TASMANIA FIRE SERVICE
FALSE FIRE ALARM REDUCTION STRATEGY

fire.tas.gov.au

Building Safety Unit GPO Box 308 Hobart Tasmania 7001
Phone 1800 000 699 | buildingsafetysouth@fire.tas.gov.au

Tasmania Fire Service

Tasmanian Government

False Fire Alarm Reduction Strategy
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For further information
Tasmania Fire Service
GPO Box 308
HOBART TAS 7001
PH: 1800 000 699
Email: buildingsafetysouth@fire.tas.gov.au
Web: www.fire.tas.gov.au

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Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional owners of the land upon which we work and pay our respect to Elders past and present. We recognise the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the continuing custodians of the rich cultural heritage of lutruwita / Tasmania.

False Fire Alarm Reduction Strategy

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

False fire alarms pose significant financial, temporal, and safety challenges, costing over $6.5 million yearly in direct operational expenses and contributing to indirect costs exceeding $12 million. With over 4,600 false fire alarms responded to annually, urgent action is necessary to ease the strain on resources, enhance emergency response effectiveness, and reduce the impact to business and community. This strategy involves government, businesses, property owners, and occupants working together to reduce false fire alarms by 40% over the next five years.

Reducing false fire alarms minimises disruption for businesses and improves safety for occupants. This strategy fosters responsible alarm management through collaboration and targeted measures, leading to a safer community.

Central to this strategy is recognising that addressing false falarms requires collective action and coordination. By fostering collaboration and implementing targeted measures such as enhanced monitoring systems, improved policies, and community awareness campaigns, this strategy aims to cultivate responsible fire alarm management practices.

Recognising the requirement for a comprehensive solution, the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) initiated a project to develop a unified approach to address false fire alarms. Through extensive review, independent analysis, and consultation processes, the findings have been distilled into five focus areas. Encompassing twenty-three actions, the areas of focus reflect a strategic and collaborative effort to comprehensively tackle the issue of false fire alarms.

While the actions primarily focus on improvements to processes and policy within the TFS, their implementation promises significant benefits for building owners, particularly in reducing the occurrence of false fire alarms. Adequate resourcing is essential to the effective implementation and ongoing success of this strategy, ensuring that policy development, training, and educational initiatives are sustained over time. By fostering a holistic, department-wide approach, this strategy seeks to enhance and evolve fire alarm management practices and improve the safety and well-being of all Tasmanians.

THE FALSE FIRE ALARM PROBLEM

The false fire alarm problem in Tasmania presents a complex challenge rooted in various factors, ranging from the intricacies of monitoring systems to legislative requirements. With approximately 2,100 monitored building fire alarm systems, the state has recorded an annual average of 4,669 false fire alarms over the last 16 years. This places a significant burden on the resources of the TFS, including volunteer and career brigades.

Despite efforts to address the problem, inherent difficulties arise from outdated monitoring systems, a diverse range of building occupancies, and a lack of policy. Resources have never been dedicated to addressing this issue.

The problem is compounded by the complex interaction of system design flaws and human factors. Many fire detection systems are overly sensitive or improperly configured for the specific environments in which they are installed, triggering alarms from non-fire-related activities such as steam, dust, or minor electrical faults. Additionally, human error plays a significant role, including improper maintenance, accidental activations, and inadequate staff training on managing and isolating alarms, leading to frequent false activations.

WHAT ARE FALSE FIRE ALARMS?

A false fire alarm is the activation of an automatic fire alarm system that is caused by reasons other than fire. Before deeming the alarm false, the TFS must attend the building and determine the nature of the alarm. The TFS works with the community to reduce the number of false fire alarms per year.

For the 2022/23 financial year, the TFS attended over 4,650 false fire alarms. This equates to over a dozen false fire alarm attendances each day.

Under the *Fire Service Act 1979*, the TFS has a legal obligation to attend every notification of a fire. There are three types of fire alarms:

1. Direct Brigade Alarms. The TFS monitors the detection and suppression systems installed within buildings around the state.
2. Calls to attend activated fire alarms through privately monitored alarm systems (such as security companies).
3. Calls to attend activated fire alarms through public notification.

Within Tasmania, there are many causes of false fire alarms. The primary causes include:

- Insufficient building maintenance.
- Smoke resulting from cooking activities or burning food (such as toasters).
- Steam from showers, cleaning, and cooking.
- Aerosols, such as deodorant and insect spray.
- Smoke and fumes from cigarettes, vaping, candles, and incense.
- Maintenance works on buildings that create dust or fumes.
- Malicious or accidental manual call point or break glass alarm activations.
- Inappropriate placement of detectors relative to room use (e.g., smoke detectors in kitchens).
- Poor ventilation.
- Insect infestations (particularly in larger factory premises).
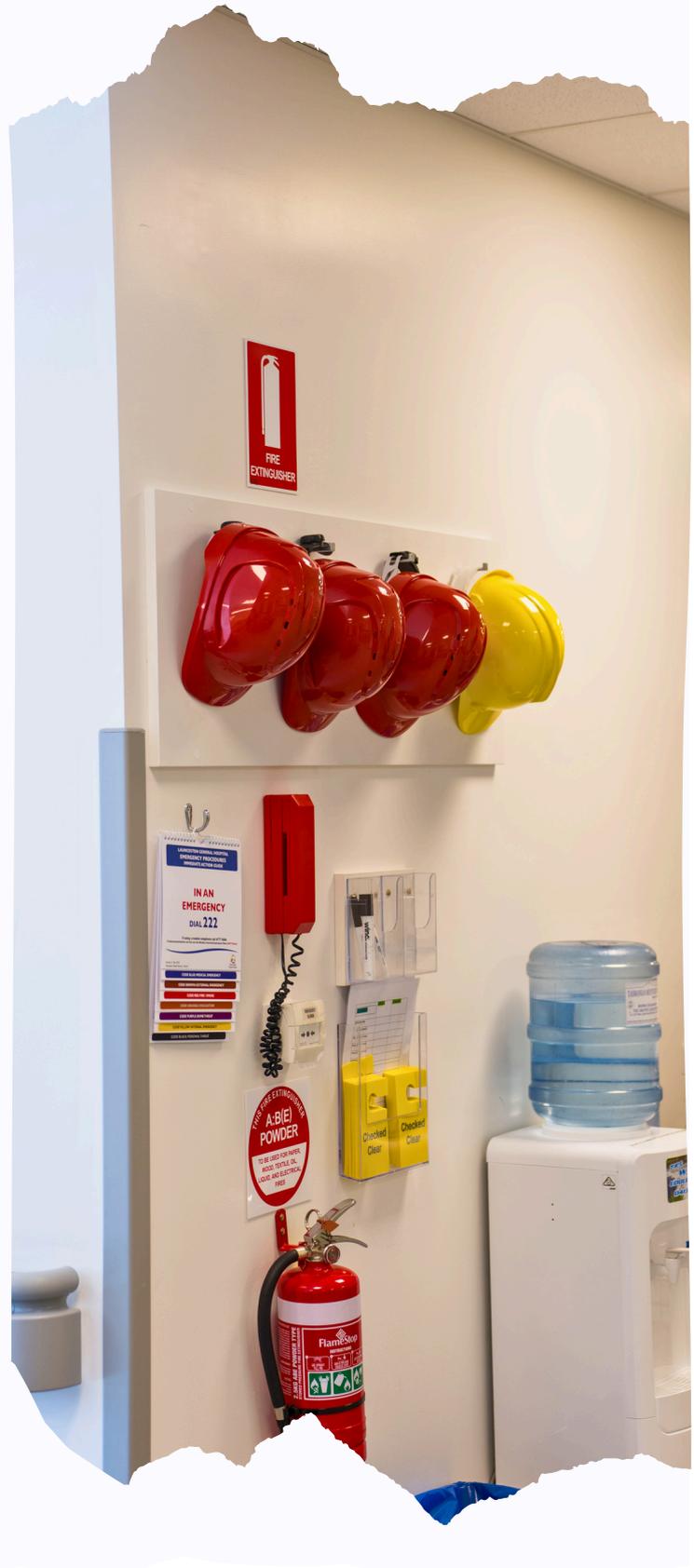
IMPACT OF FALSE FIRE ALARMS

Monitoring premises provides many benefits to the community, such as allowing a faster response due to the early notification of fire. Early intervention reduces the risk of exposure to fire and other hazards for building occupants and firefighters. For higher-risk premises (such as hospitals, schools, and nursing homes), monitoring also enables a pre-determined response strategy, thereby providing a swifter and safer response. Early intervention also reduces the potential cost to insurers, companies, and the community.

With increased numbers of monitored premises, also comes a higher number of false fire alarms. The reduction of false fire alarms is important to reducing the negative economic impact on the community and maintaining fire service capacity.

Responding to false fire alarms drains resources and affects premises in many ways:

- Disruption to premises from the requirement to evacuate at the sounding of a fire alarm. This can lead to loss of productivity and business function, compounded where an alarm system is continually faulty.
- Many TFS firefighters are volunteers and responding to false fire alarms places additional demands on their time and personal lives. Repeatedly attending unnecessary callouts can contribute to fatigue and strain.
- Continual false fire alarms can lead to complacency in the event of a real fire emergency.
- Delayed TFS operational response times to real emergencies.
- An increased risk of injury to firefighters and the public.
- Premises can receive financial penalties incurred due to three or more instances of false fire alarms within sixty days.
- Businesses and building owners can incur extra costs to maintain and test faulty alarm systems.

False Fire Alarm Reduction Strategy

FALSE FIRE ALARMS IN TASMANIA

The TFS grapples with a substantial false fire alarm issue, with an average of 4,669 false fire alarms annually over the past 16 years. These incidents, accounting for 41.8% of all emergency responses, incur significant financial and operational costs. The current fee schedule specifies a $390 false fire alarm charge. This charge does not reflect the actual costs incurred by the TFS and is significantly lower than other states. Therefore, it is ineffective in deterring non-compliance with false fire alarm management standards.

The consequences of false fire alarms extend beyond financial burdens, affecting the efficient use of TFS resources, potentially fostering complacency among building occupants and elevating risks to firefighters and the public. To address these challenges, a holistic approach is imperative, focusing on minimising false fire alarm occurrences through collaborative efforts and strategic interventions.

A comprehensive false fire alarm reduction strategy is vital, targeting key focus areas and actions to mitigate the significant impacts of false fire alarms on Tasmanian communities and emergency response capabilities.

The collective cost associated with false fire alarms underscores the urgency of effective mitigation strategies. From urban-based career responses to volunteer-driven efforts, each false fire alarm incurs substantial operational expenses, emphasising the need for proactive measures to reduce their occurrence. By aligning resources and efforts towards comprehensive false fire alarm reduction initiatives, the TFS can enhance operational efficiency, improve public safety, and alleviate financial burdens on taxpayers, ensuring a more resilient and responsive emergency management system for Tasmania.

STRENGTHS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The TFS is dedicated to safeguarding the Tasmanian community and continually faces diverse challenges in fire management, with false fire alarms being a persistent issue. As part of a strategic approach to addressing the false fire alarm problem, it is crucial to recognise and leverage the strengths and opportunities within the TFS.

The following table outlines some key strengths of the TFS that contribute to effectiveness in managing emergencies alongside opportunities for continuous improvement and innovation. These operational and administrative conditions will drive the successful execution of the strategy's focus areas.

Strengths	Opportunities
Trained and Dedicated Team of Firefighters This strength is central to executing enhanced training programs (Focus Area 2) designed to reduce false fire alarms by equipping frontline staff with the necessary skills and knowledge.	**Expansion of Data-Driven Decision Making** By implementing sophisticated analytics tools, the TFS can better identify high-risk areas and allocate resources, thereby supporting the development of targeted policies and procedures (Focus Area 1).
Established Public Trust and Community Relationships The TFS's strong reputation and relationships with the community form a foundation for successfully implementing education and support programs (Focus Area 3). This ensures broad engagement and cooperation from building owners and other key stakeholders.	**Enhancing Financial Accountability through Public-Private Partnerships** By developing a transparent fee structure that incentivises compliance and proactive management, and by collaborating with building owners and alarm system providers, the incidence of repeat false fire alarms is reduced and a shared responsibility fostered (Focus Area 4).
Strong Collaboration with Other Emergency Services Leveraging this strength supports the development of streamlined business systems and practices (Focus Area 5), ensuring effective communication and coordination in false fire alarm management.	**Adoption of Advanced Technologies and Methodologies** The integration of advanced technologies, such as three-digit fire alarm codes and alarm delay systems, directly supports the streamlining of processes and the enhancement of data accuracy in false fire alarm management (Focus Area 5).

DEVELOPMENT OF THIS STRATEGY

This strategy has been developed in line with the national initiative to reduce instances of false fire alarms within the built environment. The national initiative seeks to:

- Increase public safety.
- Improve operational response.
- Reduce costs.
- Streamline business functions relating to automatic fire alarms.

The False Alarm Reduction Project was an initial three-year project, commencing in 2021. The goal was to review existing processes and design a coordinated policy solution to reduce false fire alarms. This is in recognition that no single function will bring about a substantial reduction in false fire alarms. Rather, a synergistic combination of functions is essential for success.

The project initially reviewed existing functions and processes related to alarm systems and responses. This in-depth assessment sought to identify the weaknesses and strengths of the current processes, enabling areas of improvement to be identified.

Acknowledging the vital role of collaboration among diverse stakeholders, the strategy endeavours to cultivate a culture of cooperation and information sharing. Public stakeholder consultation conducted in 2023 gathered invaluable insights that are incorporated into this strategy. Fifteen submissions from internal TFS personnel, volunteers, and external stakeholders highlighted the unique challenges faced by Tasmania in managing false fire alarms.

Recognising that Tasmania is not alone in facing the issue of false fire alarms, insights were sought from other states that have implemented reduction strategies. This collaboration provided valuable lessons, particularly regarding the adoption of modern technologies and methodologies.

In 2024, an internal workshop facilitated by the independent advisory body Wise, Lord, and Ferguson resulted in recommendations that inform this strategy. The workshop provided an impartial perspective, helping to identify and address any overlooked issues in the development of this strategy.

WHY IS A STRATEGY NEEDED?

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

- The absence of a cohesive policy on false fire alarm reduction has led to inconsistent approaches across the business, weakening overall effectiveness.
- The lack of a contemporary alarm connection and monitoring agreement between the TFS and building owners undermines the relationship, reducing the effectiveness of false fire alarm management.

TRAINING OF FRONTLINE STAFF

- Frontline personnel lack the necessary tools and knowledge to effectively educate building owners during visits, undermining false fire alarm reduction efforts.
- Insufficient knowledge within the TFS on fire prevention and protection equipment and Inconsistent pre-incident planning for monitored premises.

EDUCATION AND SUPPORT

- There is a lack of awareness among building owners about the causes and consequences of false fire alarms.
- The current resources available to building owners are insufficient to effectively educate them on how to reduce false fire alarms, leading to persistent problems.

THE SETTING OF FEES AND CHARGES

- The current false fire alarm charge does not reflect the true cost of responses, failing to provide adequate financial deterrents.
- There is no established methodology for setting network fees, monitoring fees, and false fire alarm charges, leading to outdated and inconsistent fee structures.

BUSINESS SYSTEMS AND PRACTICES

- Inconsistencies in accuracy and timing of completing incident reports in the Australian Incident Reporting System (AIRS) for false fire alarm responses.
- Current practices lack streamlined communication and invoicing processes, leading to delays and inefficiencies in false fire alarm management.

THE FALSE FIRE ALARM REDUCTION STRATEGY
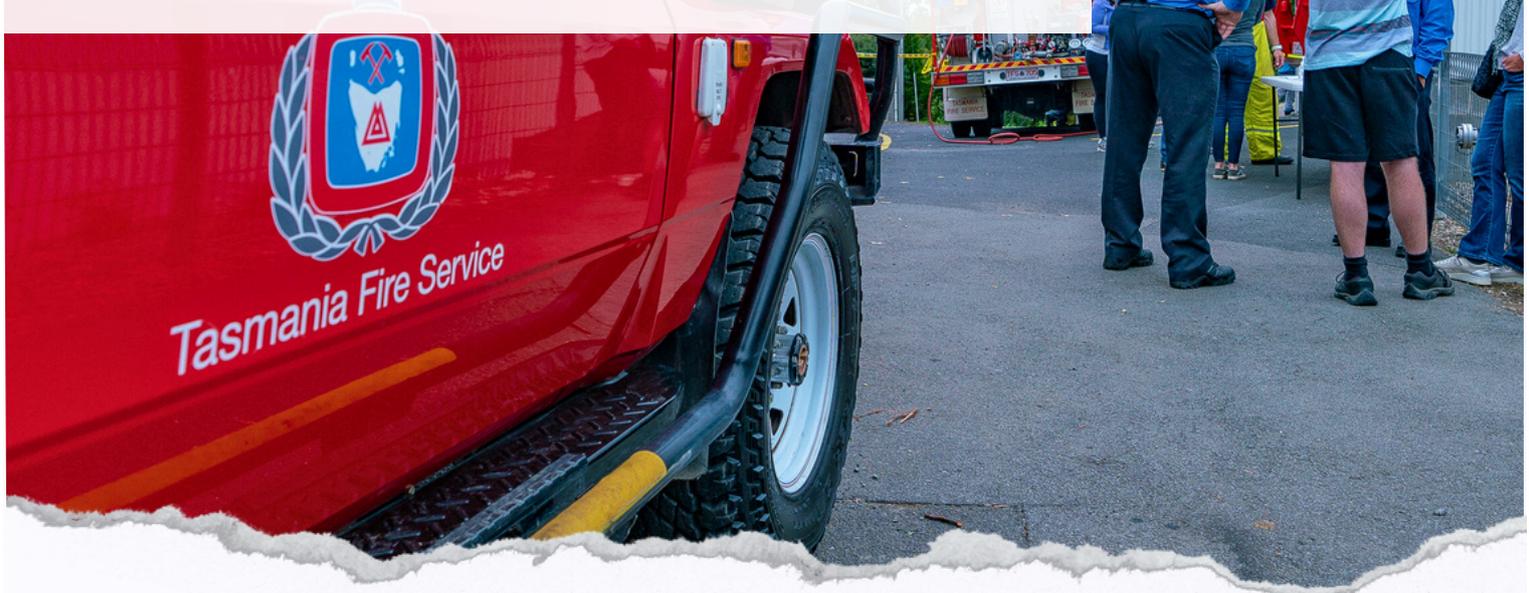
The False Fire Alarm Reduction Strategy is a response to the significant financial and operational challenges posed by false fire alarms in Tasmania. The strategy focuses on five key areas:

1. **Policy and Procedures**
2. **Training of Frontline Staff**
3. **Education and Support**
4. **Setting of Fees and Charges**
5. **Business Systems and Practices**

Each action within these focus areas is specifically designed to address the problems identified in the previous section, targeting the key issues contributing to false fire alarms. The strategy builds on the insights from the earlier sections, connecting the identified needs to actionable solutions that will drive effective and lasting change.

DEFINING THE FOCUS AREAS

The focus areas of this strategy were defined through a rigorous process of analysis and consultation. Beginning with a thorough review of existing functions and processes, the strategy was shaped by input from stakeholders and experts across various sectors. The focus areas emerged as the most critical points of intervention, where targeted actions would have the greatest impact on reducing false fire alarms and enhancing public safety. This strategic approach ensures that the efforts are not only comprehensive but also aligned with the broader goals of improving operational efficiency and community resilience.

FOCUS AREA 1

POLICY & PROCEDURES

Currently, the TFS operates within a framework of doctrine-level processes concerning alarm response and business operations. However, additional policies and guidelines are essential to manage the complexities of false fire alarms. These new policies will serve as foundational documents, providing structured guidance for tactical solutions across departmental units, and ensuring consistent and coordinated efforts in false fire alarm reduction strategies.

These policies will offer vital guidance for decision-making processes, addressing false fire alarm issues comprehensively. Ensuring alignment with existing regulations and industry best practices is crucial for enhancing compliance and streamlining the implementation of effective policies and procedures. Sustaining effective policy implementation will require dedicated resources to ensure that procedures are continuously updated, and that compliance monitoring is consistent. Without proper resourcing, these policies may not achieve their intended impact

ACTIONS

Action 1.1
Maintain the overarching policy on false fire alarm reduction. Provides a unified framework for all DPFEM Units to align their strategies, ensuring a coordinated approach to reducing false fire alarms and enhancing public safety.

Action 1.2
I**mplement a pricing framework for setting network and monitoring fees.** By implementing clear pricing guidelines, responsible units can efficiently calculate and administer cost-recovery fees, ensuring transparency and consistency in fee structures across the department.

Action 1.3
Implement a pricing framework for setting the false fire alarm charge. Creating a robust pricing framework will enable the calculation of partial cost-recovery for false fire alarm responses. This framework will implement progressively higher penalties for premises that fail to reduce false fire alarms, encouraging proactive management and system maintenance.

Action 1.4
Develop policies and guidelines surrounding invoicing and debt collection processes. Enhancing processes will enable more effective management of outstanding fees and incentivise building owners to collaborate in false fire alarm reduction efforts.

Action 1.5
Review and amend existing Chief Officer's Operating Instructions (COOI) relating to false fire alarms. Aligning existing procedures with new policies ensures that false fire alarm reporting and on-site education practices remain effective in addressing false fire alarms.

Action 1.6
Review and develop policies and guidelines regarding expanded operational training related to fire prevention and protection. Enhancing training programs will equip staff with the skills to accurately identify alarm causes and provide effective on-site education.

Action 1.7
Develop and implement policy and guidance for education and engagement programs across monitored premises. Integrating education and awareness programs with billing systems and reporting mechanisms will facilitate systematic engagement with building owners.

Action 1.8
Develop and implement a contemporary alarm connection and monitoring agreement with associated policies and guidelines. Modernising contract management practices will ensure alignment with fee structures and technological advancements.

Action 1.9
Develop and implement policy directives for the False Alarm Billing System. Updating the billing system will streamline interactions with reporting upgrades and education programs, facilitating standardised processes and improving overall efficiency in managing false fire alarms.

Action 1.10
Develop guidelines for managing false fire alarm reduction content on the TFS website. Content aligned with broader strategy including education materials, fee structures, and waiver applications.

TRAINING OF FRONTLINE STAFF

The strategy places an emphasis on training frontline staff due to significant gaps identified in current training practices. Specifically, existing programs lack dedicated modules addressing false fire alarms and effective communication strategies with building occupants during alarm incidents. This deficiency underscores the urgent need for a comprehensive overhaul of training initiatives to provide frontline staff with the knowledge and skills to promptly and accurately identify, report, and mitigate false fire alarms.

Enhanced training programs are essential for frontline staff to communicate effectively with building occupants regarding alarm causes and preventive measures. Furthermore, improved training on accurate and timely reporting through incident reporting systems is crucial for ensuring data accuracy and facilitating informed decision-making processes within the Department. By addressing these training deficiencies, frontline staff will be better equipped to navigate false fire alarm scenarios, ultimately enhancing operational efficiency and reducing false fire alarms.

ACTIONS

Action 2.1
Develop and deliver induction training for DPFEM units regarding the policies and guidelines developed and implemented as part of the FARS. Providing induction training will ensure that relevant DPFEM units understand how the FARS operates within and between units, promoting a collaborative and inclusive approach to false fire alarm reduction.

Action 2.2
Assist PETRA and Training Delivery to amend and expand existing training on fire prevention and protection equipment for TFS operational staff, including delivery to volunteers. Amending and expanding training on fire prevention and protection equipment will ensure operational staff, including volunteers, are equipped with enhanced knowledge and skills when responding to fire-related incidents.

Action 2.3
Develop additional modules on false fire alarm classification and reduction measures, including methods for educating building owners, and assist in delivering these modules to all TFS operational staff. This will enhance staff understanding and skills in addressing false fire alarms. Delivering these modules to all operational staff will promote the widespread adoption of best practices and strategies for false fire alarm reduction.

FOCUS AREA 3

EDUCATION AND SUPPORT

An education and support program targeting false fire alarms in commercial, industrial, and public premises will be developed and implemented as a priority. This program will focus on raising awareness and educating building owners and occupants about the causes and consequences of false fire alarms, emphasising informed decision-making and responsible practices to mitigate them effectively.

The primary instrument is the development of educational materials providing comprehensive information on fire safety systems and proactive measures. The false fire alarm reduction guide booklet will be distributed widely to building owners and occupants, offering valuable insights and practical tips to mitigate false fire alarms effectively.

Additionally, problematic premises may be subject to escalating interventions. Education efforts will include targeted intervention based on specific alarm patterns at each premise. These will focus on practical advice for maintaining and upgrading alarm systems, supported by detailed guidance on resolving the causes of false fire alarms like system faults, occupant behaviours, and inadequate maintenance.

The program will prioritise educating building owners and occupants on their responsibility to maintain fire detection and suppression systems. Information will cover system lifespans, regular checks, and the adoption of modern technologies to minimise false fire alarms. By fostering a culture of continuous maintenance, the program aims to ensure optimal system functionality and reduce false fire alarm occurrences effectively.

ACTIONS

Action 3.1
Develop a comprehensive education and support program for building owners in collaboration with PETRA and Community Education, following the associated policy and guidelines. Empower building owners with the necessary knowledge and tools to understand false fire alarm causes, reduction measures, and associated fees and charges.

Action 3.2
Deliver educational materials to building owners regarding false fire alarm causes, reduction measures, fees, and charges. Delivering educational materials directly to building owners will ensure they are well-informed about false fire alarm issues, helping to reduce occurrences through increased awareness and understanding.

THE SETTING OF FEES & CHARGES

To effectively address false fire alarms, the strategy focuses on introducing financial consequences as a deterrent. Building owners and occupants are held financially accountable for repeated false fire alarms. The proposed fee structures aim to penalise repeat offenders while incentivising proactive measures to prevent false fire alarms.

To promote fairness and transparency in the false fire alarm charging system, the TFS will benchmark fee structures against established cost-recovery models used in states such as Victoria ($612 per truck per 15 minutes) and NSW ($1600 per incident). This will ensure that fees are competitive and reflect the actual operational costs of responding to false fire alarms, while discouraging repeat occurrences. All calculations will be published, ensuring building owners understand the basis of these fees.

Additionally, educating the public and improving reporting mechanisms will be prioritised to ensure accurate and prompt identification of false fire alarms. An increased false fire alarm charge must be accompanied by additional support available to building owners to address deficiencies.

Building owners may apply for a waiver of false fire alarm charges in cases where they comply with recommendations provided by the TFS. This waiver incentivises collaboration between building owners and service providers in mitigating false fire alarms, fostering a cooperative approach to fire safety and prevention.

ACTIONS

Action 4.1
Implement an increased false fire alarm charge based on a cost-recovery model. Will bring the charge in line with models adopted by other states and enable the partial recovery of costs associated with responding to false fire alarms.

Action 4.2
Align network and monitoring fees with a cost-recovery model, ensuring consistency and fairness in fee structures across all premises. Ensures that fees accurately reflect the resources expended by the TFS, promoting fairness and sustainability in fee structures.

Action 4.3
Produce a false fire alarm charge waiver process and application form for premises compliant with TFS recommendations. Provides compliant premises with a mechanism to apply for waivers, encouraging proactive efforts to reduce false fire alarms and fostering cooperation between TFS and building owners.

FOCUS AREA 5

BUSINESS SYSTEMS & PRACTICES

The strategy prioritises enhancing business systems and practices to manage automatic fire alarm systems and associated operational elements. By revising existing guidance and procedural doctrine, the strategy aims to establish transparent communication processes covering alarm response, monitoring billing, enforcement, and reporting.

Learning from other jurisdictions has highlighted the importance of adopting best practices to enhance false fire alarm reduction efforts. For instance, introducing the three-digit fire alarm codes recommended by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) can simplify processes, ensure more quantitative and accurate data reporting, and provide guidelines that determine whether a false fire alarm charge is warranted.

During consultations, exploring advanced technology related to Automatic Fire Alarms emerged as a prominent theme. Notably, other Australian states have successfully implemented advanced technologies to enhance the accuracy and efficiency of alarm systems, leading to reduced false fire alarm rates and improved emergency response capabilities.

ACTIONS

Action 5.1
Develop procedures detailing operational and business practices for collaborative false fire alarm management. Facilitate effective communication among units, ensuring adherence to the policy and guidelines of the strategy.

Action 5.2
Explore the feasibility of collating networking/monitoring fees and false fire alarm charges through a singular program. Deploying a comprehensive invoicing system will save resources by streamlining the process, which currently takes approx. 15 minutes per invoice.

Action 5.3
Pursue the adoption of three-digit fire alarm codes. This initiative will align Tasmania with other Australian states and simplify the AIRS process for personnel, ensuring more accurate and efficient reporting.

Action 5.4
Develop amendments to the False Alarm Billing (FAB) System. Will enhance monitoring and reporting requirements for false fire alarms and improve consistency and accuracy in determining false fire alarm charges.

Action 5.5
Explore contemporary automatic fire alarm technology. Advances in technology, such as alarm delay/ 'Type B' facilities and Advanced Signal Analysis (ASA), present an opportunity to modernise the state's alarm network.

ACTION PLAN

The implementation of the False Fire Alarm Reduction Strategy relies on a coordinated approach where actions across the five key focus areas cooperate to achieve the overall objectives. These actions are designed to be implemented concurrently, with certain foundational elements supporting the success of others.

Policy and Procedures form the backbone of the strategy, establishing the framework necessary for consistent implementation across all other priorities. The development of comprehensive policies, such as those governing fee structures and operational procedures (**Actions 1.1 to 1.10**), is essential to provide clear guidance for subsequent training, education, and business practices.

Training of Frontline Staff and **Education and Suppor**t efforts are closely linked and will be rolled out in tandem. As policies are solidified, training programs are updated to equip staff with the skills needed to execute these policies effectively (**Actions 2.1 to 2.3**). Concurrently, education initiatives target building owners, ensuring that all stakeholders are informed and aligned with the strategy's goals (**Actions 3.1 and 3.2**). The success of training and education efforts is contingent on the solid foundation provided by the initial policy work.

Setting of Fees and Charges plays a crucial role in reinforcing the broader objectives of the strategy. These measures are designed to work in harmony with policy development, training, and education initiatives by promoting clarity and encouraging proactive behaviour among premises owners. An increased charge (**Action 4.1**) has proven impactful in other states but requires support for building owners and effective processes.

Finally, **Business Systems and Practices** enhance the operational framework, ensuring that all processes are streamlined and efficient. These actions are informed by the policy framework and support the ongoing management and evolution of the strategy. Notably, **Actions 5.3** and **5.4** are necessary to allow quantitative evaluation of the strategy and increase consistency.

A crucial element to the success of this strategy is the allocation of dedicated resources. Without sufficient resourcing—both in terms of personnel and funding—the implementation would be significantly hindered. Dedicated resources ensure that each action is not only developed but also sustained over time. This allows for the capacity to engage stakeholders effectively and respond to emerging challenges, ultimately securing the long-term success of the strategy.

False Fire Alarm Reduction Strategy

LOOKING FORWARD

As we advance with implementing the strategy, our focus extends to management and evaluation. By instituting structured monitoring and evaluation processes, we aim to track progress effectively. This will include reviews against key performance indicators to ensure alignment with objectives across the identified focus areas.

This strategy is aligned with the Australian Fire Alarm Standards and Tasmania's emergency management goals. The long-term benefits of the False Fire Alarm Reduction Strategy extend beyond operational cost savings. By promoting responsible alarm management, the strategy will foster community-wide resilience, reduce strain on emergency services, and contribute to Tasmania's overall public safety infrastructure.

INDICATIVE REDUCTION OUTCOMES

These figures are based on the calculated sixteen-year average per annum expense of 4669 operational response hours and $6,824,000. Percentages determined in consultation with other states who have implemented similar strategies.

Year	Reduction in False Fire Alarms	Est. Time Savings Per Year	Est. Cost Savings Per Year
1	10%	466 hours	$682,400
2	20%	933 hours	$1,364,800
3	30%	1400 hours	$2,047,200
5	40%	1867 hours	$2,729,600

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AFAC - Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council
AIRS - Australian Incident Reporting System
COOI - Chief Officer's Operating Instruction
DPFEM - Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management
FAB - False Alarm Billing
PETRA - Performance, Education, Training, Recruitment, and Assessment
TFS - Tasmania Fire Service

MORE INFORMATION

For further insights and detailed guidelines regarding false fire alarm reduction strategies, please visit the Tasmania Fire Service website's dedicated page on False Fire Alarm Reduction. This resource offers valuable information and practical advice aimed at minimising false fire alarms. Additionally, feedback from public consultation has been made publicly available for download and review.