



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

Reference: Emergency Services – Justice and Community Safety Directorate

Hearing: 20 November 2025

In relation to: ACT Ambulance Service

Question received: 27/11/2025

Answer Due: 04/12/2025

As front-line emergency workers, it is crucial that ACT paramedics are issued full bushfire protective equipment in line with Australian standards.

1. What proportion of the ACT's current paramedics have been issued a complete set of fireground PPE?
2. As for those paramedics, who have a complete set of fireground PPE, what proportion of these uniforms and equipment meet Australian Standards? How many staff require a new issue?
3. How has this impaired ACT paramedics' ability to perform their jobs and attend essential training?

Dr Marisa PATERSON MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

(1-3) No frontline emergency workers, including ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) paramedics, are permitted to enter a fireground without adequate specialised training and appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) or Personal Protective Clothing (PPC).

Any PPE/PPC issued by the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) for use on a fireground is compliant with the Australian Standard 4824 for protective clothing as per the ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). The issuing of fire compliant PPE/PPC is done so on an as needed basis either through self-reporting for unserviceable items (faulty/damaged) or for newly qualified personnel.

If ACTAS paramedics are required to provide assistance in the event of a bushfire, they would be allocated to an appropriate staging area, which is strategically positioned at a safe distance from the incident. In this instance, full PPE/PPC for a fireground would not be required and the ability for paramedics to perform their jobs would not be impaired.

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However, ACTAS does have a specialised cohort of Remote Access Paramedics (RAP). There are currently six RAPs available for operations and 10 selected for future training. All RAPs undergo rigorous training to ensure they maintain the ability to access, treat, and transport patients in remote environments, including firegrounds. This capability is supported by specialist training, fitness requirements, PPE/PPC, and vehicles.

In the event of a bushfire, ACTAS works closely with ACTRFS to provide medical response to firefighters working in remote areas. This includes the implementation of allocating RAPs with skills in operating four-wheel drive ambulances and specialist understanding of bushfire operations working on the fireground escorted by a fire appliance.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

Signature: 

Date: 03/12/2025

By the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Dr Marisa Paterson MLA