Chief Officer’s Scheme for the Accreditation of Bushfire Hazard Practitioners v2.0

Version 2.0 of the Chief Officer’s Accreditation Scheme has been approved by the Chief Officer and will be effective from 1st May 2018. All practitioners are expected to familiarise themselves with the new scheme.

Since the original Accreditation Scheme was introduced there have been substantial changes to the regulatory regime governing planning and building in bushfire-prone areas. In addition, the operation of the BFP industry over the past years has identified issues and opportunities for improvement. Version 2.0 was subsequently prepared to resolve identified issues and implement required improvements.

The key changes are as follows:

- The roles and functions, responsibilities and expectations of each party are explained in greater detail;
- Greater detail is prescribed for the lodgment of BFP work, so as to streamline administrative processes. (please note: this includes a max. timeframe for lodgment of certified work to TFS records);
- An additional category of accreditation to identify those BFPs who have relevant post-graduate qualifications;
- Scope of accreditation has been revised to reflect the regulatory system, including additional scope of accreditation for emergency planning;
- The process for accreditation has been better explained;
- The audit process has been better explained.

TFS will soon be issuing Accreditation Certificates under the new scheme to all existing BFPs.

Version 2.0 is now available for viewing online.
Bushfire Hazard Advisory Note No.6 - Building Work at Bushfire Attack Level BAL-40 and BAL-FZ

TFS has prepared a new Bushfire Hazard Advisory Note (BHAN 6-2018) to communicate the policy position on development at BAL-40 and BAL-FZ. This is intended to provide guidance to practitioners, designers, planning authorities and permit authorities.

Developing a site to BAL-40 or BAL-FZ (Flame Zone) standard potentially exposes occupants, firefighters and buildings to extreme hazard exposure, including flame contact with buildings. Constructing a building to AS 3959-2009 specifications at these BALs should not be assumed to equate to a comparable level of residual risk as that which is achieved by siting and developing a building to a lower BAL.

For this reason, Tasmanian building regulations only provide Deemed-to-Satisfy (DTS) standards for development up to BAL-29. Building work involving BAL-40 or BAL-FZ can only be approved via a Performance Solution that is supported by assessment of site-specific risk factors and can demonstrate a tolerable risk outcome is achievable.

This regulatory arrangement is consistent with the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission of 2009, which advised against providing Deemed-to-Satisfy provisions that would normalise the placement of buildings and people in positions of extreme risk.

BHAN 6 is now available for viewing online.