



ACT Rural Fire Service  
Standard Operating Procedure 1.2  
**Broadcast Fire Weather**

**1.2**  
Administrative  
Management

**Purpose**

This procedure is to be used by the ESA Communications Centre (COMCEN) when a "Fire Weather Forecast" from the Bureau of Meteorology is received.

**Operating Procedure.**

The COMCEN operator responsible for RFS communications will:

**ADVISE THE RFS DUTY OFFICER (RFS DO)**

For the routine daily Fire Weather Forecasts, contact the RFS DO between 0700 and 0730 hours, and between 1600 and 1630 hours and pass on the fire weather details outlined on the fire weather forecast.

Whenever the Bureau of Meteorology provides COMCEN with a non-routine Fire Weather Forecast, immediately contact the RFS DO and pass on the fire weather details outlined on the fire weather forecast.

**COMCEN OPERATOR TO BROADCAST THE FIRE WEATHER AND READINESS**

COMCEN will broadcast the fire weather and readiness level three times a day, being at 0735hrs on weekdays and 15 minutes after unit stand up on weekends and public holidays, also at 1630hrs and also at 1915hrs daily. The RFS DO may require COMCEN to broadcast special fire weather forecasts or fire weather alerts.

Each day during the bushfire season, or when the RFS DO requires it, fire weather forecasts will be broadcast on RFS Ops 1 and ESA 1 (except any channels allocated to incident use). This fire weather forecast is to be broadcast by COMCEN at the following times:

Readiness	Workdays			Weekends and Public Holidays		
	Early Broadcast	Afternoon Broadcast	Evening Broadcast	Early Broadcast	Afternoon Broadcast	Evening Broadcast
<b>Nil</b>	0740	1630	1915	1305	1630	1915
<b>Level 1</b>	0740	1630	1915	1305	1630	1915
<b>Level 2</b>	0740	1630	1915	1305	1630	1915
<b>Level 3</b>	0740	1630	1915	1205	1630	1915
<b>Level 4</b>	0740	1630	1915	1105	1630	1915
<b>Level 5</b>	0740	1630	1915	1005	1630	1915



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In order to allow the field units time to get ready to record the weather, the COMCEN operator will broadcast the following message on RFS Ops 1 and ESA 1 (except any channels allocated to incident use) two minutes before the fire weather broadcast times:

**“All units, all units, this is COMCEN, the fire weather forecast will be broadcast in 2 minutes, COMCEN out.”**

When the fire weather forecast is due to be broadcast, the message is transmitted on RFS Ops 1 and ESA 1:  
(For the morning broadcast only)

**“All units, all units, this is COMCEN, the fire weather forecast for today is as follows -...”**

(for the afternoon and evening broadcasts only)

**“All units, all units, this is COMCEN, the fire weather forecast for tonight and tomorrow is as follows...”**

***DIFFICULTIES***

If there is an on-going incident and the COMCEN operator cannot get the air space to transmit the fire weather forecast, broadcast the following message:

**“All units, all units, this is COMCEN, the fire weather forecast will be delayed for ... minutes, COMCEN out.”**

Under these circumstances, special arrangements for broadcast times may be put in place by the RFS DO. If the afternoon fire weather broadcast is to be delayed by 30 minutes or more, the RFS DO will, if possible, contact all Land Management Agency Representatives by 1650 hours and advise them of the delay.

**Maintained By:** Manager, Operations

**Approved By:** Andrew Stark

**Position:** Chief Officer RFS

**Signature:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Andrew Stark', written over a light green rectangular background.

**Date:** 15/02/2011

**Cross Reference SOP/s:** SOP 1.8 Hourly fire tower weather broadcasts  
SOP 1.16 Readiness and TOBAN declarations



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**Amendments:**