

SERVICE STANDARD 2.1.9

PARTICIPATION BY ONGOING STAFF IN BRIGADE ACTIVITIES

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
Version Number	1.2
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Contact	Director, Membership Services
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1 Purpose

- 1.1 Many ongoing members of staff of the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) are also volunteer members of rural fire brigades. As members of brigades, they play a valuable role in the life of their local community.
- 1.2 While the NSW RFS recognises and supports the membership of their local brigades by ongoing members of staff, it must also:
 - a. ensure brigade membership does not have an adverse impact on the staff member's ability to carry out their normal duties during periods of operational activity; and
 - b. maintain the integrity of the chain of command.

2 Policy

Staff Membership of rural fire brigades

- 2.1 Ongoing members of staff of the NSW RFS may also be members of, and participate in, the activities of a rural fire brigade.
- 2.2 The Commissioner may, in order to ensure the availability of ongoing members of staff during periods of operational activity, give directions in relation to their participation in brigade activities.
- 2.3 An ongoing ranked member of staff must not:
 - a. stand for election; or
 - b. be appointed
 as a field officer of a rural fire brigade, support brigade, or group of rural fire brigades.

2.4 An ongoing non-ranked member of staff may:

- a. stand for election; or
- b. be appointed

as a field officer of a rural fire brigade, support brigade, or group of rural fire brigades.

Note: This does not apply to State Mitigation Services Crew Leader and Crew Members as they are employed under temporary arrangements.

2.5 An ongoing ranked or non-ranked member of staff may:

- a. stand for election; or
- b. be appointed

as an administrative officer of a rural fire brigade or support brigade.

Participation of State Mitigation Services (SMS) Crew Leaders in brigade activities

2.6 SMS Crew Leaders are employed on a temporary basis and due to the temporary nature of this employment, the appointment of staff rank does not affect or interfere with the appointment of a SMS Crew Leader's volunteer rank.

2.7 SMS Crew Leader rank insignia is only to be displayed whilst on duty as a SMS temporary employee.

Participation in brigade activities

2.8 An ongoing member of the staff who participates in a brigade activity as a member of a brigade:

- a. does so as a volunteer; and
- b. is subject to the direction and control of the relevant brigade, group and district officers unless a safety issue or an inappropriate operational strategy is planned or being undertaken, in which case the issue should immediately be raised with the appropriate officer.

2.9 An ongoing member of staff who participates in a brigade activity as a member of a brigade must not respond with lights and sirens to a brigade call-out in a NSW RFS vehicle which has been assigned to him or her as a member of staff, other than by agreement with the District Manager or District On-Call Officer.

2.10 An ongoing ranked member of staff may be specifically requested to act as a crew leader by the District Manager, District On-Call Officer or NSW RFS Incident Controller.

3 Related documents

- > [Crown Employees \(Rural Fire Service\) Award 2012](#)
- > [SS 1.2.1 NSW RFS Ranking and Rank Insignia](#)

4 Amendments

AMENDMENT DATE	VERSION NO	DESCRIPTION
16 September 2005	1.0	> Initial release - titled Participation by Permanent Staff in Brigade Activities
25 March 2014	1.1	> Repealed and remade SS 2.1.9 v1.0 > Reviewed to reflect NSW RFS Rank Review 2012
20 November 2018	1.2	> Repeals and remakes SS 2.1.9 v1.1 > Change of title to Participation by Ongoing Staff in Brigade Activities, to align with current terminology