



Bridgetown Bushfire CCA FAQ – 08/02/2022

This FAQ sheet is for distribution to all personnel who attended the Bridgetown Bushfire incident and were working in or near the Timber Treaters CCA Mill in Hester. These FAQ's provide background information regarding the CCA (Copper Chrome Arsenate) product.

What has happened?

The Bridgetown Bushfire has burned over 2200 hectares causing widespread damage, particularly to the Timber Treaters Mill which treats timber logs with CCA. Multiple piles of treated logs have burned leaving CCA contaminated ash.

What is being done to manage the CCA risks?

Surfaces on local homes and the Mill's dam water is initially being tested by Chemistry Centre WA and Department of Water, Environment and Regulation.

DFES has engaged contractors to stabilise the piles of CCA ash to prevent them from being blown in and around the Hester area. This is achieved by spraying a bonding agent over the ash piles which can easily be identified by its tinted colour. This process has been used successfully to limit the spread of Asbestos fibres at the TC Seroja incident in Kalbarri.

What technical advice is being provided?

DFES is actively consulting with a wide range of experts on CCA to ensure the risk of exposure to responders remains low. This includes;

- Department of Health
- Department of Water, Environment and Regulation.
- Chemistry Centre WA
- DFES Scientific Officer

What does this mean for me?

The likelihood of you being exposed to CCA is non-existent if you did not work in the Hester area.

If you did work in the area around the Timber Treaters Mill you may have been exposed to CCA ash or dust, had some ash on your appliance or in your appliance.

What do I need to do?

If you have worked in and around the Timber Treaters Mill in Hester, you are asked to:

- Wet down your tunic, bag it and send it to a DFES laundering facility.
- Wash your appliance and rinse thoroughly.
- Wipe the inside of the appliance with a disposable wet cloth
 - Do not brush it out
 - Pay particular attention to the footwells, pedals and lower door sill
- Report the exposure by completing a hazard report form.

Furthermore if you start to feel unwell, including the following symptoms of nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea, visit your local health practitioner.

What is DFES continuing to do?

The Department of Water, Environment and Regulation and Chemistry Centre WA is continuing to conduct initial testing to determine the levels of CCA contamination in and around the Hester area. Once these have been received, DFES will have a better understanding of the exposure risks to responders.