



SYDNEY TRAMWAY MUSEUM

OPERATING TRAMS IN SUMMER

JANUARY-MAY 2020

SYDNEY TRAMWAY MUSEUM

1. Purpose

To assist in deciding whether to operate trams on days of High Fire Danger.

2. Scope

This procedure is to be used by the Operations Manager, the OIC's, Traffic Manager or any STM Director who is deciding if trams should be allowed to operate, on Traffic days, ~~into the RNP~~ in summer.

3. Responsibilities

The Operations Manager or the OIC, on the day, is responsible for ensuring that it is safe to operate trams at the Tram Museum at Loftus.

4. References

STM6060 - Position Description for OIC

STM6061 - OIC Training Procedure

STM6072 - Position Description for Operations Manager

STM6083 - OIC Day Checklist

5. Definitions

BOM Bureau of Meteorology

OIC Officer in charge

RFS Rural Fire Service

RNP The Royal National Park

STM Sydney Tramway Museum, the trading name of South Pacific Electric Railway Co-operative Society Limited

6. Actions

6.1 General

Below are definitions of the various fire conditions from the RFS web site:

6.1.1 Bush Fire Danger Rating

The Bush Fire Danger Ratings give an indication of the possible consequences of a fire, if one was to start. Bush Fire Danger Ratings are based on predicted conditions such as temperature, humidity, wind and the dryness of the landscape. It is based on the forecast weather conditions and gives advice about the level of bushfire threat on a particular day. The higher the fire danger rating, the more dangerous the conditions.

The Fire Danger Ratings is a trigger to take action.

6.1.2 The Fire Danger Ratings are:

Catastrophic: For your survival, leaving early is the only option.

Extreme: Leaving early is the safest option for your survival.

Severe: Leaving early is the safest option for your survival.

Very High: Keep yourself informed and monitor conditions. Be ready to act if necessary.

High: Keep yourself informed and monitor conditions. Be ready to act if necessary.

Low/Moderate: Keep yourself informed and monitor conditions. Be ready to act if necessary.

None:

6.1.3 Total Fire Ban

Total Fire Ban: means no fires out in the open. The decision to issue a *Total Fire Ban* is usually made in the afternoon for the following day and usually starts at midnight and lasts

SYDNEY TRAMWAY MUSEUM

for 24 hours. However a Total Fire Ban may be issued on the actual day if weather conditions get worse. A total fire ban helps limit the potential of fires developing.

Electric barbeque is allowed for cooking as long as it is under the direct control of a responsible adult, who is present at all times while it is operating, and no combustible material is allowed within two metres at any time it is operating.

6.2 Operating Trams at Loftus in Summer

With the summers becoming hotter each year, it is now necessary for STM to consider if it should operate trams on very hot days.

With the heavy undergrowth, at present, on both the Sutherland and RNP lines, consideration must be taken as to whether STM should operate on these lines on days with High Fire Risk. Be aware that whilst it could be a small risk, a spark could come from the overhead wire and could ignite the bush when the bush is very dry.

If a ban is to be in place, consideration needs to be made as to what areas could operate. For example:

- a) Only stopping operations into the RNP by having trams stopping on the western side of the RNP level crossing;
- b) Stopping trams into the RNP and on the Sutherland line and only trams to operate within the Yard Limits;
- c) Closing the Museum completely and only opening it as a static museum (fires in the RNP);
- d) Closing the Museum complete to ALL visitors (fires in RNP very close to the Museum).

6.3 Operating Trams Into the RNP in Summer

At the start of operations on a Traffic day, all tram services into the Royal National Park line are NOT to operated if:

- a) If the RNP has been closed to vehicle traffic;
- b) If the RNP has only closed the **walking trails**; or
- c) If there are fires anywhere near in the RNP line.

If a TOTAL FIRE BAN is in placed in the LOFTUS and RNP area the Operations Manager or his nominee must communicate with the RNP staff to decide of to operate.

If there are any concerns, contact the RNP on 9542 0632 (Office) or 9542 0692 (Visitors Centre on Sundays) who could assist with making the “GO/NO GO” decision.

If Traffic operations have already started, The OIC and Traffic crews must monitor the RNP for fires during the day. This should be done if the expected temperature is forecast to be 35°C or greater.

If there is NO TOTAL FIRE BAN declared but it is a very hot day (*i.e. the expected temperature is forecast to be 35°C or greater – see m.bom.gov.au/nsw/loftus on your mobile phone*):

- a) The Operations Manager or his nominee MUST monitor the RNP and RFS websites (*see below*) before each operating day and can cancel the RNP service either before the start of the day or during the day, if concerned;
- b) Tram crews are to watch for fires during each trip into the RNP and immediately report them to OIC. The OIC and tram crews should monitor the RNP for signs of smoke, smell of smoke or flames during the day;
- c) The OIC and crews must warn passengers on the RNP trips that the Museum may STOP the RNP service at anytime (*in case they plan to catch the tram back later in the day*);
- d) Tram crews should be aware of passengers who get off the tram and go into the RNP. *This information can be passed onto emergency services if an evacuation is required to clear the park or if they are due to return on a later trip*;

SYDNEY TRAMWAY MUSEUM

- e) Remember whilst the RNP ranger may allow STM to operate trams into the RNP and state that the passengers must not leave the tram, STM CANNOT STOP passengers from leaving the tram at the RNP terminus to walk into the park; and
- f) The OIC or nominee is to use a smart phone to monitor the RNP site (see below) for any fire danger during the day.

Should a fire breakout or an emergency situation occur during the day and trams are already on the RNP line, crews MUST evacuate the RNP immediately, even short shunting and returning. Whilst the RNP line may be closed during the day due to fires or danger of fires, the Sutherland line may still operate a 30 minutes service.

Total fire bans

During periods of fire bans or hot weather, the Commissioner of the Rural Fire Service may declare a total fire ban for particular NSW fire areas, or state-wide.

To check the status, the following RFS website should be accessed:

<http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information>

Another application to use on *smart* phones is “*Fires Near Me*”. This gives information on current bush fires and other incidents across NSW, as well as warnings for fires nearby.

Major Fire Updates

During times of major fire activities, such as during bush and grass fires where there is a threat to the community, updates are posted on RFS website:

<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/major-fire-updates>

For information on planned hazard reduction activities, check the “Hazard Reduction” page on the RFS website. <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/hazard-reductions>

If you see a fire without a fire truck in attendance, please call Triple Zero (000).

ooo000ooo