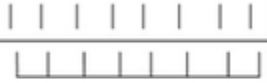
Incident Mapping

- Mapping Symbols
- Using Fire Mapping Symbols on Hand Drawn Fire Maps
- Using Fire Mapping Symbols on Hand Drawn Fire Maps to Plan and Manage Fire Control Operations
- Computer Generated Maps

Mapping Symbols

A standardised set of incident mapping symbols is used to ensure uniformity when placing fire or incident information on a map. It enables a lot of meaningful information to be placed on a map without causing clutter or confusion.

Symbols can be hand drawn on a topographic map in the field or used in a computer based Geographic Information System (GIS) in the Fire Control Centre.

NAME	SYMBOL	NOTES
PREDICTED (fire edge)		Show DTG
GOING (fire edge)		Show DTG
CONTAINED (fire edge)		Show DTG
PROPOSED (control line)	X—X—X—X—X—X—	Draw on far side of feature
COMPLETED (control line)	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X	On hand drawn map place a X over the horizontal lines Show DTG
PROPOSED (backburn)		Draw on near side of feature
COMPLETED (backburn)		Show DTG
BACKBURN BURNING IN		Lines show depth of burn at DTG
Fire Origin (Broken line if not confirmed)		Show DTG
Fire Direction	F →	Show DTG
Wind Direction	W →	Show DTG
Spot Fire (Broken line if not confirmed)		Isolated fire ahead of main fire
Burnt Area		Burnt area (if old, show month and year)
Aerial Ignition		Use broken line if proposed and solid line if completed
Hot Spot		Hot spots identified by FLIR

Geographic Boundaries

Divisional Boundary		Use geographical names
Sector Boundary		Use alphabetical names

Command, Control & Coordination

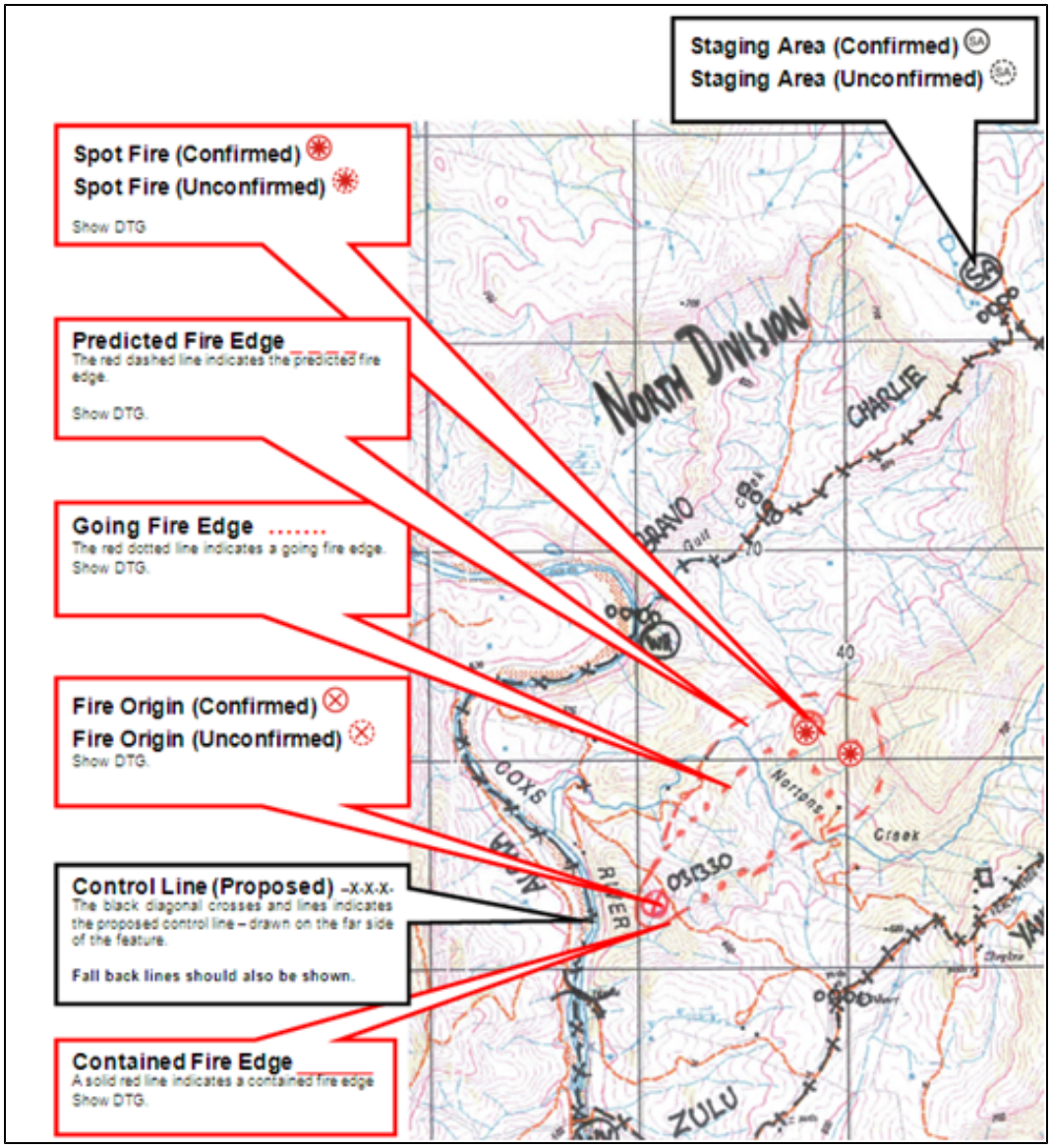
Use broken line ◌ if proposed & solid lines ◯ if confirmed

Incident Control Centre (Incident Management Team location)	CC	Staging Area (Broken line if not confirmed)	SA
Divisional Command (Broken line if not confirmed)	DC	Base Camp	BC
Sector Command (Broken line if not confirmed)	SC	Airbase (Fixed wing and/or helicopter base)	
Helipad	H	Water Point Helicopter (Helicopter water supply)	WH
Water Point Vehicle (Firefighting water supply)	WV	Hydrant	
Fire Appliance (Broken line if not confirmed)	FIRE	Plant	
RAFT	RAFT	Traffic Control (Broken line if not confirmed)	
Ambulance Location (Broken line if not confirmed)	AMB	Police (Broken line if not confirmed)	POL
SES (Broken line if not confirmed)	SES		

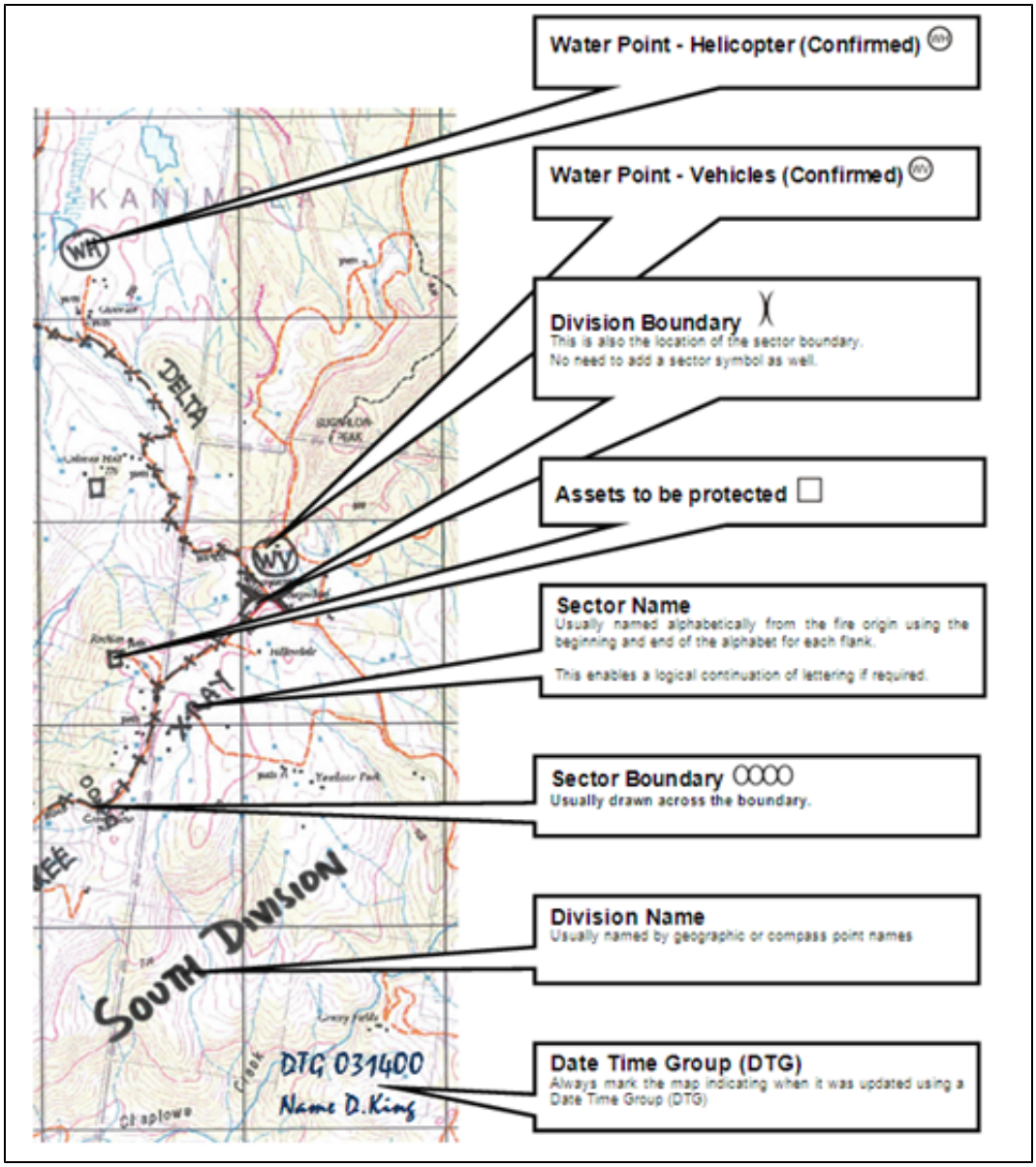
Assets to be protected ☐

Asset	☐	Threatened Asset	TA
Asset – Not defendable	☒	Asset – Defendable	☑
Historic Site (Building or Structures)	HS	Indigenous Site or Artefacts	IS
Endangered Flora	FL	Endangered Fauna	FA

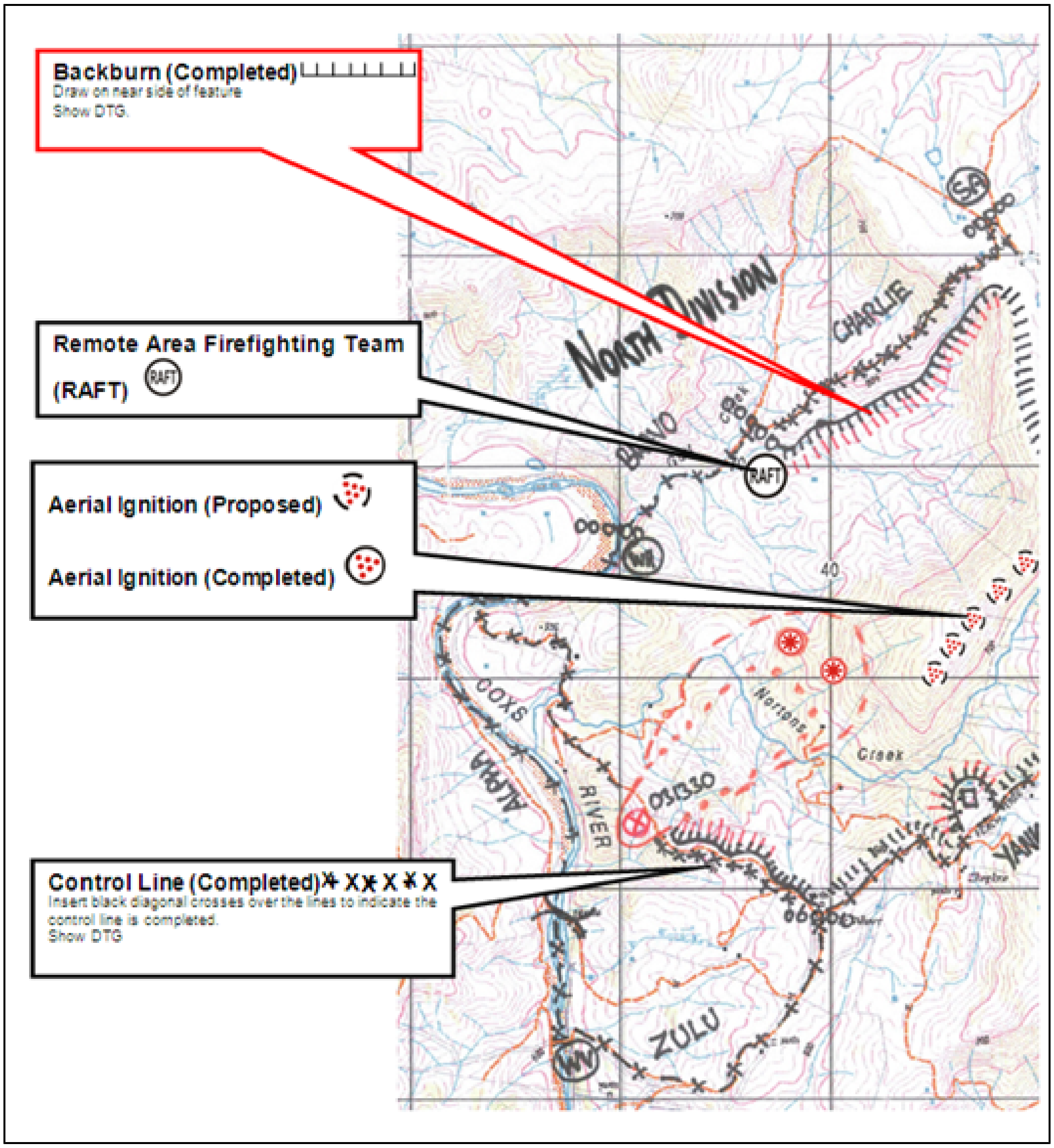
Using Fire Mapping Symbols on Hand Drawn Fire Maps

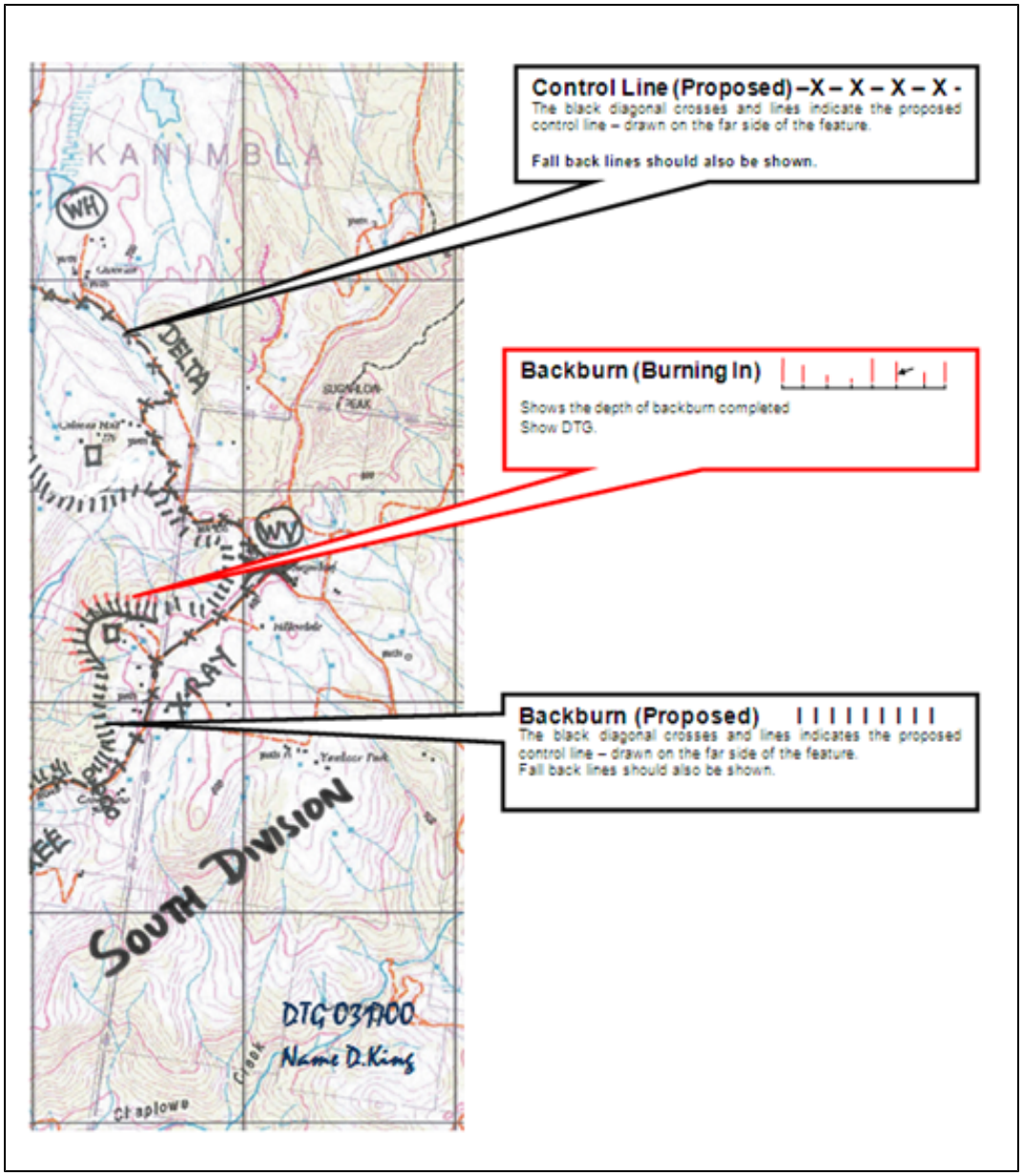


Always mark control lines on the far side of the feature. This will enable any backburning to be clearly shown.



Using Fire Mapping Symbols on Hand Drawn Fire Maps to Plan and Manage Fire Control Operations


Backburn (Completed)
Draw on near side of feature
Show DTG.
Remote Area Firefighting Team (RAFT)
Aerial Ignition (Proposed)
Aerial Ignition (Completed)
Control Line (Completed)
Insert black diagonal crosses over the lines to indicate the control line is completed.
Show DTG
NORTH DIVISION
CHARLIE
BRAVO
RAFT
SA
WR
40
COXS
RIVER
ALPHA
Nortons
Creek
031330
ZULU
WV

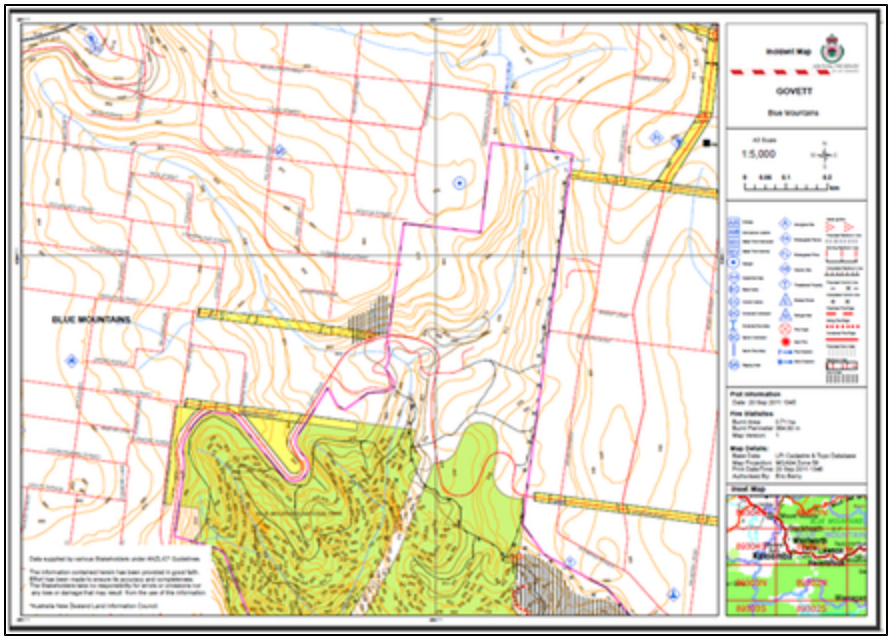


Computer Generated Maps

The NSW RFS uses a number of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to capture and present geographic information as a visual representation of an area.

A large quantity of spatial or geographic information is collected and stored for any given area in the State. This information includes the usual mapping data or geographical features, as well as specific information that identifies geographic locations of cultural or heritage significance, specific vegetation types, infrastructure such as water and power, burn history and brigade boundaries.

Spatial data is often accessed, manipulated or analysed through a GIS program such as Map Desk (in ICON), ArcGIS or Map Info.

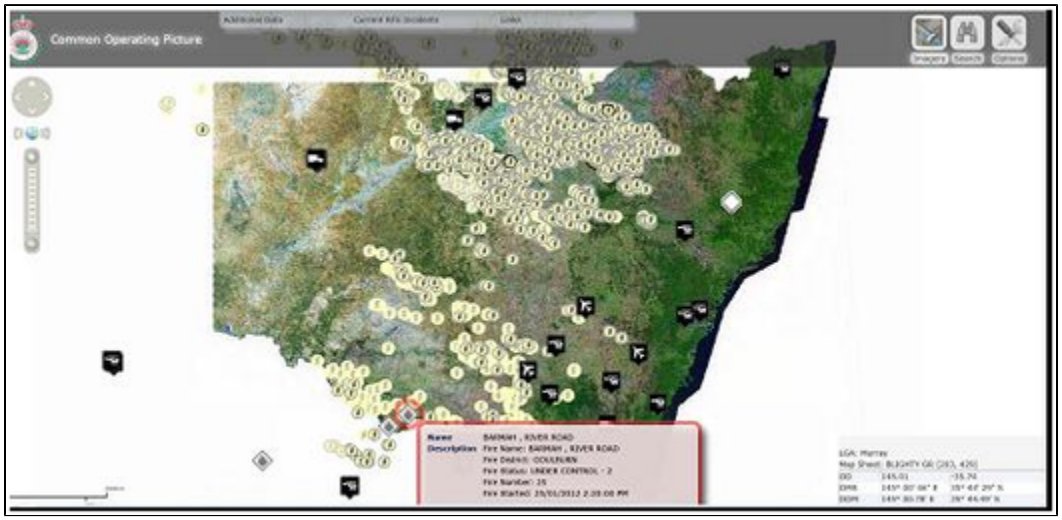


Typical Incident Map generated in ICON

All Incident Action Plans (IAPs) should have a map attached to ensure clarity of the mission and enhancing situational awareness of the incident.

Specific information, such as lightning strikes or weather data, can be overlaid onto a digital map to provide fire managers with an overview of conditions and likely problem areas.

The Common Operational Picture (COP) overlays information such as incident locations, lightning strikes, and aircraft locations to provide state wide situational awareness.



Common Operational Picture (COP) provides state wide situational awareness

Data collected through FLIR (Forward Looking Infrared) runs, and Line Scans can be overlaid onto a digital map to identify the going fire edge or potential ‘hotspots’ along the fire edge.