

What I Need to Know

Use of Brigade Equipment by Landowners

- QFRS Rural Operations does not support landowners using rural fire brigade equipment to prepare, light and maintain a fire on property unless the equipment is being used by brigade members who support the landowner conducting such activities.
- There are a number of practical issues arising but primarily there are the legal obligations that must be considered in determining the use of brigade equipment.
- The *Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990 Section 84* covers the supply of equipment to rural fire brigades. This section also indicates that the equipment provided or purchased is owned by the State through the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive is the Director General of the Department of Emergency Services (DES). Section 85 of the Act relates to the Chief Executive being responsible for the efficiency of the rural fire brigade through training and other assistance as necessary.
- The *Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995* places obligations on employers, designers and suppliers of equipment to ensure that operators of such equipment are trained in the safe use of the equipment so as not to place themselves or others at risk.
- As a legal responsibility, rural fire brigade volunteers are trained as individuals and as a team in the use and application of firefighting equipment to ensure their safety, the safety of others and the safety of the community are not compromised.
- This obligation by QFRS cannot be provided to people who are not members of rural fire brigades therefore QFRS cannot support the use of equipment by members of the community who are not recognised by QFRS training systems as being trained in the use of such equipment.

Storage of Flammable Liquids in Fire Stations

- All fire stations are classed as warehouses (Building Code of Australia 1990, Class 7, a building which is primarily used for storage).
- A brigade is not exempt from the rules governing the storage of flammable liquids.
- The storage of flammable liquids is governed by the *Building (Flammable and Combustible Liquids) Regulations* of the *Building Act*. The *Regulations* refer to Australian Standard AS 1940 – *The Storage and Handling of Flammable and Combustible Liquids*. The *Regulations* provide that each local authority will issue licences for the storage of flammable liquids.

How I do it

Storage of Flammable Liquids in Fire Stations

- AS 1940 allows for certain maximum quantities of various types of liquids to be stored in different types of building without a licence being required. This is known as “minor storage”. If a brigade believes that they require the ability to store amounts of flammable liquids above the amount determined as “minor storage” under AS 1940 they must apply to the local authority for a licence.

Reference Materials

- Area Reference Manual – Business Rule: D4.1.6 Maintain Stores and Consumables
- Australian Standard 1940 – The Storage and Handling of Flammable and Combustible Liquids