

EXERCISE MATERIAL ONLY



Exercise EQUUS

Animals in Emergencies
State Support Plan Discussion Exercise

GENERAL IDEA

The bushfire starts in the Jarrahdale State Forest, east of Byford (longitude -32.218, latitude 116.163). This area falls under the Shire of Armadale, but the fire spreads southwest into the Shire of Serpentine - Jarrahdale.

The area is state forest and comes under the control of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) who will initially be the HMA for the incident. This exercise will commence at the stage where the incident is been handed over to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) as HMA.

DFES will work with the other agencies and local government to enact appropriate plans. This exercise will take place over approximately 9 - 12 hours of real time (spread over two days) which has been condensed into approximately 4 hours of simulated time. The fire occurs in mid-January with mild weather conditions on the first day, which will worsen on the second day of the fire. The area that the fire will initially burn through, is heavily wooded. Access by firefighting appliances is not possible and only water bombing operations can be used to attack the fire. Fuel loads in the area are very high as no fire has impacted on the area in 10+ years.

It is the intention of this exercise to test the 'State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies' in regard to its activation and identified communication networks and strategies. As such, while the Incident Controller may direct resources to fighting the fire, for the purpose of this exercise the effectiveness of suppression activities will be minimal until the fire has spread outside of the state forest. The area to the west of the fire contains numerous farms, horse studs, properties with brand, feedlots and other primary industry. The welfare for the livestock in this area is covered under the 'State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies', with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development as the responsible agency.

EXERCISE MATERIAL ENDS