



Environmental Care

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Scope

This Policy applies to all activities carried out by CFA Members.

Definitions

The following definitions apply specifically to this policy:

Biodiversity

Biodiversity means "the variety of all life forms – the different plants, animals, and micro-organisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems of which they form part" (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 1997).

Environment

The atmosphere, land, water and the life it supports.

Environmental Management System

Part of the overall management system of an organisation that includes organisational structure, planning activities, responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes and resources for developing, implementing, achieving, reviewing and maintaining the environmental policy (Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand 1996).

Policy Objective

The objective of this policy is to assist CFA to manage environmental issues in all aspects of our business while maintaining operational safety, effectiveness and efficiency.

Policy Statement

CFA is committed to protection of life, property and the environment through the delivery of cost-effective fire and emergency services for the people of Victoria.

CFA aims to deliver its services in a safe, efficient and effective manner while protecting the environment wherever possible for current and future generations.

We will be guided by the following principles:

Environment

- Pollution and degradation of air, water, land and biodiversity are minimised.
- Energy and resource use are minimised through reduction, reuse and recycling.
- We will meet our legal obligations and, where possible, community expectations for environmental care.
- Environmental management standards and practices will be consistent with those of leading fire and emergency services and our responsibility to protect life and property.

Social

- We are proud of and are recognised for our achievements.
- CFA contributes to social well-being through handing over places affected by fire or other incidents to the community in as good a condition as possible.

Economic

- Environmental management is cost effective in terms of financial and human resources.

Management

- Implementation of this policy will be guided by the Environment Strategy which outlines action plans for implementing this policy, and an Environmental Management System (EMS).
- The EMS will address planning, communication, implementation support (tools, training and resources), implementation, review and improvement and will be integrated with existing business systems.
- We will foster commitment to environmental care and continuous improvement from all CFA people.
- All work practices and business planning processes should address environmental care.
- Environmental management is delivered in a sustainable way.
- Approaches to the environment will be developed in a consultative way, which builds on good practice and enthusiasm of CFA people.
- We will further develop partnerships to assist us in improving our approaches.
- We will develop statewide programs and service agreements as a basis for improvement and allocating funding.
- In the interim, we will continue business as usual based on expert advice. Issue resolution at a local level should be carried out in a way which contributes to and advances our understanding of issues and approaches across the state.

Delegations/Authorisation/Responsibilities

N/A

Related Policies

- Risk management policy
- Quality policy

Other Links and References

1. CFA (2003) CFA Environment Strategy
2. Department of Natural Resources and Environment (1997) Victoria's biodiversity: directions in management.
3. Government of Victoria (2001) Growing Victoria together www.growingvictoria.vic.gov.au
4. Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand (1996) Environmental management systems – specification with guidance for use (ISO 14001: 1996).
5. Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand (1999) Risk Management (AS/NZS 4360 – 1999)

Policy Manager

Environmental Manager

Directorate: Community Safety

Department: Environmental Care

Policy Stakeholders

CFA Members, Councils, Environment Agencies and the General Public.

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