

Range staff are trained to ACT RFS Bush Firefighter level and have access to RFS TRN radios.

Working within the Range

- Where possible, crews should be escorted at all times by Range personnel while travelling or working within the Range.
- Initial contact is via the Territory Radio Network channel RFS OPS1.
- Unless told otherwise by Range personnel, units and personnel should never leave the formed roads or tracks.
- If crews are conducting suppression activities that move from the adjacent non-military land into the range, they must first request through the Incident Controller, an escort by Range personnel.

Note: Under no circumstances should crews cut Range boundary fences without approval from Range personnel, unless the life and safety of the crew depends on it.

Command arrangements

The suppression of fire on the Range is the responsibility of the Chief Officer, ACT RFS.


- Where a fire requires a simple suppression effort and is small enough for the Range fire appliances to extinguish the fire quickly, the command of the suppression effort is the responsibility of the Range Control Officer or the Ranger Manager
- Where multiple response agencies are required or where fire suppression is beyond the Range resources, an Incident Controller will be appointed from the ACT RFS or ACT Fire and Rescue (ACTF&R). The appointed Incident Controller has the same powers to suppress a fire as they would in other non-urban areas of the ACT. Firefighting resources belonging to the Range will work under direction of the appointed Incident Controller.

Document information

Version history

Author	Version	Version Approval Date	Summary of Changes
Andrew Stark	1.0	15/02/2011	SOP 3.3
Rohan Scott	2.0	12/03/2020	Reviewed and reformatted
Greg Potts	3.0	28/06/2021	Administrative Review

Approved by

Name	Title/Role	Signature	Date
Rohan Scott	CO ACTRFS		23.07.21

Document Owner

Position	Section
Director	Operations

Next review due: 12/03/2022

Related documents

Document name
Emergencies Act 2004
2.2.13 Response Standard Operating Procedure
Work Health and Safety Act 2011
Riskman Incident Reporting form

Signed documents will be scanned and filed in TRIM.

