



PhoZ Chem Pty Ltd
ABN 63 098 605 415
35 Palmerston Avenue
P.O. Box 2034
Templestowe Heights Vic 3107
Australia
Tel: 61 3 9848 1111
Fax: 61 3 9848 2711

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COAG Bushfire Inquiry *M 13/11*
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
3-5 National Circuit
Barton ACT 2600

*From
the paper submission
reply. Sent*

Dear Panel,

AFES submission to secure Australia's ability to boost bushfire fighting resources

Phoz Chem's submission focuses on combining a new airborne fire fighting system (AFFS)¹ with existing Government assets to boost our bushfire fighting resources in times of need. This would require an expanded level of co-operation between Government Agencies to manage bushfire.

Background Major bushfire fighting resources are stretched when there are several fire fronts to contend with. These bushfires often start in remote, often inaccessible terrain, and without managing, may develop into large conflagrations which threaten property and life. Chemicals are frequently used to control and suppress bushfires in a wide array of ecosystems, especially those that are not easily accessible and in those where the effectiveness of other fire fighting methods is low. Combining aerial resources and fire control agents is one of the tools used and at the disposal of Bushfire Managers in Australia.

AFFS The airborne fire fighting system (AFFS) is a roll-on, roll-off fire fighting system designed for the Hercules C130³. AFFS is capable of delivering up to 15,000 litres of fire control agents using a variety of drop profiles required to attack various fire conditions. AFFS builds on earlier designs and a 30 year fire fighting partnership with the US Air National Guard and the Forest Service⁴. Readily converted in times of need, the AFFS does not compromise the original mission of the Hercules C130.

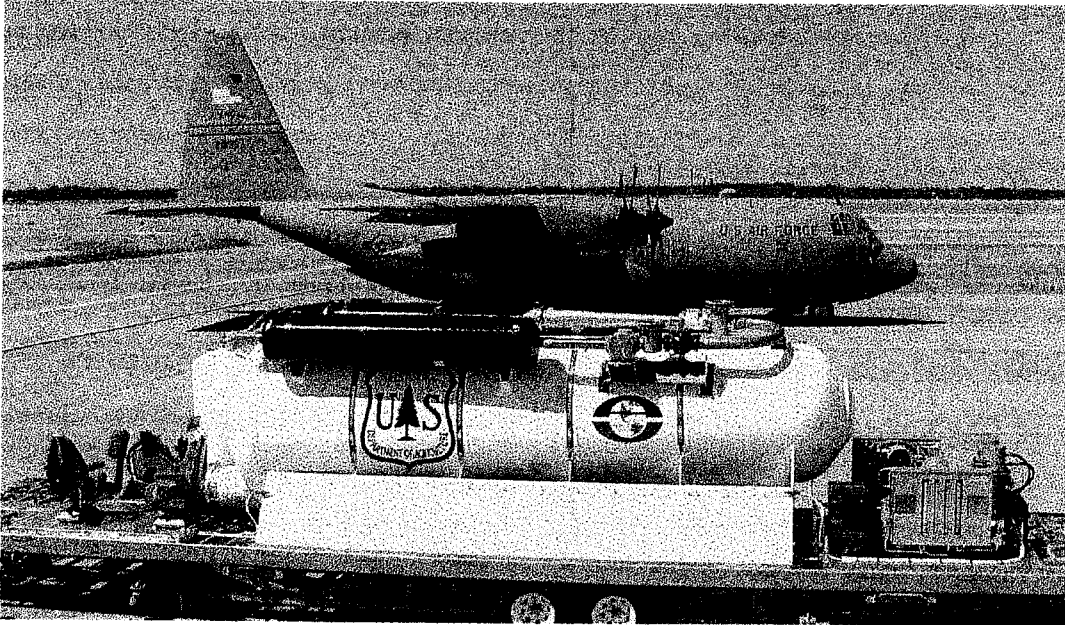
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5/Dec*

¹ Disclosure: PhoZ Chem Pty Ltd is an Agent for Aero Union Corporation, manufacturer of the AFFS and Distributor for Astaris LLC, manufacturer of Phos-Chek branded fire control chemicals.

² Assessment of the use of retardants to assist in wildfire control in Victoria, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Fire Management, Research Report No. 50, February 2000, prepared by CSIRO Forestry.

³ Note that the AFFS is compatible with the Hercules C 130-E,H & J Model aircraft.

⁴ Further information on the AFFS is available at the Aero Union website. http://www.aerounion.com/www/asd_a7.asp



Picture of AFFS unit ready for roll-on to Hercules C 130

Submission The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) operate 24 Hercules C130's, normally utilized for a variety of cargo and personnel movement missions. It is not uncommon to read about the RAAF's involvement in benevolent missions to rescue distressed mariners or airlift supplies or personnel in times of need. Equipped and trained with an AFFS, our RAAF crewed Hercules C 130's could be a proven, effective bushfire resource. The advantages extend to investing in Australia's ability to respond to a bushfire crisis instead of relying on overseas leased aircraft.

Phoz Chem appreciates the opportunity to submit to the Council of Australian Governments Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management. With vision and co-operative Government Agencies, Australia could further secure its ability to boost bushfire fighting resources when, inevitably, the need arises.

Phoz Chem and Aero Union would be prepared to make a presentation at a time of convenience for the Panel. Please contact me should the need arise.

Your sincerely,
Phoz Chem Pty Ltd

Darren Webb
General Manager