

LONGSTANDING FIREFIGHTING ARRANGEMENTS MEET AUSTRALIA'S NEEDS

Friday, 17 January 2020

Australia greatly appreciates offers of support during this very challenging bushfire season and the generosity of international firefighting agencies means no additional firefighters are needed at this time.

Currently all needs for firefighting personnel are being met through existing agreements between Australia and the United States, Canada, and New Zealand.

The Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) is working with the Australian Government to coordinate international and interstate assistance to respond to the bushfire emergencies across Australia. These requests are being managed in close consultation with the Australian states and territories to determine the best options to support emergency service personnel and fire-affected communities.

Current firefighting needs are being supported through pre-existing international arrangements with the [National Interagency Fire Center \(NIFC\)](#), the [Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre \(CIFFC\)](#) and [Fire and Emergency New Zealand](#). These agreements ensure deployment only of personnel with specifically requested expertise and abilities as required to fill specific vacancies. Approval to use any international firefighters must be authorised by the Australian Government and the receiving fire service.

"While we appreciate the desire to assist, we have no requirement for additional firefighters beyond what is being provided through these arrangements and we strongly discourage firefighters from deploying to Australia outside of these agreements," said Stuart Ellis, Chief Executive Officer of AFAC.

The best way to support fire-affected communities and emergency service agencies is through financial donations that may be made directly to the emergency service agencies or to the various established charities.

More than 6000 registered charities are working in bushfire affected regions. Please see this [list of contact details for charities](#) that are able to accept donations and are working to support bushfire relief or recovery efforts. This list has been provided by the Australian Treasury, Australian Taxation Office and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and will be progressively updated.

Offers of international volunteers are generally not able to be accepted by the charities due to training, logistic and immigration issues. Please be aware that without appropriate approvals secured in advance, well-meaning people may experience difficulties entering Australia.

Please direct enquiries to:

AFAC National Resource Sharing Centre

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National Interagency Fire Center

(208) 387-5050
BLM_FA_NIFC_Comments@blm.gov
www.nifc.gov

Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre

204 784 2030
ciffc@ciffc.ca
www.ciffc.ca