

Command Vehicle Use

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

Purpose

This service standard describes the use of ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS) command vehicles by ACTRFS members.

Scope

This service standard applies to all ACTRFS staff and personnel from the ACT Rural Fire Service brigades, as defined in the Emergencies Act 2004.

Background

An ACTRFS command vehicle is used during operations by Service Members for command and control activities, observing fire behaviour, providing support to operations and evaluating suppression effectiveness.

ACTRFS vehicles, including command vehicles, should only be used for official RFS purposes except where approval has been obtained from the RFS Chief Officer or their delegate as described in 1.1.1 Proper use of RFS Property and Equipment Service Standard.

Responsibilities

Brigade Captain	Manages command vehicles. Develops arrangements for non-incident use for the brigade.
ACTRFS Duty Officer ACTRFS Director, Operations	Approves temporary home garaging of brigade command vehicles for operational or training activities. Authorises Emergency Response driving as per SOP 2.2.15.

Service standard

Use of ACTRFS command vehicles

ACTRFS command vehicles may be used for the following purposes when attending an incident or during an operation:

- command and control of an incident or fireground
- observation of fire behaviours
- evaluation of fire suppression activities
- operational support
- for the use of the ACTRFS Duty Officer.

Operational support can include carrying supplies, such as replenishing supplies of drinking water, minor food needs, foam, hoses and other equipment and personnel associated with the activity. It also includes community liaison activities during an incident.

When transporting people, the driver and passengers must all wear fitted seat belts. The vehicle must not carry any more people than there are seat belts fitted to the vehicle. All passengers must be members of the ACTRFS, ACT Government employees or being transported for operational or emergency reasons.

As described in 2.2.15 Emergency Response Driving Standard Operating Procedure, a command vehicle should normally attend an incident in Proceed mode, obeying all road rules. However, if authorised as in SOP 2.2.15, a command vehicle can only be driven in Emergency Response mode if there is more than one person travelling in the vehicle and the driver is qualified for this mode of driving.

On no account can the brigade command vehicle be used for personal purposes, except when the rostered Brigade Officer is using it to travel between work and home or brigade shed during periods of EXTREME (or above) fire danger.

Managing command vehicle use

The ACTRFS Brigade Captain is responsible for management of the brigade command vehicle. Each brigade is responsible for developing its own brigade arrangements for non-incident use. These arrangements must comply with other ACTRFS policies, service standards and standard operating procedures, especially 1.1.1, Proper Use of RFS Property and Resources Service Standard and 1.1.3 Community Ed and Non-fire Ops Activity Service Standard.

Garaging command vehicles

Brigade command vehicles may only be garaged at the brigade shed, or a location approved by the ACTRFS Director, Operations or the ACTRFS Duty Officer as described below.

Home garaging may be approved for operational readiness or to attend training activities. This must be approved by the ACTRFS Director, Operations or the ACTRFS Duty Officer.

For periods when the fire danger rating is EXTREME or above, approval is given for the rostered Brigade Officer:

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- during work hours, to take the command vehicle to their workplace, provided there is an agreement with the rostered Brigade Officer's employer for that to occur and the officer is available for immediate response if required.
- outside work hours, to home garage the brigade command vehicle, provided it is within reasonable distance of the brigade shed and is available for immediate response.

Note: The ACTRFS Duty Officer MUST be notified if a brigade command vehicle is being stood up away from the brigade.

Document information

Version history

Author	Version	Version Approval Date	Summary of Changes
Andrew Stark	1.0	15/02/2011	Previously SOP 1.14
Rohan Scott	2.0	10/08/2020	Reviewed and adapted to new template, numbering and updated policies.
Steve Quinlan	3.0	30/03/2023	Reviewed and updated to AFDRS FDI

Approved by

Name	Title/Role	Signature	Date
Rohan Scott	CO ACTRFS		09/02/2024

Document Owner

Position	Section
RFS Director	Operations

Next review due: 01/02/2027

Related documents

Document name
1.1.1 Proper use of RFS Property and Resources Service Standard
1.1.3 Community Ed and Non-fire Ops Activity Service Standard
2.2.15 Emergency Response Driving Standard Operating Procedure
3.1.1 Code of Conduct and Ethics of RFS Members Service Standard
3.1.13 Driving RFS Vehicles Service Standard
ACTRFS Emergency Response Driving Policy
ACT Public Sector Management Standards

Signed documents will be scanned and filed in TRIM.