

# SERVICE STANDARD 3.1.6

## OPERATIONAL DOCTRINE

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
Version Number	4.0
SOP	➤ Operational Doctrine Framework
Owner	Deputy Commissioner Preparedness and Capability
Contact	Director Training and Doctrine
Approved Date	20 December 2023
Effective Date	20 December 2023
Next Review Date	20 December 2028
Document Control	Electronic - Printed copies are uncontrolled

## 1 Purpose

- 1.1 This Service Standard and the Operational Doctrine Framework outline the governance for the development, implementation, and ongoing management of operational doctrine (including procedures and protocols) which are aligned to the values, purpose, and strategic direction of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS).
- 1.2 The Service Standard also connects operational doctrine to the overall RFS policy framework. Operational doctrine as described in this document is consistent with and supports RFS policies and Service Standards.

## 2 Policy

### Context

- 2.1 Operational Doctrine is provided by the RFS to outline factors that must be considered and methods for dealing with incidents and related activities. It frames the operational decisions of members before, during, and after emergency operations; and supports members to perform their role in the preparation for, and delivery of, coordinated firefighting and emergency response.
- 2.2 Operational Performance will be the custodians of, and coordinate the development and review of, all operational doctrine.
- 2.3 RFS operational doctrine is developed in the context of guidance provided by the Australian and New Zealand National Council for Fire and Emergency Services (AFAC), which promote interoperability and consistency across the sector.

- 2.4 Operational doctrine in the RFS supports decisions and actions which are:
- **Safe:** doctrine guides members to minimise safety risks to themselves, other members and the community;
  - **Effective:** doctrine supports reliable and effective operational response; and
  - **Evidence based:** doctrine reflects current industry practice and lessons identified and learned from review and research.
- 2.5 The Deputy Commissioner Preparedness and Capability will approve the development, revision, and distribution of operational doctrine.
- 2.6 The Deputy Commissioner Field Operations will authorise the release and use of operational doctrine.

### **Precedence of documents**

- 2.7 In the case of any conflict between legislation and an RFS policy, document or operational doctrine the legislation will take precedence.
- 2.8 In the case of any conflict between an RFS policy document (as defined in SS 1.5.1 Management of NSW RFS Policy Documents) and operational doctrine, the policy document will take precedence.

## **3 Related documents**

- *Rural Fires Act 1997*
- [Service Standard 1.1.7 Code of Conduct and Ethics](#)
- [Service Standard 1.5.1 Management of NSW RFS Policy Documents](#)
- [3.1.6A Operational Doctrine Framework](#)
- Fundamental Protocols
- Operational Procedures and Guidelines

## 4 Amendments

AMENDMENT DATE	VERSION NO	DESCRIPTION
1 September 1999	1.0	Initial release as Fireground Procedures
15 October 2001	1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Repealed and remade SS 3.1.6 v1.0</li> <li>› Clause 7</li> </ul>
9 October 2002	1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Repealed and remade SS 3.1.6 v1.1</li> <li>› Clause 2.4.2</li> </ul>
23 March 2006	1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Repealed and remade SS 3.1.6 v1.2</li> <li>› Clause 2.4.3 and 2.4.4</li> <li>› New SOPs attached: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fireground SOPs</li> <li>• Prescribed Burning SOPs</li> <li>• Safe Working on Roads SOPs</li> <li>• Base Camp SOPs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6 September 2007	1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Repealed and remade SS 3.1.6 v1.3</li> <li>› Prescribed Burning SOPs</li> </ul>
6 August 2008	2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Repealed and remade SS 3.1.6 v1.4</li> <li>› SS renamed from Fireground Procedures to Fire and Other Incident Operations</li> <li>› New SOPs attached: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe Working on Roofs</li> <li>• Use of Heavy Plant</li> <li>• Safe Driving</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3 October 2008	2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Repealed and remade SS 3.1.6 v2.0</li> <li>› Safe Driving SOPs Clause 1.3 (c)</li> </ul>
10 October 2013	2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Repealed and remade SS 3.1.6 v2.2</li> <li>› SS renamed from Fire and Other Incident Operations to Operational Protocols and Procedures</li> <li>› Amended to cover all operational procedures and protocols</li> </ul>
30 July 2018	3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Repealed and remade SS 3.1.6 v2.3</li> <li>› SS renamed from Operational Protocols and Procedures to Operational Doctrine</li> <li>› Amended to include the current development process of Operational Procedures and incorporation of IMPs and OMPs</li> <li>› Reviewed to align with current processes, and SS 1.5.1 Management of NSW RFS Policy Documents</li> <li>› Inclusion of new section 2 – Definitions</li> <li>› Inclusion of new SOP 3.1.6-1 Development and Review of Operational Doctrine</li> </ul>
20 December 2023	4.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Repeals and remakes SS 3.1.6 v3.0</li> <li>› Comprehensive review to align with updated Operational Doctrine Framework</li> </ul>