



# 11.13 LACES (Lookouts, Awareness, Communication, Escape Routes, Safety Zones) SOP

## Section 1 - Purpose and Objectives

(1) To improve CFA members' safety by implementing the acronym LACES (Lookout - Awareness - Communication - Escape Routes - Safety Zones) during firefighting operations and other operational activities.

## Section 2 - Scope

(2) This procedure applies to all CFA members.

## Section 3 - Procedure

(3) LACES (Lookouts, Awareness, Communication, Escape Routes, Safety Zones) is an established acronym to help reduce the potential risks that CFA members face, including burnover and entrapment during bushfires, planned burn operations, and other operational activities.

(4) Everyone at the fire or incident scene has a role to play in LACES, it is important that every member speaks up about what is happening, and their concerns at the incident are listened to by all. Crew leaders can use LACES to ensure effective operations on the incident ground when considering operational strategies.

### Firefighters

<b>L</b>	Lookout	Everybody looks out for everybody else.
<b>A</b>	Awareness	Everybody is aware of the current and anticipated behaviour of the fire and other incident hazards and precautions.
<b>C</b>	Communications	Everybody speaks up about what is happening and their concerns at the incident and everybody listens.
<b>E</b>	Escape Route	Everybody has an "out" planned and agreed on.
<b>S</b>	Safety Refuge	Everybody helps everybody to survive. Everybody supports the decision to get clear of a hazard.

### Crew Leaders

<b>L</b>	Lookout	Assign a lookout to a safe vantage point in communication with OIC if appropriate.
<b>A</b>	Awareness	Terrain, weather, fire, behaviour, the task, and nearby activities.
<b>C</b>	Communications	Maintain suitable radio or other contact.
<b>E</b>	Escape Route	Suitable escape route/s checked and known by all crew.
<b>S</b>	Safety Refuge	Suitable, large enough, close enough, free from hazards.

## **Safety Note**

(5) Nil.

## **Environmental Note**

(6) Nil.

## **Section 4 - Definitions**

(7) Commonly defined terms are located in the CFA [centralised glossary](#).

## **Section 5 - Related Documents**

[Watchout Booklet 2020](#)

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## Status and Details

<b>Status</b>	Not Yet Approved
<b>Effective Date</b>	To Be Advised
<b>Review Date</b>	To Be Advised
<b>Approval Authority</b>	
<b>Approval Date</b>	To Be Advised
<b>Expiry Date</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Accountable Officer</b>	Jason Heffernan Chief Officer
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Garry Cook Deputy Chief Officer Operational Response & Coordination
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## Glossary Terms and Definitions

"**CFA member**" - Refers to all CFA volunteers, volunteer auxiliary workers, officers, employees and secondees.

"**LACES**" - 'LACES' reduces the fire ground safety principles into a simple acronym which is easily remembered and implemented. LACES - Lookouts, Awareness, Communications, Escape Routes, Safety Zones.

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