



POLICY NUMBER	-	4.5
POLICY SUBJECT	-	Children on the Fire Ground

1. POLICY PURPOSE

To minimise risk to volunteer firefighters undertaking firefighting operations.

2. POLICY SCOPE

The policy applies to all volunteer bush firefighters registered with a Shire of Merredin Bush Fire Brigade.

3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Bush Fires Act 1954

Work Health and Safety Act 2020

4. POLICY STATEMENT

Volunteer firefighters under 16 years of age are not permitted to be on the fire ground. Volunteer firefighters may not bring their children under 16 years of age to the fire ground to assist in any way with the firefighting operations. Any Incident Controller (IC) or Officer in Charge (OIC) who observes the presence of a child under 16 years of age on the fire ground is to request the removal of the child from the fire ground and/or firefighting operations.

Volunteer firefighters aged 16 or 17 years of age must be accompanied by, and act under the direction of, a parent or legal guardian while on the fire ground and/or carrying out firefighting operations.

5. KEY POLICY DEFINITIONS

Incident Controller: A person responsible and accountable for the management of all functions across an incident.

Officer in Charge: The officer for the time being in command of a firefighting crew for a given incident.

Volunteer Firefighter: Any person not employed as a firefighter who is contributing to firefighting operations on an active fireground, irrespective of whether they are formally registered as a volunteer firefighter with DFES.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Volunteer firefighters are responsible for their own and each other's safety, and for ensuring that they do not bring their children under the age of 16 years onto the fire ground. Volunteer firefighters are responsible for the safety and actions of their children aged 16 or 17 while on the fire ground.

Officers in Charge/Incident Controller are ultimately responsible for the health and safety of all personnel under their command, and for requesting the removal of children under the age of 16 years known to be operating on the fire ground.

The CEO has ultimate responsibility over the health and safety of all Shire of Merredin employees and volunteers.

The custodian of this Policy is the Executive Manager Strategy and Community.

7. MONITOR AND REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed by the Executive Manager Strategy and Community and the Emergency Services Officer every two years.

Document Control Box					
Document Responsibilities:					
Owner:	Executive Manager Strategy and Community	Decision Maker:	Council		
Reviewer:	Emergency Services Officer				
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Document Management					
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