



# Shire of Lake Grace Community News

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## Bushfire Bulletin



Safety Circular 01/2015

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### REFUELLING STATIC MOTORS AT INCIDENTS

Since March 2006, DFES has received numerous reports of petrol erupting from jerry cans when firefighters have opened them. Three of these events resulted in line ignition of the released fuel, with one occurrence causing significant burns to a firefighter's hands and another resulting in a light tanker being destroyed by fire. Two other events resulted in fuel spraying into firefighter's eyes.

Due to the recurrence and potential severity of the outcomes, a procedure has been developed for refuelling static motors, such as pump motors on fire tankers or generators, at incidents involving fire.

***Static motors that require refuelling at incidents must ONLY be refuelled at water points or staging areas and NOT on the fireground.***

When the vehicle travels to the water point or staging area for replenishment, a vehicle check is to be conducted including;

- vehicle fuel levels
- vehicle damage
- Leaf/debris build-up
- Refuelling of static motors as necessary

The opening procedure for jerry cans is:

- The fuel container should be removed from the vehicle and placed on the ground prior to opening (venting) the fuel container.
- Only refuel engines in a well-ventilated area with the engine stopped and if possible allow the engine to cool first.
- Fully withdraw the retaining pin.
- Prior to commencement of pouring fuel from the fuel container to the engine ensure that your feet are on the ground, you have earthed yourself on the appliance and the pouring funnels is in contact with the fuel tank. This will reduce the potential for ignition due to static.

Lift cap handle **slowly** to allow pressure build up to vent, with any venting away from the body. Control opening with hand pressure as required. Lift cap handle completely and pour using attached funnel.

This procedure is to be followed for refuelling of all static motors on all vehicles where jerry cans are utilised as the refuelling method.

**LLOYD BAILY** AFSM  
**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS**

### Restricted Burning Period

We are now in the Restricted Burning Period,  
1 February - 30 April (all dates inclusive)

**Permits to burn are required for all burning during this period.**

Permits can be obtained by contacting one of the Shire's Fire Control Officer.