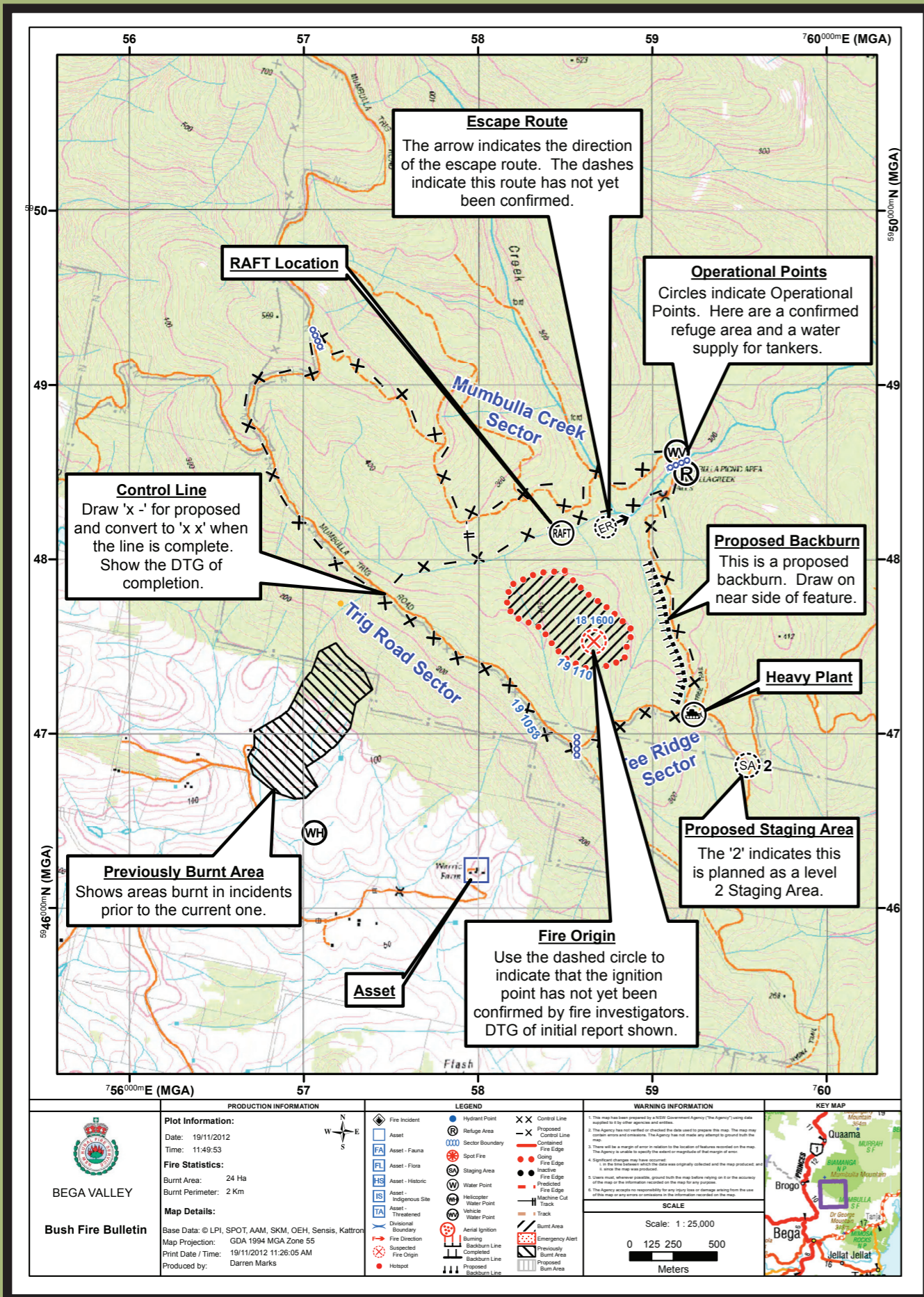


# New national Mapping Symbology for incidents



Exercise at Duffys Forest 2012. Photo by Bernie O'Rourke

The NSW Rural Fire Service has adopted the new National All Hazards mapping symbology.

The experience of a number of major emergency events, including the 2009 Black Saturday bush fires in Victoria, highlighted the need for standard mapping symbology across the Australian emergency sector. In April 2011, the Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC) board endorsed a new set of symbology. The Bush Fire Coordinating Committee resolved to adopt the new symbology in May 2012.

The most noticeable changes for NSW are:

- Operational points (base camps, water points etc) are now marked in circles instead of a mixture of circles or rectangles
- Operational points are now drawn in black rather than blue
- Proposed or Unconfirmed operational points can be indicated by using a dashed rather than a solid circle
- All asset locations (threatened asset,

- endangered flora etc) are marked using squares rather than diamonds
- Asset points are drawn in blue

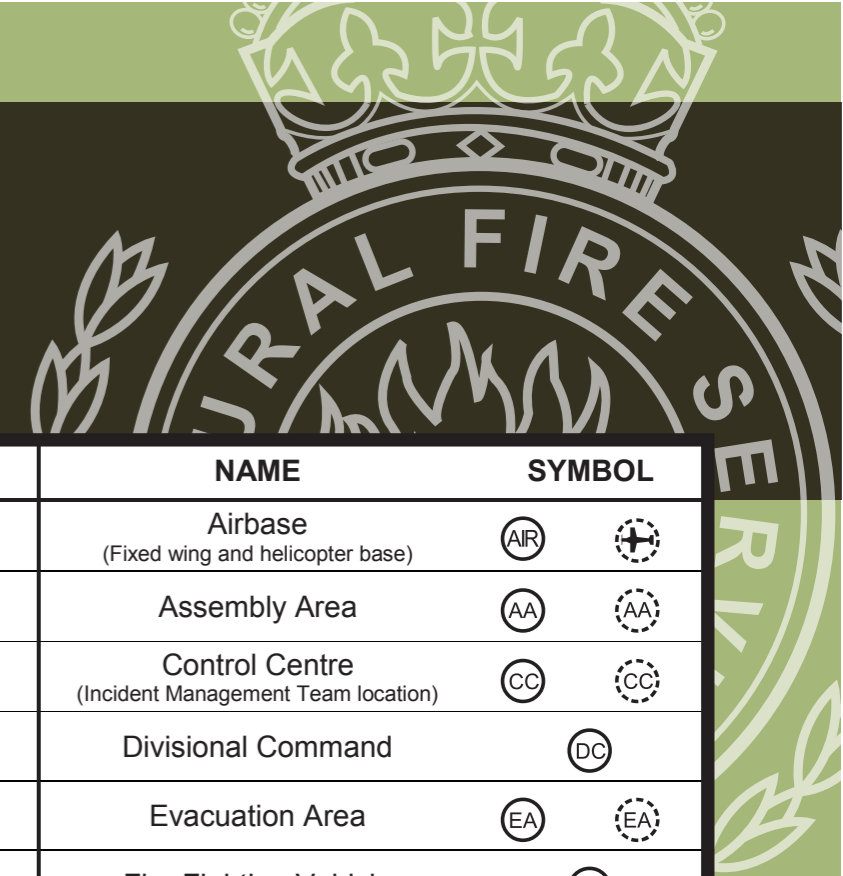
While some symbols have changed, the new symbols are intuitive and easy to recognise and a number of new symbols (such as road closure and hotspot) are also available. The new symbology has been designed for computerised mapping and both ICON and MapDesk have been updated to accommodate the changes.

There is also a hand drawn version of all symbols. The updated Incident Management Procedure for Bush Fire Mapping Symbols and a sample incident map using the new symbology are included in the following pages and can be posted on the wall of your local brigade station. If you have any questions or would like further information, please email the NSW RFS GIS Support team at [gis@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gis@rfs.nsw.gov.au).

# Incident Management Procedures

## 6.08.01 Bush Fire Mapping Symbols

DTG refers to Date Time Group which uses the two digits for the date and 24 hour time, eg 10:51hrs on 4 November would be: 04 1051



| NAME                      | SYMBOL                    | NOTES   |   |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|
| PREDICTED (fire edge)     |                           | Show DTG  |   |
| GOING (fire edge)         |                           | Show DTG  |   |
| CONTAINED (fire edge)     |                           | Show DTG  |   |
| INACTIVE (fire edge)      |                           | Show DTG  |   |
| EMERGENCY ALERT AREA      |                           | Show DTG  |   |
| PROPOSED CONTROL LINE     | X—X—X—X—X—X—              | Draw on far side of feature                                 |   |
| COMPLETED CONTROL LINE    | X X X X X X X X X X       | Show DTG  |   |
| PROPOSED BACKBURN         |                           | Draw on near side of feature                                |   |
| COMPLETED BACKBURN        |                           | Show DTG  |   |
| BACKBURN BURNING IN       |                           | Use Burnt Area polygon to show progress at DTG              |   |
| TRACK                     |                           | A pre-existing track not otherwise marked (ie farm tracks). |   |
| MACHINE CUT TRACK         |                           | A track cut in by plant for the current incident.           |   |
| <b>RED</b> – FIRE         | <b>BLACK</b> – OPERATIONS | <b>BLUE</b> – WRITING and ASSETS                            |   |
| Operational               | Proposed/ Unconfirmed     | Assets  |   |
| NAME                      | COLOUR                    | SYMBOL  | NOTES   |
| Fire Origin (Unconfirmed) | Red                       |   | Show DTG  |
| Fire Direction            | Red                       |   | Show DTG  |
| Wind Direction            | Blue                      |   | Show DTG  |
| Spot Fire                 | Red                       |   | Isolated fire ahead of main fire                        |
| Hot Spot                  | Red                       |   | Particularly active fire or smoldering fuels            |
| Burnt Area                | Black                     |   | Burnt area of current incident                          |
| Previously Burnt Area     | Black                     |   | Show month and year                                     |
| Aerial Ignition           | Red                       |   | Proposed path to be treated. Complete circle when done. |
| Divisional Boundary       | Blue                      |   | Use geographical names                                  |
| Sector Boundary           | Blue                      |   | Use alphabetical names                                  |

| NAME   | SYMBOL | NAME  | SYMBOL |
|--|--------|---|--------|
| Access Point   |        | Airbase<br>(Fixed wing and helicopter base)           |        |
| Ambulance Location                                     |        | Assembly Area   |        |
| Base Camp  |        | Control Centre<br>(Incident Management Team location) |        |
| Control Point  |        | Divisional Command                                    |        |
| Escape Route<br>(Add arrow to show safe exit)          |        | Evacuation Area                                       |        |
| Evacuation Centre                                      |        | Fire Fighting Vehicle                                 |        |
| Helibase<br>(Helicopter only base)                     |        | Helipad   |        |
| Hydrant Point  |        | Livestock   |        |
| Medical  |        | Mobile Weather Station                                |        |
| Plant  |        | Police Vehicle  |        |
| Portable Communications                                |        | Property Damage                                       |        |
| RAFT Crew  |        | Refuge Area   |        |
| Road Closure   |        | Sector Command  |        |
| SES Vehicle  |        | Smoker On Ground                                      |        |
| Smoker Standing  |        | Staging Area<br>(Annotate with class of Staging Area) |        |
| Tree Down  |        | Water Point   |        |
| Water Point Helicopter<br>(Helicopter water supply)    |        | Water Point Vehicle<br>(Firefighting water supply)    |        |
| Asset  |        | Asset – Defendable                                    |        |
| Asset – Not Defendable                                 |        | Asset – Potentially Defendable                        |        |
| Threatened Asset                                       |        | Asset – Flora   |        |
| Asset – Historic Site<br>(Building or Structures)      |        | Asset – Fauna   |        |
| Indigenous Site  |        | Asset – Hazmat  |        |
| <b>The use of colours is recommended but optional.</b> |        |   |        |