



ACT Rural Fire Service
Standard Operating Procedure 3.3
**Attendance at Fires On Majura
Field Firing Range**

3.3
Operational
Management

Purpose

This procedure provides guidance to ACT Rural Fire Service members attending an incident at the Majura Field Firing Range. The Range is a military training facility that allows Defence Force personnel to undertake live fire training in the use of ammunition and pyrotechnics. Therefore there is potential for being in the vicinity of ordnance that might explode as a result of a fire or fire suppression activity. This SOP addresses the operational safety issues of conducting fire suppression activities on the Range.

Operating Procedure.

MILITARY STANDING ORDERS

When an uncontrolled fire occurs, the Range has standing orders that require all users of the Range to immediately cease firing operations and to make the ordnance safe. The Range Control Officer will receive immediate confirmation of each training units status, and will provide in-coming fire crews with both assistance and information on the location of all personnel on the range. 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. Therefore, the evacuation may need to be made on foot.

PROCESS FOR CALLOUT

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. The original fire call may be by military units temporarily operating on the range, range personnel (military staff or permanent civilian contractors), by the 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. Unless told otherwise by COMCEN, responding units are to enter the Range via the Main Gate off 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 specifically inform COMCEN when they are entering and exiting the Range at all times. The Range staff are trained to ACT RFS Basic Wildfire fighter and have access to the RFS VHF and TRN radio's.

OPERATING WITHIN THE RANGE

Where possible, crews should be escorted at all times by Range personnel whilst travelling or working within the Range. Unless told otherwise by Range personnel, units

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

COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS

The suppression of 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 RFS. The appointed Incident Controller has the same powers to suppress a fire as they would in other non-urban areas of the ACT. Fire fighting resources belonging to the Range will work under direction of the appointed incident controller. Where required unified command is used to facilitate suppression efforts, taking into account the particular local constraints.

Maintained By: Manager, Operations

Approved By: Andrew Stark

Position: Chief Officer RFS



Signature:

Date: 15/02/2011

Cross Reference SOP/s:

Amendments: