



Herbicide Policy

Scope 1
Definitions 1
Policy Objective 1
Policy Statement 2
Delegations/Authorisation/Responsibilities 2
Related Policies 2
Other Links and References 2
Policy Manager 3
Policy Stakeholders 3

Scope

This policy applies to the use of herbicides by CFA in Country Area Victoria.

Definitions

CFA member

A person who is registered by CFA as a volunteer officer or member of a brigade (except an industry brigade) and / or a person who is employed by CFA.

CFA brigade member

A person who is registered by CFA as an officer or a member of a brigade (except an industry brigade)

Herbicide

A chemical that is used to control the spread of plants.

Herbicide application

Spraying, wiping or other method of herbicide application onto vegetation or soil.

Responsible authority

The government organisation that has responsibility for the tenure of land. In the situation of roadsides the responsible authority may be either the relevant municipal council or Vic Roads, unless it is an unused road, in which case the responsibility usually rests with the Department of Sustainability and Environment. Other parties with responsibility relate to managers of rail reserves, Crown and public authority land outside public land usually managed by DSE

Risk

The chance of something happening that will have an impact upon objectives. It is measured in terms of consequences and likelihood. Risks can be financial, operational, legal, environmental etc. *Australian/New Zealand Standard: Risk management (ISO 31000 2009).*

Policy Objective

This policy provides guidance to CFA members, responsible authorities, land managers and landowners or occupiers that use CFA for herbicide application purposes. It will ensure that CFA herbicide applications for fire prevention or weed control are safe and effective, also that risks to CFA, CFA members, the public, the agricultural and natural environment are minimised, and legal requirements are met.

Policy Statement

1. CFA only supports the application of herbicide by CFA members where it is planned and carried out in accordance with this policy and CFA guidelines for herbicide use.
2. CFA is responsible for fire prevention works and weed control on CFA property.
3. CFA members may carry out herbicide application on CFA property for weed control or fire prevention purposes provided the herbicide is safely applied and that adjacent property and the environment are not likely to be adversely affected.
4. CFA only supports the application of herbicide by CFA members on any private and public land in Country Area of Victoria where the following conditions apply:
 - 4.1 The herbicide application is carried out by CFA brigade members for fire prevention purposes on land identified for fire prevention treatment as part of a relevant Municipal Fire Management Plan; and
 - 4.2 The proposed works are documented or referred to in a relevant Municipal Fire Management Plan, appended to that Plan or supporting documentation; and
 - 4.3 The works are at the request of, or with the approval of, the responsible authority, land manager, owner or occupier; and
 - 4.4 The responsible authority, land owner, manager or occupier provide, and CFA brigade members undertake, works in accordance with a works plan that describes and identifies the risks associated with the herbicide application and how these risks are to be managed; and
 - 4.5 CFA brigade members have the necessary safety equipment and training to meet the requirements of the Herbicide Use (fire prevention) Guideline. This includes an Agricultural Chemical Users Permit (ACUP) where relevant for Restricted Chemicals; and
 - 4.6 A record of the works is provided to CFA for risk management and insurance purposes; and
 - 4.7 The works are not undertaken by CFA brigade members for fee or reward; and
 - 4.8 Any private land owner or occupier requesting herbicide use for fire prevention by CFA on their private land, has indemnified CFA for this herbicide application.

Responsibilities

The Policy Manager is Director Community Safety. The Procedures Manager is Executive Manager Community Infrastructure.

Related Policies

- Occupational Health and Safety Policy
- Risk Management Policy

- Environment Policy

Other Links and References

- Herbicide Use (fire prevention) Guideline
- Country Fire Authority Act 1958

Policy Manager

Manager Community Infrastructure

Directorate: Community Safety

Department: Community Infrastructure

Policy Stakeholders

Director Community Safety, Occupational Health and Safety Department.

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