

What I Need to Know

- The Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990 Section 53(2) (j) gives the power to authorised fire officers (First Officers have been delegated power under Section 53; Fire Wardens also have this power) to require the occupier of premises at or near the site of danger to take any reasonable measure for the purpose of assisting the officer to deal with the danger or to answer any question or provide any information for that purpose.
- Section 58a (1) and (2) requires owners, occupiers and employees on a premises to provide facilities and assistance to authorised fire officers.
- Section 67 requires the occupier of land to take all reasonable steps to extinguish or control fires on the land upon becoming aware of the fire (regardless of the cause and origin).
- Clause 12 (a) of the Permit to Light Fire states that the perimeter of the burn must be cleared of all burning material that might allow the fire to escape. Clause 12 (b) states that the area burnt must be patrolled sufficiently to ensure the fire does not escape. Permittees must attempt to control escapes and continue to do so until the fire is controlled.

How I do it

- When QFRS firefighting operations have contained the fire, the officer in charge needs to make provisions for finalising mopping up and patrol.
- The officer should assess the situation and determine if the landowner/occupier is capable of undertaking the necessary work on the fire line.
- The officer should identify him/herself as an authorised fire officer. The landowners/occupiers should be advised of their responsibilities under the act to control fire on their land. The officer in charge may advise the landowners/occupiers that he/she is handing over responsibility for the fire to them. If the fire has burnt on more than one property, landowners/occupiers could be given responsibility for their own section of the fire line.
- The officer can direct the owner/occupier to take specific measures to ensure the fire remains contained. For example, a landowner/occupier and employee may be directed to patrol the perimeter until 1800 hours with their 4x4 ute and extinguish any embers within 2 meters of the burnt edge and report any escape immediately to 000.
- Only instructions that the owner/occupier is capable of carrying out and that are considered safe should be given. It is good practice to have a witness to instructions given and make a diary entry of the details.
- Advice regarding environmental issues such as the rehabilitation of firebreaks can also be given.