

FIRE PREVENTION - DISCUSSION SESSION

Session Chair: Bruce Worthington

Session Secretary: Henry Brittain

Fire can be very devastating. Both SPER and Perth Museums have been affected by bush fires although not seriously. In those situations where museum sites are set amongst trees and bush the following safeguards should be put into practice:-

- ensure tracks are kept clean of weeds.
- trees are trimmed back from overhead.
- rails are properly bonded to prevent any sparks.
- keep guttering clean of leaves.

In all Museums the proven in-house source of protection is by automatic sprinklers supplemented by smoke detectors connected to a automatic alarm system at a fire station or else some other place that can respond.

Other safeguards can include:-

- banning smoking in museum buildings and on tramcars.
- inflammable liquids should be safely stored.
- buildings should be spaced apart so that fire cannot spread from one to another.
- fire extinguishers kept in each tram and at conspicuous sites around Museums.
- fire drills held annually for Museum members and run by qualified firefighters.
- avoid use of blow torches, naked flame.
- do welding in open spaces.
- when undertaking restoration ensure that installed electrical fittings are of modern design and construction.

Recommendation From Discussion Group

That COTMA develop a code of practice for fire protection, including smoke alarms and that a designated supplier be identified who can advise and supply protection equipment suitable for tramway museums.