

# PACIFIC - NSW RES BR9

### **USER INFORMATION**

WWW.PACIFICHELMETS.COM

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### 01. INTRODUCTION

#### **BR9 BUSH FIREFIGHTING HELMET**

This guide addresses the Pacific BR9 Bush Firefighting helmet, which is certified to AS/NZS 1801:1997 Type 3. Your new helmet incorporates materials and design ideas that are primarily intended to safely protect you from all foreseeable dangers and to give the best possible comfort, convenience and appearance that a modern protective helmet can provide. This helmet has been carefully engineered and manufactured to precise design and performance criteria. Our objective is to provide you with a protective helmet that is lightweight, comfortable, practical to use, incorporates the very best materials available and is built to the highest standards of workmanship. Your helmet is intended to provide protection to your head and neck as part of a properly selected and configured ensemble.

This document provides information and instructions related to the selection, use, care, and maintenance of your helmet. However, this document does not tell you when and under what circumstances you should wear your helmet. Rather, it suggests how to wear your helmet and provides an understanding of the limitations of your helmet in how it may or may not protect you. The responsibility to determine the suitability of your helmet for specific emergency operations rests with your department or employer, who has the legal responsibility to conduct a hazard assessment and decide if your helmet provides appropriate protection against identified hazards.

Contained herein is basic information detailing how to adequately care for and maintain your helmet, but there are certain additional procedures – such as advanced inspection, advanced cleaning, decontamination, and retirement.

# 02.ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

**Sections 3 and 4** provide essential and specific pre-use information and <u>MUST BE READ</u> before using the helmet.

Sections 5 and 6 provide cleaning and maintenance and warranty information.

Section 7 provides Standards-specific information.

Section 8 provides Certification Information and Authorized Distributors contact information.

**Section 9** provides supplementary information on changing Sweatpads and Neck protectors.

#### WARNINGS



The helmet is designed to absorb the energy of a blow by partial destruction or damage of the shell. This damage may not be visible. If subject to severe impact or deterioration, the helmet is to be returned to Pac Fire Australia for inspection, or replaced, even if it is apparently undamaged.



The safety intended to be provided by the helmet can only be ensured when it is properly assembled and correctly fitted, and that removable parts shall not be worn separately. (For proper fitting of the helmet, please refer to FITTING THE HELMETS in Section 4 Pre-use Information of this User Information Guide).



This helmet complies with the retention requirements of this standard when the chin strap supplied by the helmet manufacturer is worn and adjusted in accordance with these instructions.

### 03.GENERAL PRE-USE INFORMATION

#### A. SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF USE

It is critically important that you do not use your protective helmet until you have read and understood this entire guide and the labels provided on the interior of your protective helmet. In order to reduce – but not eliminate – your risks, do not wear this protective helmet <a href="UNLESS THE FOLLOWING">UNLESS THE FOLLOWING</a> ARE UNDERSTOOD:

#### i. The Labels, this Guide and Applicable Standards

You have read, fully understand, and strictly adhere to this guide, all labels for this helmet and applicable national, state/provincial and local regulations pertinent to emergency operations.

#### ii. Your Use is in Accordance with Applicable Standards and Regulations

Your use of the helmet is consistent with AS/NZS 1801 and Regulations governing the applications in which the helmet is being used.

#### iii. Hazard/Risk Assessments already Conducted

Your department, organization, or employer has conducted a risk/hazard assessment and determined that this helmet provides an acceptable level of protection for the particular emergency operations consistent with applicable federal, state/provincial, and local regulations.

#### iv. Your Helmet is Properly Adjusted

Your helmet must fit or be adjusted to the size of your head. Where applicable, it also should be positioned to not interfere with your protective mask and eye protection face piece if worn together.

v. All Components of your Helmet are in Place and Properly Worn Your helmet must be complete and you must wear your helmet properly. Where applicable, this includes the full deployment of your neck protector and the proper attachment and adjustment of your chinstrap for securing the helmet on your head.

#### vi. Limitations of Protection

That not all helmets provide heat and/or flame resistance or protection from all hazards, and you have been trained and understand how to select and properly use the appropriate helmet to meet the expected exposure.

#### vii. Risks of Heat Stress

It is possible that wearing your protective helmet together with other ensemble elements may increase your risk of heat stress, which may cause heart attack, stroke, dehydration, or other.

#### viii. Risk of Burn Injury

Protective helmets will not protect you from all burns and injuries. If your bush firefighting helmet is exposed to radiant, convective, or conductive heat, or comes in contact with a hot environment or hot object, you may be burned underneath the protective helmet with no warning and no sign of damage to the protective helmet.

#### ix. Possibility that Heat Sensation may be Absent

Be aware that your protective helmet will lower your ability to feel heat. Do not be misled by the absence of heat or discomfort underneath your protective helmet. Even though you do not feel heat or discomfort, you can be burned or injured suddenly and without warning. If you feel heat or some slight discomfort or unusual sensation under your protective helmet, you may already have been burned or are about to be burned. Be constantly alert to the possibility of exposure to heat and other hazards.

#### x. Other Hazards

Your protective helmet, wet or dry, may not always offer protection from electrical shock. Your protective helmet will not protect you from all physical hazards. Falling heavy objects or impact with hard surfaces may cause forces that can be fatal or severely injure you. Do not use your protective helmet if it is contaminated, cut, punctured, worn, cracked, abraded, or altered from its original condition.

xi. The Need for a Complete Ensemble (especially when fighting fires) Helmets are effective only when they are properly worn, where applicable, provide a proper interface with your garment, hood, and mask, and are part of a complete ensemble. A complete ensemble includes appropriate elements for your overall protection and is consistent with your organization/department's hazard and risk assessment.

#### xii. Proper Care and Maintenance

Helmets must be properly inspected, maintained, and cared for by your department, organization, or employer consistent with these instructions and applicable federal, state/provincial, and local regulations. It must be free of soiling, contamination, damage, and any alteration from its original condition that would compromise its protection. Damage and contamination of a helmet may warrant its disposal.

#### xiii. Replacement Procedures after Impact or High Heat Exposure

The helmets are made to absorb the energy of a blow by partial destruction or damage to the shell and/or suspension system. Even though such damage may not be readily apparent, you should replace your helmet if it is subjected to a severe impact or excessive heat.

#### xiv. Warranty Terms

Helmets are NOT warranted to be fit for a particular purpose. Read carefully the "Warranty Information" in this guide. If labels in the helmet are missing or become unreadable, contact Pac Fire Australia for replacement label information.

#### xv. Marking Recommendations and Modifications

Do not attempt to alter or modify your helmet. Do not paint or apply any materials to the exterior of the helmet that have not been approved by the manufacturer. For identification purposes, you may mark your protective helmet on the interior using an indelible marker, if permitted by your department or organization. Do not write over or obscure information on the product label.

#### xvi. Testing and Assessment of Performance

Your protective helmet has been evaluated for a number of performance properties that are based on AS/NZS 1801:1997 for its certification. These properties include, but are not limited to, impact

force resistanc, penetration resistance, heat and thermal shrinkage resistance, flame resistance, electrical insulation and retention system slippage. If you have questions, check with your department or organization, who in turn can contact Pac Fire Australia.

#### **B. RECOMMENDED STORAGE PRACTICES**

The rear hook on the back brim of the helmet, can be used to hang your helmet. Store your helmet only when it is clean, dry, and free of contamination. Storing wet helmets, particularly when the suspension and neck protectors are wet, will promote growth of mildew, fungus, bacteria, or other harmful substances that can lead to skin irritation, rashes, and potential diseases or illnesses. Wet conditions can also lead to deterioration of helmet textile materials. Keep helmets away from potential contaminants such as oils, greases, or other chemical substances. Store your helmet in a clean and dry polybag or carry case for optimal protection, in a ventilated area away from direct sunlight and away from tools or other sharp objects. Do not store your helmet with your personal belongings or in a personal living area. Do not store or transport your helmet in the window areas of fire trucks and vehicles.

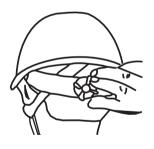
# 04.PREPARATION INFORMATION

#### A. FITTING YOUR HELMET

The integrity, fit, and proper assembly of the helmet, suspension, and chinstrap must be checked before each use. Your safety depends upon the proper fit of your helmet and proper use of all features and components. When a mask is in use, typically, helmets are adjusted so that the helmet is tilted approximately 5 degrees above a level horizontal plane to properly accommodate the face piece.

#### WARNINGS

The safety intended to be provided by the helmet can only be ensured when it is properly assembled and correctly fitted, and that removable parts shall not be worn separately.



### i. Adjusting the size to fit your head Ratchet Adjustment:

Rotate ratchet control knob to expand or contract headband to provide comfortable but firm fit. A correctly adjusted helmet should fit the wearer's head without the chinstrap needing to be done up.

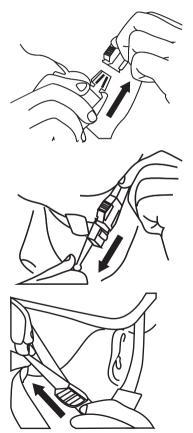


#### ii. Helmets with Cradle Systems

The cradle system clicks directly to the helmet shell and can be replaced when necessary. There are two height adjustments possible.

#### iii. Doing up the Chinstrap Securely (3-point Chinstraps)

Your helmet is fitted with a three point chin strap and the nape strap connectors where the chin strap should rest under the ears and with the nape strap pulled tight. In this configuration the Pacific snap clip buckle will be located on the left hand side. Always keep the chinstrap done up during fire fighting operations or when travelling in fire trucks.



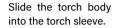
Insert the buckle into the mating clip until it both 'snap' together with a 'clicking' sound.

Pull the free strap at the buckle end to desired tightness. Attach the loose end to the Velcro to store.

For 3-point chinstrap, pull the nape adjustment strap behind the ear to desired tightness.

#### iv. Fitting Instruction for Torch onto the Helmet







Tighten the sleeve screw to secure the torch in place.



Push the boss into the Easi-On-Off base tightly.

#### v. Details of accessories approved by manufacturer

Available replacement spare parts include the following	Available accessories include the following
Screws sets	A range of face shields and neck protectors
Headband cradle and ribbons	Torches and helmet mounted torch clips
Complete chinstrap	Downsize Kit to adjust sizes 50- 56cms
Face shield and hinge hardware	Carry bags
Neck Protector	Retro-reflective Trim

#### **B. WEARING INSTRUCTIONS**

#### i. Donning

#### The following apply for properly putting on your helmet:

 Ensure the correct adjustment of your helmet as described in the previous section. The adjustment of your helmet should take into account if you will be wearing either a hood or a mask or both.

- Place your adjusted helmet on your head and secure the chinstrap.
   Never wear your helmet without securing your chinstrap.
- Adjust all helmet, hood, mask, and coat collar so that they provide
  a proper interface, with no gaps in protection occurring in any body
  position taken during use. You must deploy your neck protector
  completely to ensure overlap between your protective coat collar,
  protective hood, and mask. If provided and when needed, ensure that
  your face shield or goggles are correctly deployed.

Check to make sure that your helmet, hood, and coat do not interfere with the seal of the mask on your face.

#### li. Doffing

If your protective helmet is not contaminated:

- Remove helmet in the reverse order from which you put it on.
- Inspect your helmet as indicated in the instructions above.

If your protective helmet is damaged, report this damage or other change in its condition to your supervisor or organization. Any damage or change in condition must be corrected before reusing your helmet. If your helmet has become contaminated with blood, body fluids, chemicals, or other hazardous substances, use protective gloves and extreme caution in removing your helmet, and do not contact the surface of your helmet with your bare hands. Seek assistance in removing your helmet and other parts of your ensemble to minimize your exposure to any contaminants.

# 05.CARE AND MAINTENANCE INFORMATION

#### A. INSPECTION DETAILS AND FREQUENCY

#### i. Routine Inspections

Inspect your protective helmet prior to its first use and following every use. Prior to using the helmet for the first time, ensure that the helmet does not have any construction flaws, is completely and properly assembled, and was not damaged when being put into service. Following every use, inspect your protective helmet for

- Soiling.
- Contamination.
- Shell: physical damage such as cracks, dents, and abrasions.
- Shell: thermal damage such as blisters, soft spots, warping, and discoloration.
- Neck protectors or headband covers: physical damage such as rips, tears, and cuts.
- Neck protectors or headband covers: thermal damage such as charring, burn holes, and melting.
- Neck protectors or headband covers: loss of seam integrity and broken or missing stitches.
- Suspension and retention systems: damaged or missing components.
- Face shield system: Damaged or missing components, including discoloration or severe scratches to the face shield, limiting visibility.
- Retro-reflective trim or visibility markings: Damaged or missing pieces
   If these conditions exist, alert your supervisor of your department or organization to make a determination on the continued serviceability

of your protective helmet.

#### ii. Annual Inspections

Your protective helmet is recommended to be subjected to a more thorough inspection at least every 12 months, after every advanced cleaning, or whenever there is a concern about its condition for continued service.

#### iii. Importance of Clean and Well Maintained Helmets

It is important that you keep your protective helmet clean, free of contamination, and properly maintained at all times. Protective helmets that are dirty or contaminated pose significant hazards. Many contaminants can be absorbed by the skin, and some are carcinogenic. In addition, many contaminants are flammable. Do not wear your protective helmet unless it is properly cleaned and thoroughly dried. Refer to the relevant Standard for the Selection, Care, and Maintenance of the helmet for additional guidance. However, the instructions provided by Pac Fire Australia take precedence over any requirements specified in the relevant Standard.

#### iv. Cleaning and Disinfection Precautions

In cleaning your protective helmet:

- Use only mild detergents with a pH range of not less than 6.0 pH and not greater than 10.5 pH as indicated on the product safety data sheet (SDS) or original product container.
- Substances recommended for cleaning, maintenance or disinfection shall have no adverse effect on the helmet and shall not be known to have any adverse effect on the wearer when applied in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Never use solvents or chlorine bleach or cleaning agents that contain chlorine bleach. These substances rapidly break down some helmet materials.
- Do not machine wash or dry whole helmets. The neck protectors and headband/ratchet covers may be machine washed and dried as instructed below.
  - Separately clean helmet neck protectors.

- Do not use wash water or drying temperatures above 40°C.
- Wear protective gloves and eye/face splash protection when cleaning soiled items.
- Do not wash protective helmet or other protective clothing alongside personal items.
- Do not dry clean your protective helmet or helmet components.

#### v. Routine Cleaning and Disinfection

Clean your protective helmet after each use or whenever your helmet has become soiled. Firstly remove the neck protector and the headband/ratchet covers from the helmet. Use the following procdures for routine cleaning of your protective helmet.

- Choose a utility sink that is specifically used for cleaning protective gear; do not use a kitchen sink or other sink that is employed for personal products.
- Remove the neck protectors and chinstraps and wash separately using the instructions provided below:
  - Brush off any loose debris.
  - Gently rinse off any remaining debris with water.
  - Where necessary, use a soft bristle brush to lightly scrub and rinse again.
  - Put the items in a washing machine with warm water not hotter than 40°C and use a mild detergent in an amount according to the manufacturer's instructions. Set to "no heat" or "air dry" machine setting drying.
  - Alternatively, follow the same procedure above but wash manually in the utility sink.
  - Dry by hanging in a shaded area with good cross ventilation, or use a fan to circulate the air. Do not dry by hanging in direct sunlight, as ultraviolet light will cause exposed materials to degrade.

- Helmet cleaning and disinfection instructions:
  - Scrub the exterior of the helmet gently using a soft bristle brush.
  - Gently rinse off any remaining debris with water.
  - Where necessary, use a soft bristle brush to lightly scrub and rinse again.
  - Use a soft cloth or sponge to clean the face shield.
  - Submerge the whole helmet into a utility sink that is filled with warm water not hotter than 40°C that has mild detergent added in the amount recommended by the manufacturer.
  - Use the same cloth to rub the inside of the helmet as well as the chinstrap gently.
  - Drain the sink and thoroughly rinse the entire helmet with plenty of water to remove residual detergent.
  - Inspect the helmet, and where necessary, rewash any portions that do not appear clean, or submit it for advanced cleaning.
  - Hang the helmet upright and dry it in a shaded area with good cross ventilation, or use a fan to circulate the air. Do not dry by hanging in direct sunlight, as ultraviolet light will cause exposed materials to degrade. Do not force dry with a hair dryer, or place it over a heating duct or radiator.
  - Only when all components are dry, reinstall the neck protector and headband/ratchet covers.
  - Rinse the utility sink, following routine cleaning procedures.

#### vi. Decontamination

Proper decontamination of your protective helmet will depend on the types of contaminant and extent of contamination. If your protective helmet has become contaminated with blood or body fluids, immediately isolate the helmet and inform your supervisor, department, or organization. Before reuse of your protective helmet, it must be subjected to specialized cleaning procedures that have been proven to remove contaminated fluids. If your protective helmet has become contaminated with chemicals or other hazardous substances, immediately isolate your helmet and remove it from service, taking care not to cross-contaminate other clothing items. Immediately inform your supervisor, department, or organization. Do not wear a helmet that was contaminated until verification has been provided that it is free from contamination.

#### B. REPAIR / REPLACE INSTRUCTIONS / OBSOLESCENSE

**Note:** Minor scratches or cracks in the paint surface will not affect the performance of the helmet.

#### Repair if:

- The shell is permanently stained by carbon or chemicals.
- The painted surface slightly scratched.
- There is surface damage only. In these cases the shell can be restored to use by warm wet sanding to remove the stains, scratches and surface damage.

#### Destroy the shell and replace if:

- The shell shows signs of major laminate failure/breakage. This will either take the form of deep indentations from falling objects or major crushing. It can also be seen as a 'whitening' of laminate in impact area when the inside of the shell is inspected.
- The brim area has severe crack lines or flexes abnormally.
- The helmet has obviously suffered excessive heat or burning. This includes any charring of the paint or helmet substrate. Charring is described as an actual burnt area or surface damage, which cannot be repaired by sanding or repainting.
- There is visual sign of acid or chemical residue which may damage the shell paint or substrate.
- The shell shows signs of distortion to its shape. This can be seen as 'sagging'or 'drooping' when it is compared to a new helmet. This type of damage is most unlikely in the Pacific helmet shell, as the

shell does not melt, even in extreme temperatures.

If you have any doubts about your protective helmet and its condition, bring this matter to the attention of your supervisor, department, or organization immediately. Protective helmets that are no longer deemed serviceable for reasons of damage, contamination, or other unsafe condition must be disposed of in a fashion whereby the helmet cannot be reused. One example is drilling holes in the shell, removing the chinstrap and suspension, and damaging the tabs for attaching the headband.

For general disposal of helmets, use landfills, incineration and/or other facilities that are in accordance with municipal guidelines/regulations.

Contaminated helmets must be disposed of by your department or organization in accordance with federal, state, or local regulations.

Please contact the authorised distributor for details of the current part numbers referencing to the primary reference (PRN#) inside your helmet and model (ID).

## 06.WARRANTY INFORMATION

WARRANTIES COVER ONLY FAULTY MATERIALS OR WORKMANSHIP. FAIR WEAR AND TEAR RESULTING FROM NORMAL USE IS EXCLUDED. THE MANUFACTURER (OR HIS AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTOR) SHALL BE THE SOLE ARBITER OF ALL WARRANTY CLAIMS

The warranty time limits mentioned herein do not imply any form of helmet life expectancy. These time frames simply place reasonable limits on the discovery of faulty materials and workmanship and allow these to be dealt with

The products and the relevant sub-components are supplied with varying warranty periods for 1-6 years.

#### Shells

Up to 6-year warranty.

#### Neck Protectors

Up to 1-year warranty. We recommend they be replaced after a maximum of 50 wash cycles.

#### Face Shield

Up to 2-year warranty. Replace once scratched or deformed by chemicals, heat, smoke or other pollutants.

#### Internal Plastic Components and Comfort Padding Up to 1-year warranty.

#### Components

- Damage caused to the helmet and/or components in the course of normal use is not covered by warranty.
- Many recreational, public order, fire fighting or rescue operations including training can result in damage to this protective helmet, which is not covered by this warranty.
- Damage resulting from careless use (e.g. dropping of helmet) and/

- or using helmet for anything other than its intended purpose (head protection) is not covered by warranty.
- Training personnel involved in repetitive hot fire training will require
  their helmets to be replaced at frequent intervals certainly no longer
  than one year. This is dependent on the duration, frequency and
  exposure to heat and pollutants.
- Follow instructions in the User Information Guide regarding regular checks on this helmet and when making repair/replace decisions.
- Components are available as spare parts.

# 07. STANDARDS INFORMATION

### OCCUPATIONAL PROTECTIVE HELMETS AS/NZS 1801:1997 TYPE 3 - BUSH FIREFIGHTING

- No helmet can protect the wearer against all possible impacts. For maximum protection, the helmet must fit firmly on the head, and all retention straps must be securely fastened.
- No attachments should be added or alterations made to the helmet except those recommended by the helmet manufacturer. The helmet is designed to absorb shock by partial destruction of the shell and liner.
- This damage may not be visible. Therefore if subjected to a severe blow, the helmet should be returned to Pac Fire Australia for inspection or replaced, even if itis apparently undamaged.
- The helmet may be damaged and rendered ineffective by such materials as petroleum and petroleum products, cleaning agents, paints and adhesives, without the damage being visible to the user.
- For the list of suitable cleaning agents that can be applied to the helmet and faceshield, please refer to Section 5, Care and Maintenance Information.
- If in doubt, please contact Pac Fire Australia.

#### AS/NZS 1801 Type 3 Bush Firefighting Helmet

- Type 3 bush firefighting helmets must be fitted with chinstraps and a minimum area of reflective trim.
- Neck protectors are recommended but optional.
- Chinstraps should be done up at all times.
- Face shields comply to AS/NZS 1337.1:2010.

# 08.CERTIFICATION AND DISTRIBUTOR INFORMATION

#### A. CERTIFICATION

BSI Group (Australia & New Zealand) Pty Ltd AS/NZS 1801:1997 + Amdt:1999

Suite 1, Level 1 54 Waterloo Road Macquarie Park NSW 2113, AUSTRALIA

#### **B. AUTHORISED DISTRIBUTOR**

Pac Fire Australia 1300 731 800 www.pacfire.com.au

62 Link Drive YATALA QLD 4207, AUSTRALIA

# 09.SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

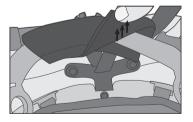
#### A. SWEAT PAD CHANGE INSTRUCTIONS



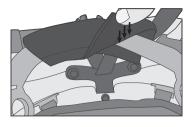
 Remove front sweat pad from hooks on headband.



2. Replace front sweat pad on hooks on headband.

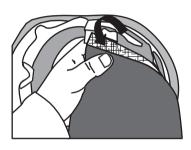


3. Remove rear sweat pad by releasing Velcro.

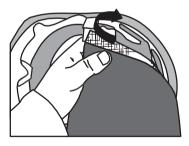


4. Replace sweat pad by attaching Velcro.

#### **B. VELCRO NECK PROTECTOR FITTING INSTRUCTIONS**



 Simply pull neck protector away from Velcro strips.



 Replace neck protector by reattaching Velcro strips.
 Ensure the neck protector is aligned correctly.

#### C. FITTING DOWNSIZE PADDING

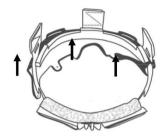


Rear Pad

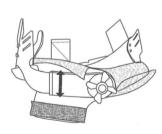




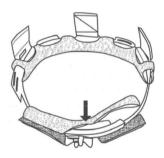
 Remove front sweat pad from underside hooks on headband.



 Insert downsize pad with contours facing headband legs & replace sweat pad on hooks.



3. Remove rear sweat pad by releasing Velcro.



 Insert rear downsize pad under sweat pad and resecure Velcro.



#### PACIFIC HELMETS NZ LTD

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WWW.PACIFICHELMETS.COM

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## DISTRIBUTED BY PAC FIRE AUSTRALIA

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PHONE: 1300 679 373 NSWRFS@PACFIRE.COM.AU



This user information guide is to be removed from the helmet only by the end user. Please read carefully all instructions and warnings before use. Failure to follow these instructions could result in death or serious injury.