

# BRIEFING NOTE

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## Recommended work and rest arrangements for aviation (non pilot) personnel who have airborne roles.

### For information

Working in the aviation environment often requires attention to detail, vigilance and accuracy. Such concentration can lead to fatigue and reduction in human performance. Pilots of contracted aircraft are required to work to specific flight and duty time limitations that are usually specific to the particular aircraft company. Civil Aviation Order 48 (with exemptions)(CAO 48) prescribes the following **for pilots** with regards to tactical firefighting:

- (a) Flight crew shall not fly and an operator shall not require flight crew to fly in excess of 1,000 hours in 365 consecutive days;
- (b) Flight crew shall not fly and an operator shall not require flight crew to fly in excess of 120 hours in 30 consecutive days;
- (c) Flight crew shall not fly and an operator shall not require flight crew to fly in excess of 40 hours in 7 consecutive days; and
- (d) Flight crew shall not fly and an operator shall not require flight crew to fly in excess of 10 hours in 24 consecutive hours.

When engaged in day VFR tactical fire fighting, flight crew shall have one continuous period free from all duties of at least 36 hours in any seven consecutive days.

**Note:** some aircraft companies operate a more sophisticated system that more closely aligns the potential fatigue of the pilot to that of their work and rest environment.

Fire and land management agency operations in Victoria usually require the agency personnel to work alongside and in conjunction with the pilot. It is essential that

agency aviation related personnel are aware of and are actively managing fatigue levels associated with their role.

### To assist with fatigue management following is a recommended work rest program for airborne aviation non- pilot personnel:

1. Six days on duty followed by two days of rest.
2. Maximum of 72 hours "on duty" over six days. Including days where you are not assigned to an airborne role. (Every effort should be made to avoid holding personnel at airbases for briefing and debriefing unnecessarily – sometimes this cannot be avoided)
3. Maximum of 40 hours in an airborne role (flight time) in six days.
4. Maximum of 10 hours in an airborne role (flight time) in any one day.

### Comments

There will be times when this program cannot be followed for various reasons. In the event that this happens or is likely to happen the details and reason should be discussed with your line manager (possibly Air Operations Manager).

In campaign type operations strong consideration should be given to having multiple airborne specialists available so that personnel may be alternated on a sortie by sortie basis. This can also assist with development of individual skills for new or less experienced personnel.

All aviation personnel have a responsibility to record details of deployments and time on duty.

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(Note: this document **does not** take precedent over applicable workplace or industrial agreements)