



**Contact Information**

Agency	Position / Location	Phone
NPWS	Regional Duty Officer (24 hrs)	02 6641 1500
	Area Manager (Cofts Coast)	02 6652 0900
	Ranger Ngamba Nature Reserve	02 6652 0900
	Fire Management Officer	02 6641 1500
	Regional Operations Coordinator	0427 250 122
	Cofts Coast Area Office	0427 465 785
Rural Fire Service	Duty Officer	02 6652 0900
	Nambucca Fire Control Centre	02 6651 9525 (fax)
	Kempsey Fire Control Centre	02 6562 8607
NSW Fire Brigade	Emergency	000
	Macksville Station	02 6562 1561
SES	Emergency	000
	Nambucca	02 6568 1136
Police	Police Assistance Unit	02 6652 2228
	Police Nambucca Line	131444
Ambulance	Emergency	000
	All other bookings	131233
Hospital	Macksville District Hospital	02 6568 1366
	Kempsey District Hospital	02 6562 6155
DPSNR	Kempsey	02 6561 1212
	24 hour fire calls	02 6652 6900
State Forests	NE Region - Cofts Hbr	02 6652 0111
	Wauchope	02 6585 3744
Council	Nambucca	02 6568 2555
	Unkya - Macksville	02 6568 2786
Aboriginal Land Council	Thungani - Bellbrook	02 6562 2855
	Kempsey	02 6562 8105
	Bowraville	02 6568 7812

**Operational Guidelines**

Refer to Strategy for Fire Management 2003 and Fire Management Manual 2004. Brief all personnel involved in suppression operations on the following issues:

**Resource**

**Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management** (NPWS FPM 4.1.1)

- Information on sites of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance is stored separately for confidentiality. Refer to the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System database (AHIMS) and North Coast Region Cultural Heritage Conservation Officers.

**Historic Heritage Management** (NPWS FPM 4.1.0)

- Sites within the reserve are natural features, which would not be detrimentally affected by fire. If new sites are located consult with a senior NPWS officer.

**Threatened Fauna Management** (NPWS FPM 4.1.2 & 4.1.3)

- Where practicable, protect habitat areas and trees from the fire if the effects of the resulting fire frequency, season &/or intensity will have a significant or unknown impact.
- Where practicable, protect large and hollow-bearing trees.

**Threatened Flora Management** (NPWS FPM 4.1.2)

- FL1 - Avoid the use of earth moving machinery in locations where these species are known to occur. Avoid the use of retardant in locations where these species are known to occur.
- FL2 - As far as possible, exclude all fire from locations where these species are known to occur. Avoid the use of earth moving machinery in locations where these species are known to occur. Avoid the use of retardant in locations where these species are known to occur.

**Threatened Property**

- Where possible property owners with assets at risk from a wildfire event should be kept informed regarding the progress of the fire and asked for an assessment of their current level of asset protection preparedness.

**General**

**Aerial Water Bombing** (NPWS FPM 4.1.1 & NSW Fire Agencies Aviation SOP 02 / NPWS Guidelines for Effective Aircraft Management)

- The use of bombing aircraft should support containment operations by aggressively attacking hotspots and spotters.
- The use of bombing aircraft without the support of ground based suppression crews should be limited to very specific circumstances.
- Where practicable, ground crews must be alerted to water bombing operations.
- Aerial ignition may be used during back-burning or fuel reduction operations where practicable, but only with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer.
- Utilise incendiaries to rapidly progress back-burns down slope where required.

**Backburning** (NPWS FPM 4.3)

- Temperature and humidity trends must be monitored carefully to determine the safest times to implement back-burns. Generally, when the FDI is Very High or greater, backburning should commence when the humidity begins to rise in the late afternoon or early evening. With a lower FDI backburning may be safely undertaken during the day.
- Where practicable, clear a 1m radius around dead and fibrous barked trees adjacent to containment lines prior to backburning, or wet down these trees as part of the backburn ignition.
- Avoid ignition of backburns at the bottom of slopes where a long and intense up slope burn is likely.

**Command & Control** (NPWS FPM 4.2)

- The first combatant agency on site may assume control of the fire, but then must ensure the relevant land management agency is notified promptly.
- On the arrival of other combatant agencies, the initial incident controller will consult with regard to the ongoing command, control and incident management team requirements as per the relevant BPMC Plan of Operations.
- All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location.

**Containment Lines** (NPWS FPM 2.2.3.9)

- Construction of new containment lines should be avoided, where practicable, except where they can be constructed with minimal environmental impact. New containment lines require the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer.
- Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.
- All containment lines not required for other purposes should be closed at the cessation of the incident.
- All personnel involved in containment line construction should be briefed on both natural and cultural heritage sites in the location.

**Earthmoving Equipment** (NPWS FPM 4.2.20, 4.4)

- Earthmoving equipment may only be used with the prior consent of a senior NPWS officer, and then only if the probability of its success is high.
- Earthmoving equipment must be always guided and supervised by an experienced officer, and accompanied by a support vehicle. When engaged in direct or parallel attack this vehicle must be a firefighting vehicle.
- Containment lines constructed by earthmoving equipment should consider the protection of drainage features, observe the Threatened Species and Cultural Heritage Operational Guidelines, and be surveyed, where possible, to identify unknown cultural heritage sites.
- Earthmoving equipment should be washed down, where practicable, prior to entering NPWS estate.

**Fire Advantage Recording**

- All fire advantages used during wildfire suppression operations must be mapped and where relevant added to the database.

**Fire Suppression Chemicals** (NPWS FPM 4.2.20, 4.9)

- Writing and foaming agents (surfactants) are permitted for use in wildfire suppression.
- Exclude the use of surfactants and retardants within 50m of rainforest, watercourses, dams and swamps.
- Areas where fire suppression chemicals are used must be mapped and the used products name recorded.
- The Threatened Species Operational Guidelines are to be observed.

**Rehabilitation** (NPWS FPM 5.1)

- Where practicable, containment lines should be stabilised and rehabilitated as part of the wildfire suppression operation.

**Smoke Management** (NPWS FPM 1.4)

- The potential impacts of smoke and possible mitigation tactics must be considered when planning for wildfire suppression and prescribed burning operations.
- If smoke becomes a hazard on local roads or highways, the police and relevant media must be notified.
- Smoke management must be in accordance with relevant RTA traffic management guidelines.

**Visitor Management** (NPWS FPM 2.6, 4.15)

- The reserve may be closed to the public during periods of extreme fire danger or during wildfire suppression operations.

