APPENDIX 5 – DANGER TREE MARKING/FLAGGING PROTOCOL

Danger Tree Marking/Flagging Protocol in Wildland Fire Operations

To ensure work areas on fire situations can be easily identified on the ground relative to their status concerning wildlife/danger tree assessment and hence worker safety, the following procedures are suggested. **However, it is most important that whatever flagging or paint colours are used, that these be communicated to all workers on site.**

Flagging Colours

No Flagging or paint present: Only applicable to areas open for Very Low Risk (VLR) activities with appropriate safety/work procedures implemented. Heads-up, be aware of dangerous tree defects.

Orange: Indicates area has been assessed, but danger trees have NOT yet been removed. Assessors initials, date and time of assessment, and next assessment date should be on an appropriate number of ribbons and maps with updates undertaken as appropriate. The LOD level should also be indicated on flagging and accompanying maps.

Yellow: Indicates no-work-zone (NWZ) around dangerous areas or individual trees/defects that have been assessed as dangerous.

Lime Green (Safe Tree/Area)**:** To be used as an indicator that the area has been felled out (i.e., danger trees have been removed or NWZs in place around some individual trees) by a qualified person. Therefore, **this area is now safe for workers**. Can also be used on high value individual wildlife trees that have been assessed as Safe and which are to be retained.

Paint

Where possible, use same paint colour as the flagging colours described above.

Use paint for marking danger trees with ‘D’ on three sides (fluorescent lime green or blue recommended). When paint is in short supply, a stripe can be painted around dangerous trees.

Paint can also be used to place an arrow on the tree to identify hung-up limbs and tops and install a **no work zone** to accommodate the hazard. This will help to minimize fuel loading, as the tree can remain standing. Paint is also useful for making traffic signs such as ‘warning’, ‘no-entry’ and ‘danger tree removal’.

Please note that paint should only be used in situations where flagging is not available. Flagging is easily removed, changed and/or updated; paint is not as amenable to change.

Communication

Ideally, the assessors will be working in conjunction with the fallers and will provide a detailed map of the areas assessed and felled.

Each assessor and or faller will hand in the maps, field cards and assessment forms to the Danger Tree Specialist at the end of every day.

The danger tree removal process and all records must be accessible and retrievable. This will give all personnel an accurate and up-to-date record of what has been assessed and felled, when and where it was done, and when it needs to be reassessed.

If workers are scheduled to work in an area subsequent to that area being assessed, and the appropriate safety procedures have been implemented (i.e., danger trees felled or placed in NWZs), then all assessment information (i.e., marking procedures, locations of NWZs, locations of assessed areas) **must be clearly communicated to all workers in the field PRIOR to them beginning their proposed work**.