



7.07 Station Siren Use SOP

Section 1 - Purpose and Objectives

(1) This procedure is to govern the operational activation of station sirens.

Section 2 - Scope

(2) This procedure applies to all Brigades and CFA members.

Section 3 - Procedure

(3) Station sirens may be activated for one or both of the below purposes:

- a. alerting fire brigade members to attend code 1 primary area calls. This also allows the local community to be alerted to an emergency event occurring within their local community.
- b. alerting the broader community that they should seek information about an impending or actual threat.

(4) Any installation of a CFA-owned station siren will require approval from the relevant Deputy Chief Officer.

(5) The relevant Deputy Chief Officer shall have regard to the following in assessing an application:

- a. Pager communications, telecommunications or other communications coverage to enable the alerting of CFA members or the community to an emergency event.
- b. The purpose of Community Alerting, which must be established and operated in line with [Community Alert Sirens \(EMV\) August 2019](#) in consultation with the Emergency Management Commissioner; and
- c. Any other relevant factors in consultation with the local Brigade, District, Municipal Council, community and Infrastructure Services.

Alerting Community to Impending or Actual Threats

(6) Station sirens can be utilised for the purpose of Community Alerting where required in line with [Community Alert Sirens \(EMV\) August 2019](#) policy.

(7) Activation of a community alert siren must be authorised by the relevant Incident Controller. This may occur as part of the incident strategy and incident community warning protocol.

(8) Sirens used for the purpose of Community Alerting will activate for a period not less than 5 minutes and be available for activation 24 hours a day.

Alerting CFA Members To Brigade Activation

(9) The EAS pager network is the primary method for alerting brigade members to emergencies augmented by the Supplementary Alerting Service (SAS). Alert Conference is used as the redundancy to the paging network.

(10) Station sirens can only be activated for Brigade Code 1 calls.

(11) Station sirens used for Brigade activation shall sound for no longer than 90 seconds.

(12) The Brigade may seek to reduce the length of time the siren activates with the approval of the relevant Assistant Chief Fire Officer.

(13) General exemptions under the [Environment Protection Regulations 2021](#) (Residential Noise) permit the use of station sirens between the hours of 20:00 and 07:00. The activation of station sirens for brigade activation should be minimised where possible during these times.

(14) The brigade may make an application to the relevant Assistant Chief Fire Officer to disable the station for brigade activations between the hours of 20:00 and 07:00.

Testing

(15) Station sirens should be tested regularly but not more than once a month and not sound for longer than 30 seconds.

(16) Testing should not occur between the hours of 18:00 and 09:00.

Safety Notes

(17) Nil

Environmental Notes

(18) While exemptions exist for emergency sirens under section 117 [Environment Protection Regulations 2021](#) brigades should minimise the use of station sirens during prescribed times of 20:00 and 07:00 hours.

Section 4 - Definitions

(19) Commonly defined terms are located in the CFA [centralised glossary](#).

Section 5 - Related Documents

(20) [Standing Order 5.00 Firefighting Equipment](#)

Status and Details

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| Review Date | To Be Advised |
| Approval Authority | |
| Approval Date | To Be Advised |
| Expiry Date | Not Applicable |
| Accountable Officer | Jason Heffernan Chief Officer |
| Responsible Officer | Garry Cook Deputy Chief Officer Operational Response & Coordination |
| Author | Tim Connor |
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Glossary Terms and Definitions

"**CFA member**" - Refers to all CFA volunteers, volunteer auxiliary workers, officers, employees and secondees.

Consultation Draft