

# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## Question On Notice

Wednesday, 16 March 2022


### 622. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Emergency Services

- (1) I refer to question without notice 141 asked on 15 March 2022 in relation to approval to visit Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) facilities, and I ask on what dates was DFES circular 13/2022 issued?
- (2) On what date was DFES circular 13/2022 rescinded?
- (3) Will the Minister please table a copy of circular 13/2022?
- (4) Did the Department of Fire and Emergency Services or the FES Commissioner advise the Minister to refuse the request of the Shadow Minister for Emergency Services to visit a Volunteer Marine Rescue Service unit on 2 March 2022 and, if so, on what grounds was that recommendation made?
- (5) Will the Minister please table any document or communication between the Minister, his office and the DFES in relation to the request to visit a DFES facility.?

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### Answer

- (1) – (2) 24 February 2022
- (3) Please see table paper no. #
- (4) – (5) Discussions around visits, resources and the rapidly evolving COVID situation at the time occurred consistently between my office and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. My office had previously approved a briefing for the Member on 7 February 2022 by the FES Deputy Commissioner. My office also supported the Member, as the opposition spokesperson, and the Leader of the Opposition to visit an incident control centre on 10 February 2022 and be briefed by the superintendent. The Shadow Minister was invited and attend the Firefighters Memorial Day Event on Sunday 1 May 2022 in Kings Park. The Leader of the Opposition requested a briefing from the Wheatbelt District Recovery Co-ordinator, which occurred on 3 May 2022. These requests require effort and resources, and are considered on a case-by-case basis. As the Minister for Emergency Services, my movements as the Minister responsible for the portfolio are on the advice from the FES Commissioner and in consideration of operational and other strategic priorities.



Hon Stephen Dawson MLC

**MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES;  
INNOVATION AND ICT; MEDICAL RESEARCH; VOLUNTEERING**



## OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR 13/2022

File: D23237

February 2022

### VOLUNTEER BGUS KEY MESSAGING – COVID OUTBREAK MEASURES

As community transmission occurs in Western Australia, we can expect a sharp rise of cases in the community, including within the volunteer workforce. We ask all volunteers to be flexible and agile as we adapt to the outbreak and continually learn from other jurisdictions.

From 0001hrs 2 March 2022, the following measures will be implemented across all DFES Brigade, Groups, Units and Services (BGUS) to ensure business continuity:

1. All non-operational activities are to cease until further notice. The following will cease:
  - a. Face to face meetings
  - b. Station based training (noting, there will be flexibility with regards to Breathing Apparatus currency requirements)
  - c. Community engagement activities inclusive of building inspections.
2. Restricted equipment checks for high-risk equipment by minimal personnel and limited in frequency dependent on the nature of the equipment – further information will be provided.
3. All formal training courses will cease until further notice, this includes local, Country and Metropolitan Training Calendars.
4. BGU leaders should consider other methods for running theory refresher training, meetings, or keeping the BGU connected such as using online options.

Separation of tasking and personnel at incidents is an important element of maintaining the personnel capability. Hold back-up appliances separate until required. Keeping crews separated as much as possible at incidents when tasking and whilst eating meals or resting is essential to avoid cross BGUS infections.

Volunteers are asked to consider their actions away from the BGUS that may impact the capability of their BGUS. An example is social gatherings with a large number of volunteer members which may affect business continuity.

All options will be considered to ensure that business continuity of the vital volunteer workforce occurs to ensure the community of Western Australia is protected during this State of Emergency.

**CRAIG WATERS AFSM**  
**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS**

Target Audience: Volunteer Brigades, Groups, Units and Services				
A	B	C	D	Vol
O.I.C. is to communicate content to all relevant personnel under their command, discuss implications, and sign appropriate box above. Once completed Circulars shall be filed on station and forwarded to Information Resources at the end of each financial year.				
OC-13-22	Issue Date:	Contact:	Operations	
Page 1 of 1	Feb 2022	metropolitanoperationsexecutive@dfes.wa.gov.au		