

# National Newsletter

News and information for the rural fire community  
July 2016

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## Transition to FENZ

The Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) Transition Project team has moved into its new office space at 80 The Terrace, Wellington.

David Strong has been announced (on 7 July) as permanent Transition Director.

In this role, David will lead, shape, and communicate the transition of more than 40 separate organisations into a unified fire and emergency service, drawing on the skills and expertise across the fire services sector.

David has extensive cross-sector experience building high-performance teams and leading change through large, complex environments. He's currently Programme Director for the \$120m multi-year transformation of New Zealand's postal logistics network, across both post and courier, and has worked across a range of similarly transformative roles.

The FENZ Transition Project team (which is being directed by the Transition Committee of the Board) will initially be focused on the successful establishment of FENZ. They've been selected for their sector knowledge and skills (like asset or project management) needed to deliver a job of this size. The team has about a dozen members right now, and that number will grow as momentum builds over the coming months.

### Stakeholder day

The Board hosted a stakeholder day in Wellington on 7 July. 160 people representing over 60

stakeholder organisations met to hear what progress has been made and what's planned ahead.

The Board presented a high-level FENZ Transition Project roadmap. They also presented early thinking on the work programme and asked for feedback on whether the proposed work-streams covered everything that needed to be done to get us ready for 1 July 2017.

People at the stakeholder day were asked how they wanted to be involved in this process.

### Legislative update

Legislation to establish FENZ was introduced to Parliament last week and had its first reading on 5 July.

It will provide the legal framework needed to merge 40 organisations – more than 600 fire brigades and rural fire forces, 12,500 volunteers and 2,000 paid staff – into a single unified organisation.

All New Zealanders are able to have their say on the Bill. The Select Committee has now formally opened submissions, and they close on 18 August.

Here's the link to the Bill:

<https://www.parliament.nz/en/get-involved/topics/topics-archive/reforming-of-new-zealand-s-fire-services/>.

### Discussion document – feedback required

The Minister of Internal Affairs Peter Dunne has called for those interested in providing feedback on the proposed regulations for FENZ to read the Discussion Document and make a submission.

The Discussion Document can be found on the Department of Internal Affairs website:  
<https://www.dia.govt.nz/Fire-Services-Transition>

More information about the transition to FENZ can be found at [www.fenzproject.co.nz](http://www.fenzproject.co.nz)

**For more information contact:** Kevin O'Connor at [nrfo.kevin.oconnor@fire.org.nz](mailto:nrfo.kevin.oconnor@fire.org.nz)

## Thank you from Alberta

In 2015, Canada had an extreme wildfire season, the likes of which has not been seen in 20 years.

The Executive Director of the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) wrote to our National Rural Fire Officer (NRFO) Kevin O'Connor asking for specialist rural fire support.

Seventeen rural fire experts from across New Zealand travelled to Canada in July 2015 for a 35-day deployment to help combat the extreme wildfire situation.

We've recently received a second thank you on behalf of the people of Alberta for the efforts of our people in assisting to combat the wildfires. The first was presented to us at a special function hosted by the Canadian embassy.



**Photo (above):** New Zealand Fire Service's Chief Executive Paul Baxter and NRFO Kevin O'Connor with the two trophies presented to New Zealand on behalf of the people of Alberta, Canada.

## NZFS to stop charging RFAs for callouts

For a number of years the NZFS policy has been to charge Rural Fire Authorities (RFAs) for services beyond the first hour of attendance at rural incidents.

The NZFS Senior Leadership Team has recently agreed, from 1 July 2016, NZFS will no longer bill RFAs the hourly charge for attendance at rural incidents.

The only exception is for requests made by Principal Rural Fire Officers (PRFO) when they are pursuing direct cost recovery actions.

Discussions surrounding the use and/or replacement of consumables, such as foam and retardant are to be discussed and agreed at a local level between the PRFO and Area Manager.

The direct final impact on NZFS will be minor. However, the savings on Area Managers and PRFOs time will be significant allowing all involved at the frontline to have more time to focus on operational responsibilities rather than administrative processes.

**For more information contact:** Regan Hopkins at [regan.hopkins@fire.org.nz](mailto:regan.hopkins@fire.org.nz)

## Aircraft Standard

From 30 September 2016, Rural Fire Authorities (RFAs) will only engage aircraft operators that comply with the National Rural Fire Authority's (NRFA) Aircraft Standard and that hold a Certificate of Compliance (CoC), or Interim Certificate of Compliance, issued by the NRFA.

This will improve safety and consistency in the use of aircraft at wildfires.

NRFA has facilitated 15 regional workshops around the country between April and June, to inform and promote the requirements of the Aircraft Standard to aircraft operators and RFA. Forty-five questions from the workshops have been included as an appendix to this newsletter.

Aircraft operators interested in providing such services, and wanting to obtain a copy of the Standard should register their name and contact details with the NRFA at [airstandard@fire.org.nz](mailto:airstandard@fire.org.nz)

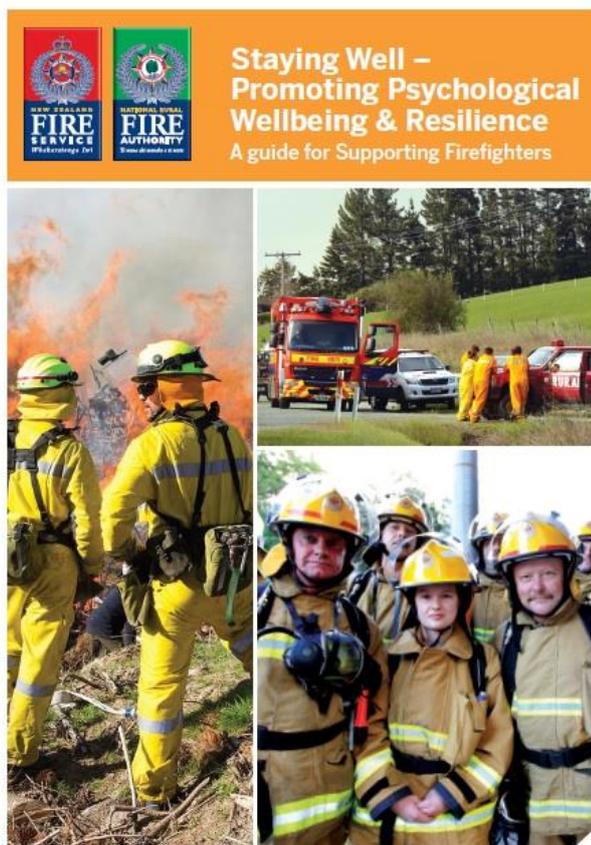
**For more information contact:** John Rasmussen at [john.rasmussen@fire.org.nz](mailto:john.rasmussen@fire.org.nz)

## Staying Well

A new practical guide for supporting firefighters has been developed by the New Zealand Fire Service (NZFS) and National Rural Fire Authority (NRFA).

**Staying Well - promoting psychological wellbeing and resilience** includes tips and examples to help firefighters deal with stressful situations.

More information about this guide will be available on the NRFA website [www.nrfa.org.nz](http://www.nrfa.org.nz) from mid-July.



For more information contact: Russell Barclay at [Russell.Barclay@fire.org.nz](mailto:Russell.Barclay@fire.org.nz).

## Drones

Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has featured an article about the use of drones in their May/June edition of Vector magazine.

You can read the article on the CAA website [www.caa.govt.nz](http://www.caa.govt.nz)

Our ***If you're flying we can't*** poster featured in the article can be downloaded and printed for your distribution at [www.nrfa.org.nz](http://www.nrfa.org.nz)

National Rural Fire Authority – National Newsletter  
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## Places Not to Drone

Late last year in California, a massive wildfire swept across Interstate 15 destroying 20 vehicles. Firefighters may have been able to contain the blaze if drone users hadn't prevented emergency aircraft from operating.

The Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS, generally known as drones) rules, that came into force 1 August 2015, provided drone users with more certainty about their privileges.

But with airspace privilege comes airspace responsibility.

To keep our skies safe, it's essential that all drone users have a sound understanding of the rules and knowledge of airspace.

In the Californian event, before firefighting operations were suspended, the drones actually chased some of the manned aircraft to capture the most dramatic footage possible.

What those users didn't understand, is that their drones are in fact 'aircraft', not just toys or a handy photography platform. When flown in an unsafe way, they have the potential to cause serious harm.

### Avoid Wildfires

Flying drones near wildfires without permission creates a hazard for manned aircraft that are attempting to fight the fire.

Wildfires can spread as fast as 10 km/h in forests, and 22 km/h in grasslands. Aerial firefighting is an important tool in the firefighters' arsenal, and is usually employed in conjunction with ground-based teams. There have been incidents overseas where aircraft have extinguished fires long before ground crews were able to reach them.

Without aerial firefighting, the Rural Fire Authority's ability to put out wildfires is seriously hindered, says Ian Millman, Manager Rural Fire Resource and Development.

Unfortunately, there have already been some drone occurrences involving wildfires reported in New Zealand.



For more information contact: Ian Millman at [ian.millman@fire.org.nz](mailto:ian.millman@fire.org.nz)

## Plan properly before farm burn-offs

**WORKSAFE**  
NEW ZEALAND | MAHI HAUMARU  
AOTEAROA

### Media Release - 17 June 2016

Farmers are being urged to thoroughly manage risks during burn-offs after a company was fined \$72,000 and ordered to pay reparation of \$107,000 following the death of an employee.

The employee died when he became trapped by fire in a gully during a burn-off on a 13,500-hectare high country station near Cromwell on 3 September 2014.

At the Alexandra District Court today, Northburn Limited was sentenced on a charge under the Health and Safety in Employment Act for failing to take all practicable steps to ensure the safety of an employee.

WorkSafe New Zealand's investigation found that Northburn Limited did not have an effective system for managing health and safety, and there was no documented plan in place for a burn-off - considered a high-risk task.

WorkSafe's Chief Inspector, Keith Stewart, says there were numerous practicable steps Northburn Limited could have taken to prevent the death of the employee.

"There were various methods available to Northburn Limited, including using a sufficient number of trained people to carry out the burn-off. It is considered industry best practice that both sides of a gully should be burnt simultaneously.

The company did not identify a safe area for employees to retreat to, or an escape route, or that the fire was lit from an "anchor point", a safe area to start a fire from. There was also no adequate communication system, or a person acting as a lookout. The victim was not provided proper personal protective equipment.

The day of the victim's death was the second day he had been involved in a burn-off - he had no training for the task and he was at times left unsupervised.

"This incident is a tragic reminder that planning and the use of good information is essential for a safe and effective burn-off," says WorkSafe's Agriculture Programme Manager, Al McCone.

"For many farmers, burn-offs are a useful and routine tool to encourage growth. What's important is thinking about the risks and thinking about what to do about managing those risks.

"There is a range of guidance on burn-offs including The Landowners Guide to Land Clearing by Prescribed Burning from the national rural fire authority. There is also other information available on the Safer Farms website.

"I also encourage farmers to get in touch with their local rural fire authority. They can provide advice and information specific to their area. Rural fire authorities do not charge for this service".

Managing health and safety: A guide for farmers has a section on safe burn-offs – to read the guide go to [www.saferfarms.org.nz](http://www.saferfarms.org.nz)

#### **Judge's notes from sentencing**

<http://www.nrfa.org.nz/Operational%20documents/Northburn%20Incident.pdf>

## Seasonal Outlook

The Seasonal Outlook produced by the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) for the rest of winter indicates temperatures to be above normal in most areas, but particularly so in eastern areas of the North Island.

Rainfall is expected to be near normal for all regions, except for the West Coast of the South Island, and parts of the top of the North Island, which can expect above normal falls.

Warmer than normal ocean temperatures around New Zealand is driving these conditions.

Looking at the ocean-atmosphere conditions in the tropical Pacific these have returned to a near normal state, although cooler than normal sub-surface ocean waters have continued to intensify and spread eastward along the equatorial Pacific, suggesting the possibility of La Niña conditions developing later this year.

For detailed information on the seasonal outlook please refer to the NIWA report:

<https://www.niwa.co.nz/climate/sco/seasonal-climate-outlook-june-august-2016>

**For more information contact:** Tim Mitchell at [tim.mitchell@fire.org.nz](mailto:tim.mitchell@fire.org.nz)

## Fire Weather

Tim Mitchell reports that a number of you have raised concerns about a request from NIWA to provide weather readings from your weather stations every 10 minutes.

What started this request off was part of a broader project to enhance the EcoConnect application as a tool, which provides information that users need, to carry out their fire management roles.

One of the requests users asked for was the ability to be able to access 10 minute data, they felt waiting an hour before the next data supply was too long especially during a fire event where they needed information to make informed decisions.

What we have asked NIWA to do is scope the possibility of being able to access 10 minute data downloads, for a variety of reasons this may or may not be possible. If we find that it's possible, we will endeavour to work out how we can then meet this request.

As most weather stations have 10 minute data loggers installed as per the NRFA weather station

standard, it's a matter how feasible it is to change the frequency of downloads.

If you have an older weather station that doesn't have a 10 minute data logger, think about your organisations needs in the future. We would encourage you to update it, and to help with this we may be able to provide some grant assistance.

**For more information contact:** Tim Mitchell at [tim.mitchell@fire.org.nz](mailto:tim.mitchell@fire.org.nz) or Ian Millman at [ian.millman@fire.org.nz](mailto:ian.millman@fire.org.nz)

## Contestable Research Fund

Recently the Board signed off the research projects to receive 2016/17 Contestable Research Funding.

These projects include:

- Understanding the role of families as key enablers of fire service volunteering. **Project Sponsor:** Jon Kneebone.
- What method/approach is required to bridge the gap between communicating fire danger information and fire season status that will lead to a change in public behaviour (needed to reduce the likelihood and consequences of wildfires). **Project Sponsor:** Tim Mitchell.
- What are the reasons why rural fire personnel do not report near miss or non-injury accidents, and what changes would lead to an improvement in reporting of these accidents? **Project Sponsor:** Tim Mitchell.
- Sustainable behaviour change for most at risk groups. **Project Sponsor:** Rob Saunders.

Contracts are currently being developed with those research agencies that were successful in getting funding to carry out the projects.

Information on previous research topics that have received funding by the Board can be found: <http://www.fire.org.nz/Research/Current-Round/Pages/Current-round.html>

**For more information contact:** Tim Mitchell at [tim.mitchell@fire.org.nz](mailto:tim.mitchell@fire.org.nz)

## Scion update

### MBIE Fire Bid

SCION have received feedback on their research funding bid to the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) submitted in March 2016.

A total of 168 bids were submitted to MBIE. A two part evaluation system is applied. Proposals were evaluated for Science Excellence, and Impact. On

the Science Excellence Criteria – Scion have scored in the top 20% of submitted bids.

This means the rural fire bid is still 'live' and goes through to be evaluated on the Impact the research will have. This is a very good result, so far, and reflects the massive effort by the fire research team, Scion Research Office, and the support of end users.

The letters of support supplied by the fire community will carry considerable weight in the 'Impact' assessment stage.

### Canadian Boreal Community (CBC) FireSmart Project

Located approximately 40km north of Fort Providence, the Canadian Boreal Community FireSmart Project (CBC) site was the location of the International Crown Fire Modelling Experiment (ICFME) between 1995 and 2001.

Research activities at the site were taken over by FPInnovations Wildfire Operations Research team in 2001. Working closely with the Government of the Northwest Territories, FPInnovations is able to conduct field experiments using high intensity crown fires in support of numerous projects submitted by members.

**For more information contact:** Tim Mitchell at [tim.mitchell@fire.org.nz](mailto:tim.mitchell@fire.org.nz)

## Rural fire training

### Credit reporting

There has been an increase in the number of credits reported in June. In fact, there were five times as many credits reported in June compared to the first four months of 2016.

There is a new email address that you can send credit reports (GTE-F11 forms) to [rural.training@fire.org.nz](mailto:rural.training@fire.org.nz)

There may be some delays in the reporting of Unit Standard achievements over the next couple of weeks.

Just a reminder that you should use full (legal) name of trainees and include their date of birth and National Student Number (NSN) where known.

### Training resources

A review of the current training resources that Trainees, Trainers and Assessors use is underway.

Work on three basic programmes:

- Working Safely at a vegetation fire;
- Use of hand-tools; and
- Use of water additives.

Has started and will consider content and the quality of the training and assessment materials.

Included in the review is the establishment of a central place for training materials. In addition, we are establishing a process for trainers to be able to order training resources direct from a printing firm.

We expect that by the end of July approved persons will be able to access and order the most current materials.

### Trainer attestation

The number of approved GTE trainers is now around 84.

Skills Organisation will be writing to all Rural Fire Assessors to advise them that they will be unable to report any credits through Skills Organisation from 31 July.

If you want to be an Assessor with the GTE you must complete the application process before 31 July.

### Reporting achievements by Private Training Establishments (PTEs)

Just a reminder that when you report achievement of unit standards assessed by PTEs they provide you with a record from the New Zealand Qualification Authority (NZQA) called a 'Directory of Assessment Standards' (DAS) report.

This is evidence that the units have been reported to the NZQA and we can include these reported units in the ACE-EM fund.

A process chart is now available and will be sent to RFAs in the next week.

### Rural Fire Training Advisory Group

The Terms of Reference and the minutes from the inaugural meeting are available in the Rural Dropbox.

The next meeting is set for the first week in July and minutes should be available by 20 July.

### National Training Programmes

The programmes are now full.

In July 2016 we are conducting an Air Attack Supervisor programme in the South Island as well as Level 1 Fire Investigation programmes in the South Island and North Island.

### Fireline Leadership Programme

The feedback recent FireLine Leadership Course participants has been overwhelmingly positive.



*"Absolutely fantastic course, one of if not the best training course I have ever been on. The content and facilitation was extremely professional and will enhance my skills, particularly around decision making and leadership development. The scenarios were heaps of fun that put us all under the pump. I would highly recommend this to anyone considering it."* – **FireLine Leadership course participant.**

**For more information contact:** Tony Roddan at [tony.rodan@fire.org.nz](mailto:tony.rodan@fire.org.nz).

## Fire Investigation Handbook

The National Rural Fire Authority (NRFA) is currently carrying out a review of the **New Zealand Wildfire Origin and Cause Determine Handbook**, published 2007.

The New Zealand Handbook is based on the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's Wildfire Fire Origin and Cause Determination Handbook.

**For more information contact:** Tim Mitchell at [tim.mitchell@fire.org.nz](mailto:tim.mitchell@fire.org.nz)

## New Zealand Rural Fire Response Team (NZRFRT) – 2016 Workshop

An Action Orientated Team Leadership Training Exercise is to be conducted in the Wairarapa from 4-8 September 2016.

The proven success of last year's exercise, and the recommendations to hold another one in the North Island was the reason behind this being undertaken again.

We are incorporating into this year's exercise, navigation training including map, compass and GPS.

#### Objectives:

1. To ensure that NZRFRT personnel are able to operate safely, effectively, and efficiently in a variety of situations they are exposed to.
2. To provide an avenue for NZRFRT personnel to upskill according to their existing levels.
3. This training will cater for the broad spectrum of existing and aspiring team leaders.

**For more information contact:** Russell Barclay at [Russell.Barclay@fire.org.nz](mailto:Russell.Barclay@fire.org.nz)

## New water tank for Lake Ferry

### Media Release – 6 July 2016

For rural fire fighting emergencies and training the Lake Ferry Rural Fire Force fill their appliance from local streams and water supplies. In summer months these dry up.

With firefighters returning from calls at all hours of the day and night, the struggle to locate a suitable water supply (and the time this takes) is frustrating for the crew.

Thanks to support from the Fonterra Grass Roots Fund, a 25,000 litre water tank has been fitted to the Fire Depot at Lake Ferry.

This water tank now provides access to a reliable water source for firefighting in the area and for volunteer training.

Dave Sinton, Fonterra Area Manager, presented the cheque to Phill Wishnowsky, Wairarapa Rural Fire District PRFO at an "opening the valve" ceremony on Sunday, 3 July.

They were joined by WRFD board members and members of the Lake Ferry Voluntary Rural Fire Force.



**Photo (From left):** Tim Lusk (WRFD Director) and Max Stevens (Chairman of WRFD Board), King Tipoki, Jarred Pead, Sophie Atkinson, Scott MacDonald (Lake Ferry VRRF Controller), Dave Sinton from Fonterra, Simon Dennes, Todd Candy, and Phill Wishnowsky (WRFD PRFO).

## Key dates

Meeting	Date	
RFC(C)	5 Sept	Wellington
ERDF Chairperson Group	10 Aug	Wellington
PRFO group	18 July 10 Aug	Wellington
FRFANZ	Conference 28-30 July	Masterton

## Reminders

- Annual Fire Returns are due 1 September.

## Keep up-to-date

Follow NRFA on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/nznationalruralfireauthority](http://www.facebook.com/nznationalruralfireauthority)

Visit our website: [www.nrfa.org.nz](http://www.nrfa.org.nz)

# FAQs from NRFA Aircraft Standard Workshop

April – June 2016

1. **When will pre-audit documents be available? (Greymouth).**  
Mid-June 2016 on the NRFA website.
2. **Will there be a requirement for Fire behaviour refresher training for pilots? (Greymouth).**  
Not specifically. Any training to be coordinated regionally with RFAs.
3. **Will there be more Air Attack courses? (Blenheim).**  
Yes. But probably in 2017 following the initial two in 2016.
4. **Comms – 10.4 Company chatter in Fire 4 or Discrete? (Blenheim).**  
Which frequency will be used will be determined by Lead Pilot or AAS for air traffic calls.
5. **Standard requirements – Buckets being flown across clean water. This relates to residue issue. (Blenheim).**  
Foam to be injected once the aircraft gets over land as in Sect 18.4.  
Management to consider impacts of residue and dripping when dipping and flying over water with emptied bucket.
6. **Will an operator still get an interim certificate if missing one or more items, i.e. strip of paint not on blades? (Selwyn)**  
No, we expect full compliance.  
Remember the Operator needs to endorse on the RF301 that they have implemented all the requirements of the Standard on application.
7. **How will the standard apply in future when the new Act comes in for Fire & Emergency NZ? New legislation? (Selwyn).**  
It will transfer across.  
But don't be concerned, it will be there as is currently presented.
8. **Will the new standard apply to NZFS personnel, and are they being involved with the process? (Selwyn).**  
The Standard will apply to anyone managing aircraft operations or working for an Aircraft operator.
9. **Audit of Pilots - will they need to demonstrate experience, will there be a practical demonstration to show skill with a bucket? (Selwyn).**  
No. Individual pilot training records will be reviewed at audit.
10. **All pilots need to be able to show that they can deliver the correct concentrate of foam rather than calibrate an application. (Selwyn).**  
They need still to comply with the requirements of the Standard as in Section 24.3.
11. **For RFA's it is still going to be a challenge in maintaining the standard regarding the number of experienced AAS/ASS available. How will the audit process be administered so it is not a failure for the RFA's when they do not have the same opportunities, the number and types of fires they deal with are not consistent so currency may not be met? (Selwyn).**  
There are two AAS courses planned this year which will help, but individual RFAs do not necessarily need to hold all of the management skills but by arrangement need to be formalised they have that skill available.
12. **Is there a grace period to get the RFA AAS/ASS up to std? (Selwyn).**  
Yes. The grace period expires 30 September 2016.
13. **Will the Audit take into consideration training being undertaken at the time by pilots and RFA's? (Selwyn).**  
Refer above. The grace period expires to 30 September 2016.
14. **FREDA data base how does this work? (Selwyn).**  
It will be a web based data base which will have a specific section that identifies all aircraft operators holding an Interim Certificate or full CoC.  
There will be also an area where specific details can be uploaded by the operator.
15. **Training 3285. What if a pilot hasn't done any training but has a good amount of experience, will this pass the audit? (Selwyn).**  
Operators are responsible for ensuring compliance with the Standard.  
This includes ensuring all pilots have undergone the requisite training.  
Evidence of training such as 'records of learning' may be sampled during the audit.
16. **When are the Pilot Audits being undertaken? (Selwyn).**

End of May and first week of June 2016, following which all NRFA forms and processes will be finalised.

Requests to registered operator's to complete applications on RF301 is expected to occur mid-June.

**17. Are we engaging with Fixed Wing Operators? (Selwyn).**

Fixed wing operators can apply for CoC. RFAs may enter into specific agreements with Aircraft Operators with CoC.

**18. As there are a limited number of AAS's, what are the RFA's to do if they have a number of large fires being dealt with across the region, all at the same time and using multiply aircraft, how is this going to be addressed? (Selwyn).**

The RFA is required to deal with this.

**19. How can an operator get re-audited if they acquire a new aircraft after they have already been audited? (Timaru).**

The Operator remains responsible for ensuring they are in compliance for the full period of the CoC. NRFA reserves the right to spot check compliance with CoC.

**20. Does the audit process include the audit of fire-buckets? (Timaru).**

Yes it does, and this also includes fire bucket maintenance.

**21. Is there an unfair advantage to operators who don't spend money on collapsible buckets unless they are getting the work? (Timaru)**

All companies will be required to have a primary collapsible bucket.

**22. Is there requirement for aircraft companies to be audited to ferry passengers on thermal work, media etc? (Timaru).**

Aircraft Operators not actively involved in 'fire-fighting aircraft operations' will not need to carry a CoC.

The likes of Thermal work will be carried out under a 119/135 AOC.

**23. Can a machine that has been audited in one location be leased to another company, and their audit which has sign off be transferred over to the new company? (Timaru).**

Operators must hold a CoC or Interim CoC and are responsible for ensuring all aircraft operating are compliant. No re-audit is necessary when an aircraft is transferred to the holder of a CoC if the aircraft is, and remains, compliant.

**24. A suggestion that sample testing of foam injectors could be undertaken at audit time? (Timaru).**

The auditor reserves the right.

**25. NRFA to schedule more AAS and ASS courses for RFA's now the standard requires more of these personnel (Timaru).**

Yes we are.

But there is a limit on how quickly we can run these courses.

**26. R44's and R22's could be used for aerial platforms. (Timaru).**

Aircraft operators with a variety of aircraft can gain a CoC.

Use of specific aircraft at fires will be determine by arrangements with RFAs and the specific callout, deployment and tasking will be determined by the RFA, and ADC following the direction of Sect. 8 and 9 of the Standard.

An aircraft presented for fire operations must comply with the relevant parts of the Standard.

**27. New young pilots could be used on mop-up on the second day to gain experience, is this acceptable? (Timaru).**

The Standard (Sect 21.4) allows for pilots with less than 5 hour's experience in wildfires to operate whilst under supervision if they can convince the ADC or lead pilot of competency in the task concerned.

**28. HUET Training is it compulsory? (Timaru).**

No it is not a compulsory requirement of the Standard.

**29. Leasing/Transferring Pilots from AUS or Canada on a part time basis, do they need to meet the standard. (Timaru).**

Yes. All pilots need to meet the requirements of the Standard.

The Operator holding the CoC is responsible for ensuring pilots meet the standard.

**30. When considering "experience" for determining application for interim Certificate were we considering the Aircraft Company or the pilots?**

The Operator holds the CoC and the operator is responsible for ensuring compliance of all elements of the Standard including pilot requirements.

**31. Whose specific responsibility is it to ensure Manifesting?**

The pilot in command is responsible for ensuring a manifest that documents the names etc. of the passengers (Sect 20.1.2), but this does not necessarily mean that he/she personally needs to fill out and complete.

**32. How will managing fatigue at an incident actually work?**

It is a joint responsibility of company and pilots to comply with their own company fatigue management policy as audited. At the same time the IMT will be monitoring overall fatigue against the NRFA work rest policy with ASS and AAS specifically monitoring how pilot fatigue during air ops is managed.

**33. When new pilots relieve or start with an Air Operator will the Air Operator need to notify NRFA in between audit timing?**

No. The aircraft operator, as part of their responsibilities, will need to ensure that pilots meet and continue to all the requirement of the Standard.

**34. Under the definition of "aircrew" Rural Fire personnel doing specific in flight task in addition to the AAS role will be classified as aircrew. Under Section 19.1.1 protective flying helmets with built in communication are to be worn when flying below 500' AGL for all aircrew. Who is going to provide specialist/ individual sized and fitting helmets to meet the requirements of 19.1.1? (Masterton).**

How we achieve this do it and needs to be worked through, but David Clark K10 Helmet kits of headsets and outer hard shell helmets may be an option.

**35. Should have a standard for a/c lighting in high density operations. (Cromwell).**

It is up to the Operator.

**36. Can piston a/c (R44, R22, Colbri) be used as Observation platforms.**

Refer question 26.

**37. Observation a/c need to be from one of the existing on-site operators? (Oamaru).**

Refer Question 26

**38. Rotary operators should be required to provide only Grade1 ag pilots same as F/W?**

No – Many (fire) experienced heli pilots are not ag rated.

**39. Use of foam injection over open water? (Oamaru).**

Refer Q5.

**40. Does fixed wing hourly rate cover cost of ground crew/ ground support? (Oamaru).**

Yes. Aircraft hourly rate is expected to cover the cost of the extras. There is no additional charge. Hourly rate may take account of extra cost.

**41. Are all operators/pilots familiar with CIMS? (Gisborne).**

Operators knowledge of CIMS will be part of the audit process.

**42. Aircraft operators wanted to know if any detailed specifications were available in relation to painting hi-viz blades. (Rotorua).**

23.1 sets the requirement for marking blades and propellers.

The use of manufacturer approved specifications would be highly recommended.

**43. Did the NRFA want literally a 10 hour to run before any scheduled maintenance? (Rotorua).**

We would leave this to the discretion of the operator but would expect aircraft availability/serviceability to be managed effectively.

**44. Operators wanted online training for 3285 and 14564. (Rotorua).**

There is presently no online training available.

**45. What is the expectation of operator currency in relation to pilots? (Rotorua).**

There is an expectation that currency will be maintained around sling load work or a pre-season competency refresher to ensure safe and competent operations.