



ACT Rural Fire Service  
Standard Operating Procedure 1.23  
**Alcohol Consumption and RFS  
Activities**

**1.23**  
Administrative  
Management

### Purpose

To ensure that RFS and its members, in line with ACT Government Legislation, practices and procedures, promotes the legal use and responsible attitude towards the consumption of alcohol during RFS activities or where members are in uniform/PPE.

### Operating Procedure

1. Under no circumstance is alcohol or other illicit substances to be consumed in or on RFS vehicles, at any incident, training, brigade, prevention or promotional activity by any member.
2. Members must not consume alcohol whilst wearing uniform/PPE unless at functions endorsed by the Chief Officer.
3. Members must remember that when consuming alcohol, whilst wearing items of clothing such as brigade t-shirts, hats, etc, (items that identify individuals as members of RFS) that they must abide by SOP 1.10 Code of Conduct and Ethics of RFS members.
4. Alcohol may be kept at Brigade premises for responsible consumption when the Brigade and its members are deemed to be off duty. However as above, it may not be consumed during any operational, training, etc, activities. Brigade premises may be declared alcohol free by a Brigade Captain.
5. The Chief Officer may declare a brigade premises to be alcohol free for a given period as deemed necessary for the wellbeing of the service and its members.
6. A driver of an RFS vehicle is to have a blood alcohol reading of less than 0.02, for vehicles with a GVM of greater than 15 tonnes the blood alcohol reading is to be nil. It is recommended that any member who is about to go on a call-out or stand-by roster should refrain from consuming alcohol at least 12 hours prior to the start of their rostered duty.
7. Any Brigade Officer who suspects a member of being under the influence of alcohol or other illicit substance must prohibit that member from driving, as well as any other service activity (as described above) and, if practicable, remove that member from the activity. Before that member can return the officer must be satisfied that he or she is no longer under the influence of alcohol or other illicit substances.
8. Due to the hazardous nature of fire fighting duties, no exemptions will be given in the application of these procedures.

### Safety Considerations

Responding to incidents and fire ground dangers are not to be taken lightly. Training and officer leadership will set the patterns for safe overall operations, but each member must care for themselves and watch for the safety of others. Alcohol, driving and fire fighting do not mix.

**Maintained By:** Manager, Membership

**Approved By:** Andrew Stark

**Position:** Chief Officer