



Service Standard 3.1.6

Operational Doctrine

Version	4.0
SOPs	Operational Doctrine Framework
Policy Owner	Deputy Commissioner Preparedness and Capability
Policy Contact	Director Training and Doctrine
Approval Date	20 December 2023
Next Review	20 December 2028

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Service Standard and the Operational Doctrine Framework outline the governance for the development, implementation, and ongoing management of operational doctrine (including procedures and protocols) which are aligned to the values, purpose, and strategic direction of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS).
- 1.2. The Service Standard also connects operational doctrine to the overall RFS policy framework. Operational doctrine as described in this document is consistent with and supports RFS policies and Service Standards.

2. Policy

Context

- 2.1. Operational Doctrine is provided by the RFS to outline factors that must be considered and methods for dealing with incidents and related activities. It frames the operational decisions of members before, during, and after emergency operations; and supports members to perform their role in the preparation for, and delivery of, coordinated firefighting and emergency response.
- 2.2. Operational Performance will be the custodians of, and coordinate the development and review of, all operational doctrine.
- 2.3. RFS operational doctrine is developed in the context of guidance provided by the Australian and New Zealand National Council for Fire and Emergency Services (AFAC), which promote interoperability and consistency across the sector.
- 2.4. Operational doctrine in the RFS supports decisions and actions which are:
 - > **Safe: doctrine** guides members to minimise safety risks to themselves, other members and the community;
 - > **Effective:** doctrine supports reliable and effective operational response; and

- > **Evidence based:** doctrine reflects current industry practice and lessons identified and learned from review and research.

- 2.5. The Deputy Commissioner Preparedness and Capability will approve the development, revision, and distribution of operational doctrine.
- 2.6. The Deputy Commissioner Field Operations will authorise the release and use of operational doctrine.

Precedence of documents

- 2.7. In the case of any conflict between legislation and an RFS policy, document or operational doctrine the legislation will take precedence.
- 2.8. In the case of any conflict between an RFS policy document (as defined in SS 1.5.1 Management of NSW RFS Policy Documents) and operational doctrine, the policy document will take precedence.

3. Definitions

- 3.1. None

4. Document control

Release history

Version	Date	Summary of changes
1.0	1 September 1999	Initial release as Fireground Procedures
1.1	15 October 2001	Repealed and remade v1.0 Clause 7
1.2	9 October 2002	Repealed and remade v1.1 Clause 2.4.2
1.3	23 March 2006	Repealed and remade v1.2 Clauses 2.4.3 and 2.4.4 New SOPs attached: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Fireground SOPs > Prescribed Burning SOPs > Safe Working on Roads SOPs > Base Camp SOPs
1.4	6 September 2007	Repealed and remade v1.3 Prescribed Burning SOPs
2.0	6 August 2008	Repealed and remade v1.4 SS renamed from “Fireground Procedures” to “Fire and Other Incident Operations” New SOPs attached: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Safe Working on Roofs > Use of Heavy Plant

Version	Date	Summary of changes
		> Safe Driving
2.1	3 October 2008	Repealed and remade v2.0 Safe Driving SOPs Clause 1.3(c)
2.3	10 October 2013	Repealed and remade v2.1 SS renamed from “Fire and Other Incident Operations” to “Operational Protocols and Procedures” Amended to cover all operational procedures and protocols
3.0	30 July 2018	Repealed and remade v2.3 SS renamed from “Operational Protocols and Procedures” to “Operational Doctrine” Amended to include the current development process of Operational Procedures and incorporation of IMPs and OMPs Reviewed to align with current processes and SS 1.5.1 Management of NSW RFS Policy Documents Inclusion of new section 2 – Definitions Inclusion of new SOP 3.1.6-1 Development and Review of Operational Doctrine
4.0	20 December 2023	Repealed and remade v3.0 Comprehensive review to align with updated Operational Doctrine Framework

Approved by

Name	Position	Date
Rob Rogers AFSM	Commissioner	20 December 2023

Related documents

Document name
Rural Fires Act 1997
Service Standard 1.1.7 Code of Conduct and Ethics
Service Standard 1.5.1 Management of NSW RFS Policy Documents
3.1.6A Operational Doctrine Framework
Fundamental Protocols
Operational Procedures and Guidelines