



Jerry Cans During Bushfires

DFES receives numerous reports of petrol erupting from jerry cans when firefighters have opened them.

Three of these events resulted in the 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 the pump motors on fire tankers or generators, at Incidents involving fire.

Refueling Static Motors at Incidents operational personnel are directed to remove Jerry Cans from ALL Career and Volunteer Light Tankers on arrival at an Incident and place the Jerry Can at either;

- A control point;
- With your additional appliance responding to the incident (other than a Light Tanker); or
- In a shaded area that will not be impacted by fire;

Static motors are not to be refilled under any circumstances from a Jerry Can that has come off the rear of a light tanker once the petrol powered pumpset/static motor has been running for any period of time.

If the Jerry Can has been left on the appliance during operations, the Jerry Can must be allowed to cool for a minimum of 4 hours prior to opening.

It may be necessary to attend a garage to refuel the petrol powered pumpset should the 4 hour cooling period not have expired. Oncoming crews must be advised of the number of hours before the crew can use the Jerry Can from the appliance.

Whilst operating at an incident you are directed to return to either the control point, your appliance, or another fuel location to refuel the petrol powered pump set.

Incident Management teams are to ensure that Jerry Cans are removed at the control point and this Information disseminated to crews during briefings.

This is an interim measure to ensure the safety of crews. Other short term engineering controls are currently being considered for trial and an operational circular will be released in the near future to provide an update on these.