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Front cover image: Taken by the CFS Promotions Unit, during the East Torrens Strike Team deployment to the Delamere fire on 23 January 2010.

Editorial Team — Managing Editor: Haley Cahalan. Tel (08) 8212 9849 (CFS Media Line). If you would like to contribute to *Volunteer*, send your photos and stories to: The Editor, Volunteer, GPO Box 2468 Adelaide SA 5001 or email publicaffairs@cfs.sa.gov.au. Don't forget to include your name, address, brigade and a contact phone number. Photographs can be supplied digitally, via email or disc, in the largest file size possible or as original prints. Text can be supplied as hard copy or electronically, via email or disc as a Microsoft Word document. Comments and opinions expressed in *Volunteer* do not necessarily represent the views of the CFS. *Volunteer* is a free publication to all CFS volunteers.





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VOLUNTEER - WELCOME MESSAGES



CHIEF OFFICER Euan Ferguson

been a large number of significant fires across the state during January and February. Again, lives saved and properties protected, because of cooperative and determined efforts by our professional force of volunteer and paid firefighters. A job well done!

Our newly enlarged community education team has reinforced volunteers and staff delivering the Prepare. Act. Survive. message. This work has made a difference. More people are getting the message and are better prepared. We have listened to the feedback on the new bushfire warning framework. In the coming months CFS, through the Bushfire Task Force in South Australia and through AFAC at a national level, will review the new bushfire warning framework, the revised fire danger rating system and the concept of "neighbourhood safer places". Over the winter months, these policies will be evaluated and improved.

Within CFS much work continues. Examples include CFS evaluating new airborne technology that will

give incident controllers better intelligence on bushfires and other incidents sooner. We are developing a prototype 2,000 litre 4WD tanker to meet the needs of brigades who want a smaller fire appliance. Work continues on the database for the new SA computer aided dispatch system. A new bushfire mitigation and management framework is being put into place.

Over the coming months, we will be conducting a "health check" across the organisation. This is, in essence, a structured way of listening to our volunteers. Through the Chief Officer's Advisory Council and Regional Volunteer Management Committees, we will be asking questions such as: What is going well in CFS? What is not going well? If I was the Regional Commander, what are the top three things I'd do tomorrow? And, if I was the Chief Officer, what are the top three things I'd do tomorrow? The results of this health check will be considered by the Chief Officer's Advisory Council

workshop in June. This will inform our action plan for CFS for the next 12 to 24 months and allow us to provide input to the SAFECOM Board directions.

I've managed to get out and meet CFS members at fires at Port Lincoln, Mount Pleasant, Onkaparinga Gorge, One Tree Hill and Basket Range. CFS has also attended many house fires and a number of terrible and tragic road crash fatalities. On every occasion I have been impressed by the positive attitude and high standards of professionalism demonstrated by our people. The teamwork with other agencies such as SAPOL, MFS, SES, DEH and ForestrySA has been outstanding. The commitment to achieving our mission – safely – has been very commendable. Thank you one and all. It is a tough job but one that you have the utmost support from, and respect of, the public and government.

Keep up the good work and come home safe!

CFSVA PRESIDENT Ken Schutz

President of the CFS Volunteers Association.

Let me tell you that if there is anyone reading this and is not involved with one or both of the last two groups and has spare time, just join up and you will never ever be bored again.

Anyway, now that we have moved on from the festive season and the belt buckle is back to the same notch as before Christmas, we again start to look at the issues facing volunteers.

While the issues vary dramatically, most relate to funding one way or the other. By the time you read this article the State election will have finished.

In the lead up to the election the CFSVA lobbied the Government and the Opposition for extra funds for the CFS, to directly support and help the volunteers.

Some of the priorities within the CFSVA campaign included additional CFS staff to support volunteers, as well as funding for more training.

While there were numerous promises by both major parties for

extra funding after the election, we will not stop the campaign so that ongoing funds for priority areas continue to come to fruition.

Prior to the election the Government promised to change the speed limit past emergencies on the road from 40km/hr to 25km/hr.

This is something that the CFSVA has been asking for, for a couple of years now, and will be welcomed by all emergency volunteers who have to attend vehicle accidents on busy roads around the State.

Support was also indicated for our call for a full exemption in regard to the Driver Fatigue legislation.

At the moment we have an exemption when driving to, at, and from an emergency, but CFS volunteers have no exemption for driving an appliance over 100 kilometres for training and maintenance purposes.

Until we are granted a full exemption, many CFS volunteers around the state will still be affected by this legislation, hence affecting the way brigades across

the state do their business – and this is not acceptable for a voluntary organisation.

In mid February we drew up an agreement with the Department for Environment and Heritage for the allocation of 2,000 free/discount passes into National Parks within South Australia, and these are available now.

I would like to formally thank Allan Holmes and his staff for their cooperation and making these available to CFS volunteers in recognition of the work CFS volunteers do in National Parks when there is a fire.

These passes will be given out upon application to Wendy Shirley, CFSVA Executive Director.

Unfortunately the only way we can distribute these passes is first in, first served.

At the end of 12 months we will review how this went and discuss with DEH the possibility of continuing the passes every year. (For more details contact Wendy Shirley).



The question asked of me as I pass a friend on the street, "What have you been up to, been busy?" is hard to articulate at this time of year.

The usual answer "Aah nothing too much" covers that I have a farm to run, manage a large scale olive grove, have church and footy meetings and then I just happen to be involved in this organisation called the Country Fire Service and



[SAFECOM Board Chair David Place

The SAFECOM Board has recently determined that its two top priorities are closer sector collaboration in training and the development of Emergency Services Delivery Standards.

As a sector, we have made recent gains in training, with one database for training records, we are improving data sharing across the sector and making online tools teaching generic workplace skills available to paid and volunteer members. However the Board is aware of a number of key issues which need to be addressed. These

include:

- the high workload for trainers
- the impact of time and travel on participating in training, and
- recognising prior learning or re-accreditation.

The Board has charged its Learning and Development Committee (which I chair) to make recommendations in June about developing a unified approach across the sector. But improvements will be undertaken before then. In the short term this means an audit of current training systems, the development of a 'Trainer's Web Site' to assist local trainers with the sharing of training resources and improved access to cross-sector training. In the medium-term, the Committee will be exploring other potential opportunities, such as using technology to support flexible learning opportunities and cross-sector contracts for outsourced training.

If you would like to make suggestions about the future direction of training and development across the sector, or have feedback regarding the current arrangements, send them by email to training@safecom.sa.gov.au.

The other major priority of the Board is a project to develop Emergency Services Delivery Standards. This project exists because in the Fire and Emergency Services Act it states that Board members responsibility is to provide for the effective allocation of resources.

Put simply, the Board needs to be able to answer YES to the following questions:

- Can we currently be sure that our resources are effectively allocated?
- Do we put our prevention and response efforts where the risks are?
- Do we have a rational agreed basis for making decisions about what services to put where?

- How are we measuring effectiveness?

In order to be able to answer yes to these very important questions we need agreed standards across PPRR that ensure we place our efforts across prevention and response where the risks are.

CFS representatives on the working party advising the project are Rob Sandford and Malim Watts and CFSVA reps are Ken Schutz and Roger Flavell.

Finally, I'd just like to advise you about the new Sector Advisory Committee that has been established under the amended Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 to ensure matters relating to volunteers and employees of the sector are considered in Board directives and initiatives. The committee membership includes Wendy Shirley and Ken Schutz from the CFSVA and myself as the Chair.

[PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As another fire danger season draws to a close we commend the team effort of all volunteers and staff whose work has together guided us through a busy South Australian summer.

Off the fire ground it has been a hectic time for the Public Affairs Unit, charged with communicating with media and the community in an emotionally-charged post-Victorian bushfires environment.

No doubt many of you may have been stopped in the local shops or along the main street and quizzed about the National Framework for Scaled Advice and Warnings to the Community.

You may have been told that 'Catastrophic' isn't the best word, maybe that the CFS is not doing enough – or perhaps that the CFS is doing too much.

Whether it is positive or negative, that such discussion is occurring in itself is a step in the right direction.

The PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE. campaign, which featured advertisements on radio, television and newspapers, has formed a large part of the public affairs and prevention services' efforts to communicate and educate many of the changes to the community.

We continue our reporting on outcomes and achievements within the campaign to the Bushfire Task Force, and early evaluation indicates that the campaign messages are recognised in many respects.

The CFS continued its good relationship with emergency broadcast partners ABC and FIVEaa this season, and welcomes a number of new emergency broadcast partner outlets that have signed Memorandums of Understanding in recent months. (See page 19).

This partnership is integral in the dissemination of vital warnings

and information to the community during bushfire.

Operationally, more and more emphasis is being placed on information flow from the fire ground to the community, via the public affairs unit.

The role of the public affairs unit is absolutely essential in this, to release appropriate information in a timely form – recognising that fire behaviour can change in seconds.

Communication with the public, through the media, during operational situations has been strengthened with the introduction of a Public Safety Advice messages link on the homepage of the CFS website. The messages detail current weather conditions, any going fires and what the CFS is doing about the situation.

This information is geared towards members of the community, and also the media who go on to provide updates

throughout a day of Severe, Extreme or Catastrophic forecast conditions.

The Public Safety Advice message section is one of a few changes that have appeared on the CFS website homepage in recent months.

The IT department has been busy creating and implementing a Fire Danger Ratings map, an RSS feed service has been introduced for immediate information about current incidents and warning messages. (See page 19).

With winter approaching, the public affairs team is looking forward to taking the opportunity to get out and about and visit the regions over the cooler months.

Keep up the great work and don't forget to keep us informed with what's happening in your neck of the woods for the next edition of Volunteer.

SAFECOM Public Affairs Unit.



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VOLUNTEER - WELCOME MESSAGES

CFS TEAM SUPPORTS VERY LARGE AIR TANKER IN VICTORIA

By: David Cant, CFS Manager Aviation Services

This summer the Victorian Government is trialling a DC10 fire bombing aircraft from California USA.

This aircraft, known as a Very Large Air Tanker or VLAT, is a modified DC10 airliner stripped of excess weight with external fire bombing tanks fitted.

The aircraft has a bombing capacity of 45,000 litres in comparison to our first strike Airtracors with 3,000 litres and the Erickson Airplane which holds 7,500 litres.

The aircraft primarily uses Phoschek retardant slurry or water for its drops and can be filled in 12 minutes and airborne in less than 25 minutes.

CFS was asked by the Victorian State Aircraft Unit to provide crew to support their operation at Avalon Airport south of Melbourne.

The team of five from CFS included ground support filling crew, airbase and despatch coordination, and a qualified lead plane air attack supervisor.

Tony Lange of Region 2 air operations and Jim Quinn of Athelstone CFS were the ground crew supporting the loading of retardant and water to the giant aircraft, Aviation Planning Officer David Pearce was available to be dispatched in a Kingair aircraft to lead the DC10 in its bombing run, while Corey Frazer and David Cant coordinated daily briefings, visitors and dispatch arrangements.

Although the DC10 was not used on a going fire during this late February deployment, a demonstration run was conducted for the National Aerial Firefighting Centre Board, so



David Cant, Tony Lange, David Pearce, Jim Quinn and Corey Frazer during their deployment with the VLAT.

our personnel played a role in the exercise.

Our participation in this deployment allowed CFS to better understand the complexities and

infrastructure requirements in using this aircraft and gave a better insight in the conduct of aerial operations in Victoria.

UPDATE: BUSHFIRE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Significant work has been undertaken in recent months to address a series of recommendations made by the multi-agency Bushfire Task Force, chaired by CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson.

A comprehensive list of 63 recommendations was made, addressing key issues arising from the Victorian bushfires and the Royal Commission.

Considerable progress in changing bushfire practices has been made with 30 out of the 33 recommendations for the 2009/10 fire danger season completed, and work continuing on 33 other recommendations, some of which are also close to completion, while others are set for finalisation prior to the next fire danger season.

The CFS continues to review the recommendations and work achieved to date, and in coming months these will continue to be evaluated and improved.

Key recommendations made by SA's

Bushfire Task Force that have been implemented include:

- Introduction in SA of the National Framework for Scaled Advice and Warnings to the Community including new Fire Danger Rating terminology of 'Catastrophic', 'Extreme' and 'Severe' and associated recommended action
- PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE. television, radio and print campaign to educate the community on how to be Bushfire Ready (see story page 8)
- Bushfire Ready educational DVD distributed to more than 200,000 homes in both urban fringe and rural bushfire risk areas
- Emergency Alert warning system implemented allowing messages to be sent to alert the community to major bushfire risks across the State
- Appointment of five additional community educators to deliver practical preparation and survival information to those most at risk. They have already doubled the number of Community Fire Safe Groups this season, bringing bushfire safety to more than 40 new community groups (see page 24)
- Development of a list of Bushfire Safer Precincts and Safer Settlements
- Changes to the regulations for managing native vegetation for bushfire prevention purposes, and simplification of approval processes for other clearances, including for fuel reduction and fire breaks
- Introduction of guidelines and procedures for 'directed evacuation' during bushfires involving Police and other emergency services
- Increased prescribed burning program to reduce fuel loads on public lands
- Inclusion of grass and bush fires in MFS areas on both the MFS and CFS websites
- Amendment to CFS siren policy

- to recommend that CFS brigades with working sirens use these to provide warning to communities in specified bushfire emergency situations, and an audit started for the provision of more sirens
- Bushfire Awareness Week held in October
- Commercial media operators encouraged to sign a Memorandum of Understanding for the broadcast of bushfire warning messages, similar to those that exist with the ABC and FIVEaa (see page 19)
- Work has commenced on the development of a dwelling bushfire shelter guideline
- Work has started on a list of Refuges of Last Resort to be used as an alternative for shelter from a bushfire in time for the 2010/11 fire danger season.

For an update on the Royal Commission, see page 8.

ARE YOU AWARE OF THE CHANGES TO NATIVE VEGETATION LEGISLATION?

The CFS is the delegated authority for the management of native vegetation for bushfire preparedness purposes.

The legislative change means that management of native vegetation around homes and structures that require approval can be sought directly through the CFS.

Management of fuel loads is a delicate task that requires a fine balance between the need to conserve and manage our natural surroundings for future generations and a need to protect life and property from bushfire.

With changes to the State's native vegetation regulations in September last year, the management of potential fuel loads is now simpler, with locally-based decision making

processes, making it easier for both landowners and the community.

Fast Facts:

The authority for the management (including removal) of native vegetation for the purposes of bushfire preparedness is now exercised by the CFS.

The management of some native vegetation can be undertaken without the need for approvals, including;

- Clearing up to 20 metres around your house and other buildings on your property.
- Clearing up to 5 metres around other structures on your property.
- Removing any tree branches that overhang your house and other buildings on your property.
- Constructing a 5 metre fuel break along existing fence lines.

Where greater levels of clearance around houses and other structures are considered necessary, landowners can lodge a simple application form with their regional, CFS office.

The management of other native vegetation for the purposes of bushfire preparedness on a property or across a local council area can be done through the preparation of a bushfire management plan. These plans should include the consideration of the effective management of all bushfire fuels, not just native vegetation.

A bushfire management plan that involves some clearance of native vegetation can be submitted to the local, authorised CFS officer

for consideration and where appropriate, approval.

An approved bushfire management plan gives landholders and local councils the authority to implement fuel reduction works, including the management of native vegetation – both on private and public land.

Where a local council has an approved bushfire management plan, landholders have an obligation to undertake fuel reduction activities on private land in accordance with that plan.

Local councils have the authority under the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 to issue and enforce clean-up notices.

Visit the Country Fire Service website for more information www.cfs.sa.gov.au

FIRE DANGER SEASON GETS OFF TO A BUSY START

By: Haley Cahalan, CFS Senior Public Affairs Officer

The CFS entered into the 2009/10 Fire Danger Season amidst a period of significant change and community expectation, arising from the Victorian Bushfires disaster on February 7 2009.

Operationally, CFS responded to a total of 6,044 incidents from 1 July 2009 to 9 March 2010, with a further 5,074 support responses. Causes have ranged from lightning strikes to machinery and human intervention.

Total volunteer hours at incidents from the start of the financial year to 9 March 2010 is 13,084,244 hours.

The beginning of the season was relatively busy across much of South Australia, with weather patterns resulting in a number of fires started by lightning strikes, and creating a lot of work for CFS volunteers.

CFS crews were called to more than 100 fires in 24 hours, caused by a lightning storm that passed across South Australia on 19-20 November.

Fires were concentrated in the Eyre Peninsula, Flinders Ranges, Mid North, Yorke Peninsula and Lower South East regions.

The most significant fires during that period occurred at Curramulka, Pine Point and Formby Bay on the Yorke Peninsula, Spring Gully in the Clare Valley and Wirrabara near the Flinders Ranges.

More than 2,000 CFS volunteer firefighters, 300 appliances and aircraft worked throughout that 24-hour period, ably supported by ForestrySA, Department for Environment and Heritage, the State

Emergency Service, Metropolitan Fire Service and farm fire units.

The State went on to experience several more days of thunderstorms, resulting in multiple fires, but generally all less than 50 hectares (and not listed on the table attached).

A significant fire started on the outskirts of Port Lincoln on 23 December last year. The fire burnt 640 hectares of land, impacting a number of properties, destroying the State Emergency Service (SES) office and resulting in stock and fence losses. A number of homes and sheds were destroyed by the fire. Many volunteers remained either mopping up at the fireground or on standby, as a period of hot and windy weather continued over the Christmas break, threatening to reignite the fire.

Fortunately, the new year saw slightly less activity than the



^ CFS at work at a scrub fire at Blewitt Springs in December.
Photo by Ashley Hosking, CFS Promotions Unit.

start of the season for some regions.

Despite a reduction in the number of call-outs for the start of 2010, it is clear that some regions have been extremely busy, and at the time of writing, the season is still far from over.

Significant rain which has fallen in high bushfire risk areas means the potential for danger is still very real and the CFS continues to monitor conditions in liaison with the Bureau of Meteorology and regional headquarters.

RECENT SIGNIFICANT FIRE EVENTS

Date	Location	Type	Size (ha)	Cause
21/09/2009	Yunta - 20 kms South West of Mannahill	Scrub	1,000	Lightning
11/10/2009	Pinkawillinie	Scrub	100	Lightning
19/11/2009	Curramulka	Grass/scrub	1,250	Mechanical failure
23/12/2009	Taratap	Grass/scrub	1,350	Lightning
23/12/2009	Pt Lincoln	Grass/scrub	640 (12 Homes destroyed)	Not suspicious
31/12/2009	Meningie	Grass/scrub	597	Lightning
11/01/2010	Mt Pleasant	Grass/scrub	80	Suspicious
22/01/2010	Rangewood (Colebatch)	Grass/scrub	600	Lightning
1/02/2010	Rapid Bay	Grass/scrub	174	Mechanical
10/2/2010	Bibaringa	Grass/scrub	125	Lightning



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VOLUNTEER - NEWS & UPDATES

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE. CAMPAIGN

By: Karina Loxton, Former Public Affairs Unit Manager, SAFECOM

The PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE. media campaign, developed by the SAFECOM Public Affairs and the CFS Community Education Unit, is starting to show positive results in getting the new bushfire messages out in the community and prompting people to think differently about their bushfire safety.

To supplement the educational DVD that was delivered to more than 200,000 households, a number of new campaign elements were rolled out, including a 12-page newspaper insert that targeted high risk areas, the distribution of a new Bushfire Survival Plan, and the series of television, radio and press advertisements that have been

getting good airtime on regional and metropolitan media.

In a first for the Bushfire Ready campaign, the PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE. advertising featured prominently on The Advertiser's AdelaideNow website, which attracts over 300,000 visitors each day, with prime positioning on the home page banner and advertising window during January. An RSS feed on fire incidents now resides permanently on the home page under the weather. The Sunday Mail's TV Guide has also featured full-page adverts and daily message strips in two editions.

While a number of the radio ads encourage people to know the daily fire danger rating and what the



recommended actions are for each of the Catastrophic, Extreme and Severe ratings, they are pre-recorded and pre-placed in the radio program schedule and are not able to be tailored to the fire conditions of the next day. To make the message more immediate and relevant for fire ban districts which have a declared Catastrophic rating, arrangements have been put in place to have live reads put to air that evening and the next morning to alert listeners to the Catastrophic rating and what they need to do. This has been used to great effect on a number of occasions this season.

Other campaign activities include:

- The updating of a suite of brochures including *Your Guide to Preparing for and Surviving the Bushfire Season*, *Holiday Safety and Survival*, and *Bushfire Safety for Travellers*
- The production of pull-up banners for community meetings and displays
- The design of a campaign banner for email signatures
- Promotional opportunities associated with the Santos Tour Down Under, and

- PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE stickers to be handed out at field days and events.

Work is also underway on translating key brochures into other languages, developing a suite of branded promotional items to utilise as giveaways to extend the reach of the PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE. message and ongoing developments to the CFS website.



^ Campaign advertising and incident RSS feed on the AdelaideNow website.

ROYAL COMMISSION UPDATE

By: Jay Gleeson, AFAC Manager Communications

The Royal Commission has begun hearing testimony as part of Hearing Block Five.

The Hearing Block opened with Council Assisting introducing its findings into the causes of, and response to, the Kilmore East, Beechworth, Coleraine, Pomorie and Horsham, Murrindindi, Redesdale, Bendigo, Churchill, Delburn, Bunyip, Narre Warren and Upper Ferntree Gully fires.

The Victorian Government (on

behalf of the Country Fire Authority, Department of Sustainability and Environment and Parks Victoria), PowerCore and SP Ausnet disagreed with significant parts of Council Assisting's findings and recommendations.

Hearing Block Five will continue to look at the causes and circumstances of deaths and will also examine the issues of planning (including defensible space), fuel management and roadside clearing.

The Commission is running 'Expert Conferences' to examine the issues of land use planning and fuel management.

These conferences will be used to enable a panel of experts to identify areas of agreement and areas of disagreement in relation to the particular issues.

Importantly for the Australasian Fire & Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC), the Commission is set to re-examine

the 'Stay or Go' policy in late March. It is believed 'Stay or Go' will be examined in reference to the physical evidence from the February fires.

An opportunity to provide submission on the revisiting of 'Stay or Go' evidence will occur in May.

The Commission is expected to complete hearing evidence on 26 May, with the final report due in July 2010.



STATE AIRDESK GOES 24/7

By: Rob Sandford, Assistant Chief Officer

The CFS State Airdesk (formerly CFS State Operations Centre SOC) is part of the CFS State Coordination Centre SCC located at CFS HQ.

The CFS had not staffed the Airdesk 24/7 since the transfer of Call Receipt and Despatch (from the then SOC) to the Adelaide Fire Facility in July 2007.

The hours of operation during fire danger season had been 0700 – 2000 hours, 7 days a week, and outside the fire season, 0800 – 2000 hours, week days. The Airdesk had been staffed with three support officers working a roster system for these periods.

One of the key responsibilities of the CFS is provision of information to the community regarding the risks they may face, so the community can make informed decisions about their safety.

In general terms CFS provides information in three stages:

1. Before an emergency
2. During an emergency, and
3. After an emergency.

As part of the rollout of the new National Emergency Warning System, a need was identified to ensure

CFS had a capacity to support any message that needed to be disseminated via an Emergency Alert (EA) message. The EA messaging system provides messages to both landlines and fixed telephones for a specific location.

Emergency Alert is an additional tool in the provision of information to the community and must be incorporated into the overall information provision strategy. It is not intended to be considered as the primary means of providing information to the community and should not be utilised as the only means of providing information.

The policies and procedures for utilising this new system have been developed in conjunction with SAFECOM, including a specific user guide for CFS. All regional staff and a number of State based staff have been trained in the new system, and procedures on when and how to use the tool.

CFS has identified three triggers for the EA, in line with the legislative requirements:

1. Provision of information to the community relating to the forecast risk

2. Provision of information to the community during an emergency. Criteria are – Going fire burning under actual Catastrophic conditions (consideration must also be given to fires burning under Severe or Extreme conditions, where a significant threat/ impact is likely for the community)
3. Provision of information relating to a possible escape from a contained fire.

Options were considered to facilitate the requirement of providing information to the community at any time, not just during business hours, with the agreed position being to amend the staffing of the CFS State Airdesk to 24/7 for the duration of the current fire danger season. This provides a guaranteed capacity to provide community information when required, as well as provision of support for aerial fire fighting.

With the establishment of a 24/7 roster, CFS increased the staffing with six contract positions until the end of April 2010. The support officers currently working within the

Airdesk are:

- Matt Edwards
- Andrew Van Ek
- Andrew Butler
- Nick Sweeny
- Elenka Obert
- Matthew MacGillivray
- Sam Quigley, and
- Dean Thomas.

Whilst the main role is support for aerial fire fighting, the provision of community information is also a key role. The following is a summary of the primary purpose of the Airdesk:

- Undertake operational activities associated with the CFS use of the Alert SA State Protocol
- Assist in the operations of the SACFS State Coordination Centre, the Intelligence Cell and the Bushfire information Hotline Desk
- Provide administrative and information assistance for aircraft activities
- Liaise with and assist the CFS State Coordinator in SCC activities
- Data entry of AIRS reporting and follow up with brigades as required.



Two of the State Airdesk support officers, Nick Sweeny and Matthew MacGillivray.



NEW DRIVER FATIGUE LEGISLATION

By: Wendy Shirley, CFSVA Executive Officer

The CFS Volunteers Association has been successful in gaining a partial exemption for CFS volunteers under the driver fatigue legislation.

This exemption means drivers of CFS appliances will not have to carry or fill in personal work diaries for driving to, at and from emergencies.

However the legislation still applies to the driving of appliances for any other purpose such as training or vehicle maintenance.

So if you are driving an appliance of greater than 12 tonne Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) for distances greater than 100 kilometres from the station for anything to do with an incident, then the exemption applies.

If you are driving an appliance of greater than 12 tonne GVM for distances greater than 100 kilometres from the station for any other reason, then the exemption does not apply, and you will have to purchase, carry and fill in the work diary.

Large penalties apply for not complying.

Please note the exemption does not apply to driving whilst fatigued. It is still an offence to do so and proper fatigue management processes must be put in place.

CFS has a new policy on driver fatigue out now. Contact your Region to get a copy of this policy if you have not already received it.

Please note the Association is still working at the National level to have all volunteer emergency services made exempt from this legislation for all purposes including training and vehicle maintenance. We have been successful in having it placed on the agenda of the next Australian Transport Council meeting.

We will inform volunteers of the outcome as soon as we hear anything new.

KEEP ON TIME WITH A CFS WATCH



The Association has stocks of CFS watches available for purchase by volunteers.

These watches are in both male and female styles and sell for \$100 each including GST.

They can be engraved on the back.

If you would like to purchase a watch contact Wendy at the state Office on 08 8244 6500.

NEW JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR CFSVA

By: Wendy Shirley

The Association is pleased to announce the election of Roger Flavell as the new CFSVA Junior Vice President.

Roger joins Ken Schutz AFSM as President and Wayne Thorley AFSM as Senior Vice President. This is a newly created position, to assist in Association succession planning for the future.

Roger, who is also the President of the Mount Lofty Branch CFSVA, has been a volunteer for 29 years, and has been involved at branch level for 14 years.

Roger has been involved in many CFS and SAFECOM committees over that time, including the Emergency Services Delivery Standards working party, the Region 1 Funding working party and the Region 1 Volunteer Management Committee.

He was Deputy Group Officer to Onkaparinga Group for 10 years, but he recently stood down to concentrate more on Association issues.

The Association welcomes Roger to the team!



FREE ACCESS TO NATIONAL PARKS FOR CFS VOLUNTEERS

By: Wendy Shirley, CFSVA Chief Executive

The CFSVA is pleased to announce that 2,000 free passes to National Parks have been made available to CFS Volunteers.

The intent of the CFS Volunteer Parks Pass is to recognise the direct relationship between the CFS and our National Parks.

The CFS Volunteers Association thanks the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) for this initiative, which we believe will be well received by our members.

These passes are annual passes and are currently issued for April 1 to March 31 the following year.

The passes will be administered by the CFS Volunteers Association. The following eligibility criteria will apply:

- Members will need to apply on the correct form (mail, fax or email. No telephone applications will be accepted)
- Six months' minimum service as registered on TAS
- Not available to cadet members of the brigades
- Active membership of their respective brigades.

As only 2,000 passes have been approved, members will need to apply early to ensure they receive a pass. Passes will be issued on a "first in" basis.

If both husband and wife are members of the CFS, we would ask that only one partner apply as this will allow more families to access the passes.

The pass will allow free entry to a range of National Parks for one car plus passengers, where vehicle entry fees are applied.

The cardholder must be present in the car.

The pass will be numbered and will require that the vehicle registration number is clearly written on one side.

The pass will need to be clearly visible on the vehicle dashboard.

Other Parks Concessions:

Some Parks are considered to be "commercial operations", and free entry will not be available.

However discount concessions to these Parks have been made available under this scheme.

These include:

- 25% concession on personal access and guided tours that are provided on National Parks (Cleland, Naracoorte Caves, Seal Bay etc)
- 25pc concession on Desert Park Pass
- 50pc concession on Kangaroo Island Pass.

To purchase these passes with the discount concession, your CFS Volunteer Parks must be produced and must have been signed by you. It will need to be produced in conjunction with some photo identification to obtain concession prices.

These entitlements can only be provided to the emergency services volunteer and their immediate family (spouse and children) when the volunteer is present, which makes the entitlement card and the photo identification central to the application of the entitlement.



NEXT CFSVA STATE MEETING

The next CFSVA management committee meeting will be held at Clare on Tuesday 13 April.

This is part of an initiative to take meetings out to the membership.

The meeting will be held at the Clare station during the day, and will be followed by an informal dinner.

We propose to hold a forum after the dinner to discuss the issues currently facing CFS and the Association.

All CFS volunteers in the Clare Group and surrounding groups are most welcome to attend.

More information will be sent out to those areas prior to the meeting.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will passes be available to brigades to distribute amongst volunteers as required?

No. The pass will only be available to individual volunteers who meet the criteria and apply through the State CFSVA office

Will this pass cover parking fees at Mt Lofty and Morialta?

No. The small parking fee will still apply

Does this pass apply all National Parks in Australia?

No - only to those in South Australia

Will this pass cover camping fees?

Not at this stage, but the CFSVA is negotiating for a discount to apply

Does this pass apply to all the vehicles that I own?

No - you must nominate the vehicle that you would most likely take into the Parks, as the vehicle registration number is on the Pass

What happens if I change my vehicle during the year?

Contact Wendy at the State CFSVA office and request a pass for a reissue with the new registration number.

The CFSVA hopes that volunteers will make use of these passes and that they are seen as a small reward for the work done on National Parks. The Association will write to each Parks Pass holder towards the end of the 12 months to ascertain a satisfaction rating, and to also measure how many times the pass was used.



FOUNDATION IS FOR VOLUNTEERS

By: Vince Monterola AM AFSM, Chair CFS Foundation



CFS Foundation began almost a decade ago but it is unlikely many volunteers outside of those who have received assistance from it would know much about the Foundation and its work. As we move into a new phase of the Foundation we want you to know everything about us.

We want to give CFS volunteers an

opportunity to help the Foundation be in a stronger position to provide assistance to those volunteers and their families who suddenly need our help because of a mishap.

It was the tireless work of volunteers David McGowan and Brenton Woods in the early years of the Foundation that gained us the legal status which enables us to function as a true Foundation in the way funds can be obtained and used. They were assisted by Chief Officer Euan Ferguson to ensure the raft of legal documentation was prepared and lodged to satisfy the demands of State and Commonwealth agencies.

Recently Ray Dundon retired from the Foundation Board. Following the wind up of the CFS Board which Ray chaired, he willingly accepted chairmanship of the CFS Foundation Board.

Ray, together with David

McGowan, Robin Holmes and Euan Ferguson, continued to prepare a strong base on which to build the Foundation.

At the same time they began to amass funds with which to achieve the Foundation's goals. Staff members Evelyn Dunncliff, Martin Smith and Joel Schirmer have made outstanding contributions to the Foundation since its inception too.

David recently retired and has been replaced by volunteer Robert Styles. Elizabeth Davis has been appointed Executive Officer of the Foundation primarily to drive our fundraising effort over the next few years and because of Ray's retirement I have been pleased to accept the position of Board Chairman.

We expect to soon announce the name of the person who will fill the remaining seat on the Board. Then, because the Board has decided

to invite additional members with expertise in various functions, our numbers will grow progressively over the next year.

Despite these changes and moving to a new phase of operation the focus of the Foundation remains unchanged. The CFS Foundation exists for the sole purpose of assisting a volunteer, and if necessary, his or her family, if the need arises out of their CFS service.

We look forward to working with you and for you.

Vince Monterola AM AFSM
Chair
CFS Foundation



Pictured Top L-R:
Ray Dundon, retired Chairman and member; Elizabeth Davis,
Executive Officer.

Pictured Bottom:
David McGowan, retired member, with Vince Monterola.



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VOLUNTEER - CFS FOUNDATION

DEVELOPMENT OF FOUNDATION BRAND

CFS Foundation
For our local heroes



Vision

Honour, Support and Care for CFS volunteers

Mission

The CFS Foundation will assist in the relief of suffering, disability, distress or misfortune of CFS volunteers resulting from their community service activities.

Objectives

The objectives of the CFS Foundation are to:

- Provide financial assistance to CFS volunteer firefighters (and/or their families) who have died, suffered injury, loss or damage to their property or business while in the line of service (specifically through the CFS Volunteer Support Fund)
- Enhance the fire fighting capacity and expertise among CFS Volunteer firefighters through the provision of scholarships and other financial assistance for education and professional training
- Increase public awareness of contributions to communities by volunteer fire fighters of the SACFS
- Act as trustee and to effectively administer the funds raised by the CFS Foundation.

At this time a portfolio of projects is being developed that will reflect the objectives of the Foundation.

Considerable work will be required to meet our objectives and this will take some time however we look forward to providing you with additional information in due course.

The Board recognised that the Foundation did not have a brand within the community and undertook to commence this work. This new logo has now been developed which we will utilise to promote our organisation throughout South Australia.

The phoenix is a mythical bird that is said to have magical regenerative abilities. It has been illustrated for centuries rising from the ashes to be perpetually reborn. The phoenix is a strong symbol of life, hope and courage.

The colours chosen are ochre orange and a metallic bronze. Both colours are associated with courage, strength and endurance which are synonymous to what the CFS Foundation stands for.

We hope to see the CFS Foundation phoenix flying at many community events helping to develop a real understanding of the dedicated service and sacrifices made by CFS volunteers for the benefit of the general community.

Future Direction

Over the past months, time has been devoted to not only developing the vision, mission and objectives of the Foundation, but also a strategic plan to ensure that we remain focused on successful outcomes.

Our vision, mission and objectives speak to the community's respect of the work undertaken by CFS volunteers and also the need for the general community to provide support to your work.

CALLING COMMUNITY GROUPS

There are many different ways members of the community can help us. Recently Statewide Super held a casual day and raised over \$422 to help us and we pass on our sincere gratitude. All support is very much appreciated.

Would you like to be a part of the CFS Foundation fundraising team? Do you have new ideas?

Please give Elizabeth Davis a call for a chat.

Elizabeth Davis

Executive Officer

Phone: 0419 583 512.

Email: edavis@emdfconsultancy.com.au

Website: www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/about_us/cfs_foundation.jsp

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS



Solar Depot is one organisation that has recognised the work undertaken by the CFS Foundation.

In this regard we would like to recognise their commitment to develop a closer association with our organisation.

Solar Depot is a South Australian owned company, and since 2003, the company has designed, supplied and installed over 1,900 'back to the grid' solar PV systems and remote location stand-alone power generation and solar hot water systems.

The CFS Foundation looks forward to developing our association with Troy Ryan, Roger Green and their team.

To view their many products, visit the website at www.solardepot.com.au

ROAD CRASH RESCUE – THE PSYCHOLOGICAL RAMIFICATIONS

By: Coreyjay Frazer, State Training Officer – Specialist Rescue

In recent times, the Community of South Australia has had its attention drawn to the tragedy of our road death toll.

Whilst every attempt is being made to reduce the death toll through awareness and education campaigns, there are still those people who are left to cope with the psychological trauma of the incident.

The CFS has a responsibility to provide an avenue for our volunteers to debrief operationally and also to debrief psychologically if required. However, we are not trained nor qualified to provide the general public with professional treatment or counselling.

As such, the CFS has become a supporting member of the Road Trauma Support Team (RTST) committee.

The RTST is a Government-funded, agency-supported organisation initiated to provide a service to the community of South Australia in dealing with the effects and impacts on the secondary victims of road trauma i.e. citizens first on scene, family members or others who may be affected by a particular incident.

The sector's Stress Prevention and Management (SPAM) unit has been in place for many years and is still the avenue for CFS members to pursue if affected/impacted by road trauma.

The RTST is an avenue to refer affected general public to specialist care when they make contact with CFS members either during or after a road trauma related incident.

The RTST was introduced to all of the Road Accident Rescue brigades at last year's Urban Road Accident Rescue Seminar on 24 May and each region is providing support through promotion of the RTST by way of distributing brochures and business cards to all brigades, groups and regional offices.

These items can be distributed in various ways, including:

- Discreetly at the conclusion of incidents (only if appropriate), or
- At a later time back at the

brigade stations, group bases or regional office.

The initial materials provided to all brigades, groups and regional offices were:

- A3 posters
- A2 flyers

- Business cards

The business cards are to be kept in a clean dry place in each and every appliance / vehicle which could respond to a road accident incident.

If your brigade / group has utilised

all of your materials please contact your regional headquarters for additional supplies.

If you require any additional information please make contact with your regional office in the first instance.



Supporting people affected by vehicle trauma

Road Trauma Support Team of South Australia (RTST) recognises that people affected by vehicle collisions frequently experience emotional and psychological trauma, which may be relieved by sharing, support, information giving and counselling.

RTST conducts monthly adult support group meetings and free private counselling with a qualified psychologist. The meetings are held in a confidential, informal and nonjudgmental setting.

If you wish to find out more about the RTST, please contact us.

ROAD TRAUMA SUPPORT TEAM of SA
86 George Street, Thebarton
Telephone: (08) 8152 0600* or 1800 069 528*

PO Box 292 Prospect SA 5082

Website:
www.roadtraumasupportsa.com.au

Email:
info@roadtraumasupportsa.com.au

**Please note that the telephone numbers provided are not a counselling service.*



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VOLUNTEER – ROAD CRASH RESCUE FEATURE

DRIVER EDUCATION FOR WILLUNGA YOUTH

By: Dean Norman, Kyeema Group Officer

Each year the middle of the Willunga township is deliberately turned into a scene of carnage to assist in education of young drivers.

Willunga, Aldinga Beach and Mount Compass brigades get together with other emergency services in this mock exercise. Drama students from the local high school are also involved to 'role play' trapped students in two cars.

Aldinga Beach and Mt Compass rescue brigades extricate persons from both vehicles in front of an audience of high school students, trying to give them an idea, as realistically as possible, of what can happen if they are involved in an accident.

We see this as a valuable training tool and a good opportunity for local CFS crews to assist in young driver education.



^ Demonstrating that response to a road crash rescue involves multi-agencies, including SA Ambulance Service. Photo: Ashley Hosking.

LYNDOCH TEACHES LESSONS OF ROAD CRASH RESCUE

By: Shane Emms, Lyndoch CFS Lieutenant 1

The community of Lyndoch came face-to-face with the intensity of some of the incidents the CFS responds to, at an open training demonstration held last year.

Attendees observed a simulated road crash rescue, which involved one car with no entrapment, before an engine bay fire started from the LPG unit.

The second car in the simulated exercise had a single driver entrapment, with head, chest and spinal injuries.

The demonstration provided an opportunity to show how all emergency services work together in such incidents.

On arrival at the simulated road

crash rescue, the Lyndoch 34P attended to the extrication of the casualty, while Lyndoch 24 had an operator in BA extinguish the engine bay fire.

Having two crews busy with separate tasks kept the event interesting for the 80-90 strong crowd.

At the completion of the exercise, families had the opportunity to speak with representatives from the SA CFS, SA Ambulance Service and SA Police.

Lyndoch CFS also had support from, and would like to thank, Concordia CFS, Region 2 Operations Unit, SAAS, SAPOL Gawler Highway Patrols and Major Crash Unit.



^ Lyndoch emergency service workers during the demonstration. Photo: Peter Franze



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VOLUNTEER - ROAD CRASH RESCUE FEATURE

ANZAC EVE YOUTH VIGIL WINS TOP CITY AWARD

The Anzac Eve Youth Vigil conducted annually at the State War Memorial on North Terrace won Community Event of the Year at the 2010 Adelaide City Council Australia Day award presentations.

The award acknowledges the most outstanding community event in the City of Adelaide, and was accepted

by inaugural chairman Bill Denny from Lord Mayor Michael Harbison.

Following the success of the Vigil in Adelaide, others have commenced at Morphett Vale, Blackwood and Marion.

Bill said the Anzac Eve Youth Vigil plays an important part in ensuring the Anzac spirit of remembrance is

passed on to young people and more recent arrivals in South Australia.

"In 10 years over 3,000 young people from 16 different youth groups have directly participated in representational roles remembering and honouring those who gave their lives in our name," Bill said.

"Those young people have also

learnt the folly and tragedy of war, and hopefully when they accept the mantle of leadership of our nation, they will find a better way.

"I'm sure the original ANZACs would be extraordinarily proud of the young South Australians who so generously commit themselves to this activity."



▲ Coromandel Valley CFS Brigade cadet Tom Pulford and SES cadet Rashelle Krikke, far left, with other youth members of the 2009 Anzac Eve Youth Vigil at the Adelaide City Council presentation, with Lord Michael Harbison and inaugural Vigil Committee Chairman Bill Denny AM.

ROHAN'S A CAPTAIN OF HIS LOCAL COMMUNITY

By: Terry Price, Media Liaison Officer, SAFECOM

At 21 Rohan Smith is already a citizen his community should be - and is - proud of.

Well into his second year as Streaky Bay CFS Brigade Captain he was named the west coast town's 2010 Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year.

Joining the CFS as a cadet at 15 after a desire to do so since he was in primary school, Rohan says his role has given him an opportunity to contribute to his community.

"If someone's in trouble you actually have the ability to do something about it," he says.

"I always wanted to be a firefighter in any case, and being part of the CFS is a great experience, and I'm proud of the service it provides."

Taking the lead as Brigade Captain at incidents the Brigade is called to, Rohan looks after to day-to-day operational procedures and decisions, organisation and training, when not at his employment as Student Services Officer at Streaky Bay Area School.

Volunteering his services to fight the fires in Melbourne, Kangaroo Island and Darke Peake in recent



Rohan and girlfriend Jess Truman had good cause to celebrate Australia Day at Streaky Bay.

years, Rohan enjoys the company of his local members, and is always on the lookout to increase numbers.

He holds the position of Secretary and was a founding member of the local Road Safety Transport Committee.

Girlfriend Jess Truman is also a firefighter with Streaky Bay Brigade and local representative for the CFS Volunteers Association.

Like Rohan, she is keen to increase numbers of young people joining the local CFS.

A REMARKABLE VOLUNTEER RECEIVES RECOGNITION IN WILMINGTON

By: Terry Price, Media Liaison Officer, SAFECOM

Wilmington CFS Brigade Captain Geoff Hitch was named 2010 Citizen of the Year by the District Council of Mount Remarkable.

Geoff has served his community with distinction in many ways over the years, however it is his commitment to his CFS Brigade that has made him a standout in his local community.

An active member of his local Brigade for nearly 30 years, Geoff has served in the role of Brigade Captain for the past six and a half years, displaying an outstanding level of commitment and leadership to his fellow volunteers.

Geoff is very active in both an operational and training sense, having volunteered for local, intrastate and interstate incidents. He also instructs on training courses throughout much of Region 4.

His local community recognised his upholding of the values of the CFS through the Citizen of the Year award.

Geoff makes no bones about the fact he has dedicated his life to the CFS.

"I joined when I was about 18 as a cadet and it has consumed much of my life," he says.

"Actually when I was 18 my parents' house was burnt, and I'll never forget that while it was burning, there were the CFS volunteers carting furniture out while others fought the fire.

"It made me appreciate the service the organisation provides.

"The CFS also teaches young people discipline, teamwork, respect for others, and the ability to work with others."

Geoff intends to continue his association with the CFS as long as his health prevails.



Chief Officer Euan Ferguson congratulates Geoff Hitch on his Citizen of the Year award.

FRANK NAMED TOP CITIZEN AT TINTINARA

Being an active member of Colebatch CFS was just part of Frank Brock's long list of community service roles, which saw him awarded Citizen of the Year status at Tintinara.

Frank's 50 years of community involvement trace back to his arrival in the Upper South East from Norwood in 1958. His love of the district began the day he arrived at

Dayspring and saw the flowering lucerne paddocks as far as they eye could see.

As well as his association with the CFS, Frank has relished his involvement with a wide range of service bodies and clubs.

These include the Scout movement, Apex, school councils, Lions, aged home committees, St John Ambulance Brigade and a range of sporting clubs.

SERVICE WITH DISTINCTION

By: Terry Price, Media Liaison Officer, SAFECOM

Gerold Seppelt and David Pearce are being honoured for their services with the awarding of an Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM) this year.

GEROLD SEPELT joined the CFS in 1983, is an active member of the Nuriootpa Brigade, and has served the South Australian community with distinction for the past 27 years.

One of the State's most active and experienced fire investigators, he played a key role in establishing high training standards over the past 22 years, specialising in breathing apparatus, hazmat and bushfire investigation training.

Gerold says the award is a reflection of the different people he's worked with in training. "The personal development I've obtained from my work in the CFS has been quite astounding," he said.

"People play the most important role in keeping you interested and focussed, and it's not just the groups you're working with who benefit – the whole State reaps the benefits.

"It is very rewarding and fulfilling

to know the people you are training have skills and a knowledge base they didn't have before.

"To see them on the fire ground doing what they have been trained to do is rewarding in itself."

DAVID PEARCE was recognised for his role as a driving force for excellence and teamwork in both the CFS and the MFS, and for using the

skills and knowledge he gained from 30 years of dedication to improve the operational and administrative efficiencies of both services.

The CFS Aviation Planning Officer says he is honoured to be receiving the AFSM, but says being a part of the 'CFS team' is the best privilege he could be afforded.

"It's really very nice to receive the

AFSM, but there are also a lot of other men and women who deserve this medal for the good work they do for the fire service," he said.

"The best part about working here is the number of people you meet the friends you make, and the chance to be a part of a really strong team doing good things."



David Pearce was one of two CFS members honoured with an Australian Fire Service Medal on Australia Day this year.
Photo: The Bunyip Newspaper, Gawler



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VOLUNTEER - AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

MASTER SERIES FOAM

Australian made and owned, MASTER A/B is completely bio-degradable and non-toxic.

MASTER A/B is your first line of attack with all A and B class fires. When proportioned up to 1% **MASTER A/B** is deeper penetrating into wood and all class A materials, which wets faster than water alone with the versatility of the extinguishment of class 'B' hydrocarbon fires when proportioned at 3% and when proportioned at 6% this will provide rapid fire control and extinguishment to all Polar-solvent fires.

MASTER A / B - IT WORKS!

When proportioned up to 1%

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- Cools the fire by controlled release of encapsulated water from the foam to the fire.

When proportioned up to 3%

- Rapid extinguishment of class 'B' hydrocarbon fires • All flammable vapors are locked in under a dynamic molecular structure utilising the latest polysaccharide technologies. • Completely bio-degradable and non-toxic.

When proportioned up to 6%

- Rapid extinguishment of class 'B' Polarsolvent fires • All flammable vapours are locked in under a dynamic molecular structure utilising the latest polysaccharide technologies. • Completely bio-degradable and non-toxic.

MASTER A / B - PACKAGING

MASTER A / B is available in colour coded 20L pails, 205L Drums or 1000L Bulk Containers.

MASTER A / B - APPLICATION

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- | | |
|-----------------------|-------|
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| • INITIAL SUPPRESSION | 0.5% |
| • BACK BURN | 0.75% |
| • PROTECTION | 1.0% |

Application to class 'B' hydrocarbon fires

- | | |
|---------------------|------|
| • HYDROCARBON FIRES | 3.0% |
|---------------------|------|

Application to class 'B' Polar-solvent fires

- | | |
|-----------------------|------|
| • POLAR-SOLVENT FIRES | 6.0% |
|-----------------------|------|



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PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR FIRST EFS/CFS VETERANS' REUNION

The Country Fire Service Heritage Committee has started planning a major event to celebrate the efforts of volunteer firefighters and their valuable contribution to South Australian communities.

An inaugural Veterans' Reunion, to be held in July this year, will pay tribute to former and present Emergency Fire Service / CFS volunteers and staff with at least 25 years of service.

CFS Heritage Committee Chairman Rex Hall has described it as an ambitious but significant project

to recognise the enthusiasm and commitment amongst South Australia's volunteers.

"Last year thousands of service medals were awarded to CFS members who had accumulated more than 10 years of active volunteer participation," Rex said.

"Among those who were recognised for their work were five volunteers who had clocked up more than 60 years of service and 90 volunteers who have been with the CFS for more than 50 years."

Rex says he hopes the reunion will not only acknowledge volunteer

contribution, but inspire future generations of volunteers.

"The reunion will also be an opportunity for our existing volunteers to draw some inspiration from these veterans," Rex said.

The Veterans Reunion will be open to all past and present CFS members

and their friends and families, to be held on Saturday 31 July and Sunday 1 August.

The venue has yet to be determined but this will depend on corporate sponsorship, which is currently being sought by the CFS Heritage Committee.

Rex Hall and Vince Monterola discuss plans for the inaugural CFS Veterans' Reunion.



LATEST BUSHFIRE INFORMATION HOW AND WHEN YOU WANT IT

By: Karina Loxton, Former Public Affairs Unit Manager, SAFECOM

At the start of this year the CFS launched a new service on the website that increases the availability and functionality of bushfire information to the public.

RSS feed technology has been linked to the CFS website, to disseminate information directly to subscribers, in a timely fashion.

The RSS feed is available for current incidents being attended to by the CFS, and also for current warnings.

Users of the service can more readily access the information via mobile phone or computer, at a frequency that suits their needs.

The RSS feed takes information directly from the CFS and MFS CRIIMSON database and displays it on the feed.

RSS feeds are a free service offered by the CFS and can be seen on any computer with internet access and on any mobile phone that has a data capability and connection.

To receive RSS feeds you need a feed reader and must subscribe to CFS feeds from the website.

Further information is available from the CFS homepage under *What is RSS?*

The introduction of RSS feeds led to the development of a partnership with AdelaideNow aimed at helping to increase the reach of important bushfire information.

The CFS has teamed with AdelaideNow to present the new RSS feed information as a ticker message, under the weather banner on the AdelaideNow homepage.

The CFS ticker enables AdelaideNow's 300,000 weekly visitors to receive the latest official information about bushfires affecting the State and alert them to any threats in their area.

MEDIA OUTLETS PARTNER WITH CFS

Radio and television stations across South Australia were last year urged to partner with the CFS as emergency broadcast outlets, supporting the organisation in advising the community of bushfire warning messages.

The invitation was an outcome of the Bushfire Task Force Recommendations, which recognised the important role the media can play in disseminating vital information to the community during emergency.

A number of new outlets have now signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the CFS, committing to the broadcast of bushfire Watch and Act and Emergency Warning Messages.

ABC and FIVEaa continue their

existing partnerships with the CFS, and we thank them for their support over the 2009/10 fire danger season, and look forward to working with them into the future.

Sky News is a new partner to the CFS, committing to broadcast both scrolling captioned and audio warning messages on the rolling news station. The Adelaide headquarters for Sky News is located in The Advertiser building, opposite CFS Headquarters.

A MoU has also been developed between the CFS and WIN Television, the State's regional television service.

WIN has indicated that they will broadcast both scrolling captioned and audio warning message advice during bushfire.

A significant amount of work has

gone into the establishment of an agreement between Commercial Radio Australia and the CFS for the broadcast of warning messages on all AM/FM stations across the State that fall under the Commercial Radio banner.

These stations are: Mix 102.3 FM, Cruise 1323 AM, Triple M, SAFM, FIVEaa, Nova 91.9, 5AU, Magic 105.9, 5CC, Magic 89.9 FM, Magic 93.1 FM, 5RM 801 FM, Power FM, 5MU, 5SE, Star FM and Flow FM.

It is particularly pleasing to have so many media outlets committing to the broadcast of warning messages during bushfires.

More information about the new emergency broadcast partners is being released on the CFS website and through media.

By: Haley Cahalan, CFS Senior Public Affairs Officer, SAFECOM

Emergency Broadcast Partners –

ABC Radio - Statewide
FIVEaa Radio - Statewide
Sky News - Statewide
WIN Television - Regional
Mix 102.3 FM - Adelaide
Cruise 1323 AM - Adelaide
Triple M - Adelaide
SAFM - Adelaide
FIVEaa - Adelaide
Nova 91.9 - Adelaide
5AU - Port Pirie
Magic 105.9 - Port Augusta
5CC - Port Lincoln
Magic 89.9 FM - Port Lincoln
Magic 93.1 FM - Berri
5RM 801 FM - Berri
Power FM - Murraylands
5MU - Murraylands
5SE - South East
Star FM - South East
Flow FM - Statewide

CFS TRAINING MEETS THE BUILDING CODE OF AUSTRALIA

By: Tim Maitland, Manager Training Facilities

As continuous change within the Building Code of Australia impacts upon building development across regional South Australia, CFS training strategies are also changing to meet both fire service needs and community expectations.

The installation of a new sprinkler

system at the State Training Centre will allow volunteers to train in a more realistic environment and complements the current delivery of 'Check Installed Fire Safety Systems – PUAFIR206B'.

The future addition of a fully integrated Fire Alarm System into the multi-storey building will also provide a capacity for CFS

firefighters to not only practice fire alarm response but also complex installation response through the use of sprinklers, hydrants and boosters.

Only through our ongoing partnerships within both the private and fire service sectors has this type of training resource been made possible.



Training Officer Darren Chapman commissions a Domestic Sprinkler System, recently installed into the multi-storey building at the CFS State Training Centre.

DRIVER DEVELOPMENT TAKES NEW COURSE

By: Owen Glover, Project Manager Driver Development

In a significant stride forward, CFS has adopted the unit 'Drive Vehicles under Operational Conditions (PUAVEH001B)', from the Public Safety Training Package to better train and accredit drivers.

The course will replace 'Safe Off-Road Driving Techniques (SORDT)'. Familiar faces from the old SORDT training will deliver the new course, in association with Access Training Centre, who have successfully won a contract to deliver the course on behalf of the CFS.

John Katopodis, Director of Access Training, said that his company was looking forward to developing a close working partnership with CFS over the next five years, as we move toward this new era.

The package will comprise pre-course reading and an assignment, followed by a full day of intense practical on-road and off-road driving with a ratio of one trainer to two trainees.

A 'log book' showing evidence of two drives will then be completed at brigade level.

Owen Glover, Project Manager Driver Development said that improving individual skills, assisting drivers to understand the necessity of maintaining Situational Awareness in the duty of driving and application of the principles of Dynamic Risk Assessment, which apply equally to driving as they do on the fire ground, will benefit driver, crew and public safety.



Driver Training 34 A works through the sand.

Pilot courses for 'Drive Vehicles under Operational Conditions' started at the end of February 2010.

New Appliance Driver Familiarisation

Another result of adopting Drive Vehicles under Operational Conditions is the demise of the 'Defensive Driving and Road Law' and 'Drive Vehicles' courses which were delivered to brigades when they

received new appliances.

CFS will still assist brigade captains to meet their occupational health, safety and welfare obligations to drive the new appliance but in a one-day 'New Appliance Driver Familiarisation' session.

There will be no theory or written work, the session won't be assessed and while it will be recorded on TAS, no certificate will be issued.

STATE TRAINING CENTRE ACKNOWLEDGES VITERRA'S SUPPORT

By: Garth Hogarth, CFS Project Manager CABA

A plaque of appreciation was recently presented to Viteria Operations Manager Don Drombolis for valued and continued support to Breathing Apparatus Training.

The presentation was held at the Viteria (formerly ABB Grain) head office in Adelaide, with Breathing Apparatus Project Manager Garth Hogarth handing over the plaque.

Justin Woolford, Region 6 Training Officer, and Mark Hewittson, Viteria Quality Assurance Manager and Western Eyre Group Officer, were present in recognition of the support they provided to the CFS Training Department.

Garth approached Viteria in 2007 to explore the opportunity to use their grain terminals to facilitate BA training with the focus on taking the training to the volunteers.

BA refresher courses are now scheduled each year at Wudinna, Jamestown and Ardrossan terminals.

Since this partnership commenced the CFS has been able to successfully reaccredit 78 volunteer firefighters in BA over seven courses held between November 2007 and October 2009.

In August 2009 the first BA training course to be held outside the existing training facilities in approximately 25 years, was held at the Thevenard terminal at Ceduna.

With the help of Viteria staff at Ceduna and the Region 6 Training Officer, 13 volunteers from Region 6 were able to successfully complete their BA training locally, saving them significant time away from their home, family and work.

CFS thanks Viteria for their ongoing support and looks forward to this partnership continuing.

Thanks must also go to McGuigan Barossa Valley for their continued support in facilitating BA training at their winery in Lyndoch.

CFS Project Manager CABA Garth Hogarth presents a plaque of appreciation to Viteria Operations Manager Don Drombolis.



ONLINE ACCESS TO TRAINING AND MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

By: Brenton Eden AFSM, CFS Manager Training

The Training Administration System, now known as ESOTAS, reached new heights in January 2010 with members being able to access their training and membership details via a secure CFS website area.

The introduction of the secure 'Members Only' section of the website has allowed a range of material to be published in formats that make it easy for members to download and print.

The section is only available to current CFS members, who are required to complete a secure log in, using their CFS membership number and a unique password.

Volunteers who have already accessed the site have provided very positive feedback.

As developments continue in

this area, members will gain access to additional information held on them, including access to their brigade's training gap within the 'Standards of Fire and Emergency Cover (SFEC)'.

In the initial phase, information will be limited to data held by the individual member who has logged into the system.

Once this phase has been tested sufficiently, access will be granted to group and brigade Training Coordinators to see the details of those who fall within their specific areas of responsibility.

Feedback on the information being supplied, together with ideas for further enhancements, are welcomed and should be provided to the Manager Training via email: eden.brenton@cfs.sa.gov.au



POSITIVE FEEDBACK FOR ONLINE ACCESS

The following feedback was received from Daniel Bentley, Brigade Training Coordinator, Gawler River Districts CFS:

"Have logged on to the CFS Members only site several times today and also viewed my own TAS, as requested. Had absolutely

no problems and pages weren't slow to load at all.

I look forward to being able to view all my Brigade members' training levels et cetera. Having an 'always up to date' copy of all my Brigade members' TAS will be most helpful, from a training coordinator's point of view, in

managing the training. The SFEC will be great also. I particularly like the 'Nominations received' field which will allow me to remind members of upcoming training and to also ensure that nominations were received.

Suggestion - I think putting a Licence Class Field (e.g. for

MR or HR licensed drivers) on an individual's TAS would be handy so that monitoring driver numbers can be achieved.

Apart from that, all works great and will be a handy tool, particularly for the Brigade Training Coordinators and the Captains."

SA EMERGENCY SERVICES ADOPT A COMMON TRAINING DATABASE

By: Brenton Eden AFSM, CFS Manager Training

A significant milestone has been reached in the way MFS, SES and CFS manage and record their training records.

Following a lengthy period of research by each agency, all three agencies have agreed to use the training and administrative system originally developed by the CFS.

The previous TAS system has been reinvented to become the ESOTAS system, 'Emergency Service Organisations Training Administration System'.

This has enabled each agency to share training records for those members who serve in more than one agency.

For a number of years, each agency has had to manage issues of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and accreditation for members in two services, however this issue has now been solved for our 245 joint members.

In January 2010, a total of 9,647 training accreditations were exchanged, with CFS exporting 5,503 records to MFS and SES, while

4,128 records were imported from these agencies.

For CFS, the true value of this exchange of training accreditations is the ability for these records to reduce the training gap within the brigade 'Standards of Fire and Emergency Cover'.

CFS has gained significant savings in the areas of Leadership Training, Senior First Aid, Map Reading and GPS, as well as the units of Work in a Team and Work Autonomously.

A number of joint members have also brought across their

qualifications as nationally recognised Trainer-Assessors and their skills will greatly enhance the service provided by CFS.

As the system transfers training accreditations from our joint members every day, each agency will see the benefits continue to grow.

It is a credit to all those involved in the management of training within each sector that this collaborative and cooperative approach to training management has been achieved.

VOLUNTEER COMMUNICATION VIA EMAIL

By: Brenton Eden, CFS Manager Training

Do you have email? Is the address correctly recorded on ESOTAS?

The training department continues to make greater use

of corresponding with volunteers via email, however a recent distribution identified that approximately 10 per cent of all email addresses on the system

are no longer current, or they have been incorrectly entered.

When you next have the chance to check and update your membership records, please take

the opportunity to provide CFS with your current email address.

The ESOTAS has the ability to record both private and work email addresses if that is required.

HOT START TO TRAINING IN 2010

By: Robin Geytenbeek, State Training Officer - Rural

East Torrens Group, with the assistance of two State Rural Training Officers, conducted the first Basic Firefighting 1 course for 2010 over the weekend of 8-10 January.

The course was the result of an active, Group-wide recruitment campaign.

The eight male and eight female trainees received a very warm welcome to the CFS with the daytime temperature over the weekend remaining

around 40 degrees Celsius.

Not wanting to overheat the trainees, and to heed the SES extreme heat warning advice, the course program was changed.

Accordingly, the days were spent inside the air-conditioned classroom for theory sessions and the cooler evenings were used for the skills components.

A big thank you is owed to all the volunteer Trainer-Assessors, Course Assistants and the brigades who supplied tankers and lighting equipment.



The newest CFS firefighters trained in BF1 at the start of 2010.

INVESTIGATING BUSHFIRE

By: Matt Davis, State Training Officer - Rural

CFS and SA Police members were put through an intensive, week-long bushfire investigation training course at the end of 2009.

The aim of the course was to provide participants with the skills to undertake in-depth investigations on bushfires that have been determined suspicious, caused significant damage or where the incident controller could not identify a cause (as per SOP 5.3).

Participants undertook training in advanced fire behaviour, how and why fuels burn, fire development, appearing in a court of law, conducting a fuel hazard assessment, collecting evidence, photography and bushfire investigation practices and procedures.

The course started with watching a fire develop from a single ignition source, with weather, topography and fuel type impacts, and then to predicting fire travel and initial investigation procedures, to undertaking a full investigation without having seen the fire first.

The aim of the course is to ensure we train highly skilled bushfire

investigators to a nationally accredited level across the State.

All participants come to the course as some of the more skilled persons within their region and leave with an even greater understanding of fire behaviour.

Undertaking this course is a good opportunity for CFS as the lead agency to work hand-in-hand with instructors from SA Police and MFS.

The relationship also assists in creating a better understanding of bushfire investigation procedures through all agencies.

Their involvement in the course also gives them a better understanding of protecting and preserving an incident scene, which they can take back to their own brigades and groups.

A big thank you to the volunteers from East Torrens, Headquarters Ops Brigade and Brunkunga for assisting with this course, and to the extra staff from CFS, Department for Environment and Heritage and State Flora who assisted.



MAJOR REVIEW OF BF1

By: Michael Mathew, Manager, Rural Firefighting Training Project

Six years since its release, the Basic Firefighting 1 (BF1) course has been reviewed in full.

The new course, coded BF1 v2, will be progressively released as Trainer-Assessors are up-skilled across the State, and will replace the existing course by 1 July 2010.

The first full trial of the BF1 v2 course was successfully conducted over the weekend of 5-7 February 2010 at the CFS State Training Centre by the Rural Firefighting Training Team, supported by a number of volunteer Trainer-Assessors and Course Assistants.

The review of this course commenced two years ago as a simple editorial review to align units within the course to

updated Nationally Accredited Unit descriptors, however, as work progressed a number of additional changes were recommended by stakeholders and included:

- Reducing the face-to-face delivery time
- Relocating the existing Unit 1 'CFS Agency Awareness' to a reviewed induction package
- Updating the assessments
- Decreasing time spent on theory delivery and increasing time spent on skills.
- Updating images to reflect current procedures, equipment and PPE
- Updating content to reflect current SOPs, COSOs and Operational Bulletins
- Changing the look and feel of the

materials from the first version

- Increasing the level of 'multi-media' used in the presentations
- Updating the service level 'Use Portable Firefighting Equipment' unit to a Nationally Accredited Unit
- Value-adding by embedding additional Nationally Accredited Units across the whole course (Work in a Team, Communicate in the Workplace and Maintain Safety at an Incident Scene).

A full consultation process involving a review of the updated materials was undertaken by active volunteer Trainer-Assessors across the State, as identified by each Regional Training Officer.

The recommendations made by this group were implemented as part of

the review process.

One initiative to reduce the face-to-face contact time by at least 60 minutes has been made.

The Prevent Injury unit is now presented on a 30-minute DVD, providing trainees with the opportunity to complete this unit by viewing it at home or at their brigade prior to attending their nominated BF1 course.

The DVD, professionally produced by Brenton Ragless' company Voice and Vision, has been designed to be viewed on conventional DVD players through a TV.

For more information, please contact Michael Mathew, your Regional Training Officer or read the CFS Rural Firefighting Newsletters on the CFS website.

HEARTS ON FIRE — YOUNG TEAM BOOSTS BALAKLAVA CFS

By: Bronte Hewett, as featured in the Plains Producer, 10 February 2010

A dedicated group of Balaklava CFS cadets hosted an Open Day at their local Brigade in February.

Cassie Richards and Belinda Blackwell are just two of the classic examples of young people rising up the CFS ranks at Balaklava.

As cadet coordinators, Cassie, 21, and Belinda, 18, help younger people in their community learn about saving lives and properties.

"I like the adrenaline and getting the job done," Belinda said.

"As well as the satisfaction in helping someone in need."

As for Cassie, the community involvement and social benefits are especially rewarding.

"I have gained friends and knowledge about the community," Cassie said.

While Cassie has been in the brigade for nine years, Belinda only joined one and a half years ago.

Now they both hold the same position to train and guide cadets in the right direction.

They have embraced the responsibility, and according to Balaklava CFS Captain Kevin Julyan, the Brigade is thriving at the moment.

"Cadets are the future of the Brigade, and the future of the community," he said.

"As the others retire, this service has to continue."

While it is often family members who get the younger generation involved, Kevin said this tradition is sometimes broken.

"Usually it has been in the family, but this trend breaks down and we need to look elsewhere for cadets," he said.

Kevin said these days, people were stepping into higher roles a lot younger.

"They gain hands-on skills earlier, and they don't even realise they are learning things such as people skills, conduct, management and leadership," he said.

"If young people aren't given a go early on, we don't know their strengths and weaknesses, and if we don't know their weaknesses, we can't work on them."

CFS Volunteer Support Officer for the Mid North and Yorke



The young brigade of Balaklava CFS cadets cooling off after training are, from back left, Adrian Richards, James Zweck, Ashley Julyan, Robert Blackwell, Tyson Walker, (middle) Jessica Kirvan, Belinda Blackwell, Cassie Richards, Rebecca Kirvan, Sara Eitzen, (front) Caroline Barber, Matt Karthorne and Emily Juel.

Peninsula Jason Druwitt says cadets are fundamental to the CFS.

"The whole country is an ageing population," he said.

"New cadets need to harness the skills of senior members."

He believes young cadets can influence change in the brigades and foster new ways of learning.

The CFS has been running successful cadet programs for many years.

Some of the current leaders within the CFS were cadets themselves and have worked their way through the organisation.

The CFS cadet movement is about building a foundation for future membership in the CFS, but it is also about developing youth in the local community through skill and social development.

The CFS is a central component of the community, which provides young people the opportunity to expand their skills and challenge themselves.

Cadet firefighters in the CFS are a new generation of leaders, who have taken on a responsibility to serve their community.

Other local CFS brigades are of the same opinion and encourage as many young people to get involved.

WORKING AS A TEAM

By: As featured in the Plains Producer, 10 February 2010

Two Wells CFS currently has nine cadets, ranging from 11 to 16 years of age.

Two Wells cadet coordinator Chantel Harris says cadets keep the brigade running.

"The kids gain social skills and learn to work as a team," she said.

"Hopefully they all will go into seniors."

She highlighted the fact that the majority of their current cadets are girls.

"It's not only for the boys," she said.

The opportunities, in terms of both training and personal development, are also significant.

Caylah Cairns has been selected to represent South Australian cadets and march in the ANZAC Day parade in Adelaide.

Adam Harris started out as a cadet in 1994, and is now captain.

He said cadets benefit the CFS by

bringing a new look at things, and it's a big bonus when they stick around to become firefighters.

"We've done pretty well out of cadets in recent years, with a lot of them going on to become firefighters," Adam said.

"The key is keeping them involved through the period of when they get their driving licence and other interests take over"

The CFS is also a potential eye opener for a lot of country kids, when they can see the effects of car accidents on country roads, first hand.

"It can make you open your eyes and slow down a bit," Adam said.

He also said being part of the cadet program could help with employment opportunities.

"It shows employers you are willing and keen to give back to the community," Adam said.



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VOLUNTEER - CADETS

COMMUNITY ED TEAM JOINS TOUR

By: Rod Cunningham, CFS Community Education Officer



^ The CFS Quick Response Vehicle lined up on the first morning in the main street of Clare ready for Stage 1 from Clare to Tanunda. Jason Donnon from Birdwood Brigade and Andrew Stewart from Balaklava were part of the emergency response team of SA Police, Ambulance and SES.

The Country Fire Service (CFS) Community Education team made the most of its recently increased numbers by staffing a stand in the Santos Tour Down Under Marquee, displaying this fire season's latest community information, including the PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE DVD pack, leaflets and giveaways for the kids.

Recently appointed Community Education Officer Doug Munn and his wife Shirley even earned the admiration of their colleagues when they entered and successfully completed the Milang to Goolwa leg of the Mutual Community Challenge Tour, on a day when even the professionals struggled with high temperatures and strong winds.

The CFS stand featured at Rymill Park on January 17 for the Cancer Council Helpline Classic, at Goolwa on Friday at the end of the Mutual Community Stage 4 race, at Snapper Point on Saturday for the start of the Jayco Stage 5 race, and at Elder Park on Sunday for the Adelaide City Council Stage 6 race.

At each stage Community

Education Officers were available to offer the many visitors to the stand first-hand advice, answer any questions and encourage homeowners to be Bushfire Ready.



^ Brisbane resident Donna Neil spent a few minutes with Charmaine Graham and Rod Cunningham, talking about the new Fire Danger Ratings recently introduced Australia-wide. Donna was one of the many interstate visitors who spent the week in Adelaide following the Tour Down Under. Like many, Donna had ridden from Adelaide to Willunga to enjoy the race.

NEW COMMUNITY EDUCATION UNIT TEAM

The Prepare Act Survive campaign has enabled the Country Fire Service (CFS) to employ additional Community Education staff for this fire danger season.

Felicity Hopkinson is reviewing and our schools program and Peta O'Donohue is working with businesses and organisations to help them develop bushfire safety strategies for their staff.

The CFS Community Education programs continue to focus on helping individuals and communities understand their bushfire risk and through programs like Community Fire Safe, assist them in developing and practising an appropriate Bushfire Survival Plan.

Region 1 has seen the addition of four Community Education Officers, Charmaine Graham, Doug Munn, Penny Kazla and Sara Pulford.

Region 2 has seen the addition of Rod Cunningham and for the first time Community Education programs will be delivered in Region 3 by David Rowe and Region 4 by Kylee McNamee.

WHO LOOKS AFTER YOUR FAMILY, WHEN YOU'RE OUT LOOKING AFTER SOMEONE ELSE'S?

By: Jeff Ayres, CFS Community Education Officer

For CFS volunteers the pager call to attend a fire is an immediate call to action.

You drop whatever you're doing and head for the station, jump in the truck and are away in minutes.

I frequently use brigades as an excellent example of being 'Bushfire Ready' because they know exactly what they will do when the pager goes.

Where will I go? How will I get there? What will I wear? These are basic questions which have been addressed long before the call and are the basis for their rapid response.

At the station the SOPs, training and preparation ensure the truck

with crew can depart immediately with confidence that everything on board is ship shape and ready to fight the fire.

But what of the volunteers' families that are still at home? Are they equally prepared to defend themselves? Are they just as 'Bushfire Ready' as the brigade member who has just responded to the pager?

Research and anecdotes after fires suggest this is not so and many families are left with no clear idea or plan of what to do if the fire, which the brigade has responded to, impacts them.

Some brigades have taken this very seriously and are insisting that their

members have a Bushfire Survival Plan for their families as one of the conditions for getting on the truck.

You're not allowed on if you haven't completed your training, are not wearing all your PPE, do not drink water, so why not add a family Bushfire Survival Plan to the list?

CFS Community Education Officers spend their time engaging with families to guide them to 'Bushfire Readiness'; we'd love to do the same for brigade members and their families.

Why not add a 'Bushfire Ready' session to compulsory brigade training? That can be followed by sessions for brigade families.

A similar situation applies to Farm

Fire Units where farmers take the ute off to the fire and leave Mum and the kids home to look after themselves.

This was clearly identified as a major issue after the Wangary fire and a special Women's Workshop for rural women was developed to give those women an opportunity to be independently 'Bushfire Ready'.

The program has been enthusiastically received and could well be used for brigade families also.

It is unthinkable that brigades with a "Come Home Safe" vision should not also insist that brigade families are not equally safe to come home to. Think about it!

FOUR MORE COMMUNITY FIRE SAFE GROUPS FORM IN PORT LINCOLN

By: Terry Price, Media Liaison Officer, SAFECOM

A group of concerned residents initiated the latest Community Fire Safe session held in Port Lincoln on the 31 January, 2010.

The generosity of the Ford family enabled the meeting to be held at Boston Bay Wines and all residents who live north of Rustlers Gully and south of Haigh

Drive were encouraged to attend.

Following the Port Lincoln fire on 23 December, 2009 many residents from within this area realised they were either under prepared or that their Bushfire Survival Plans needed revision.

The District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula was happy to assist

and sent out more than 160 individual invitations to ratepayers within the area.

North Shields Brigade Captain Glen Doughty and volunteer Chris Dare gave up their time on a Sunday to attend the meeting and answer any questions.

As a result of this meeting four

separate Community Fire Safe groups have been formed. Community Education Officer Therese Pedler has made a commitment to each group to meet with them separately between now and the next fire danger season to assist in formulating different strategies that they can use in their bushfire preparations.

COFFIN BAY RESIDENTS TAKE ACTION

Coffin Bay residents were updated on all the new CFS Bushfire information at a public meeting late last year.

The presentation covered the 'Prepare. Act. Survive. campaign, the new advice and warning messages and fire danger ratings,

in particular what options were available to the residents of Coffin Bay on predicted Catastrophic bushfire weather days.

Guest speakers included CFS volunteer David Sims, two Department for Environment and Heritage staff, a volunteer from the

SA Ambulance Service and SA Police member John Randall.

Further Community Fire Safe information sessions were requested and conducted before the end of the month.

Community Education Officer Therese Pedler said the Coffin Bay

Community Fire Safe Group was a great example of a group of residents who understood the risk of bushfire and who were willing to use their initiative to establish a number of different community strategies to aid in their bushfire planning.

BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLANS IN PORT LINCOLN

Vicki and Ande Blessing of Reevesby Court, Port Lincoln, are an excellent example of how proper planning and preparation can make all the difference in a bushfire.

After the Proper Bay fire in early 2009 severely impacted on their sister and brother-in-law's property, they took the opportunity to host two Community Fire Safe meetings in their own home for all residents of Reevesby Court.

Even with a realistic understanding of the threat of bushfire, they never imagined that their planning and preparations would be tested by Mother Nature so soon.

All their knowledge and pre-planning

was needed on the day, along with teamwork and sheer determination to successfully defend their family home from the full impact of the bushfire.

Community Education Officer Therese Pedler checked in on the family on the day of the fire, after the threat had eased, and was greeted by many sooty but smiley faces.

Even though they were physically exhausted and still had many hours of mopping up to do, they were both very grateful for the knowledge they had received only a matter of months earlier.

This is a true success story in every sense. Well done Vicki and Ande!



Vicki Blessing – happy to pass on experiences in successfully defending her family home

EDUCATING WANGARY STUDENTS AND STAFF

It's been five years since the devastating fire on Lower Eyre Peninsula that started at Wangary.

Late last year Community Education Officer for Region 6, Therese Pedler, spent the afternoon with grades R-7 at Wangary Primary School, talking about the dangers of bushfires and what they can do to protect themselves.

After school, a session was held with all staff members and there was productive discussion about the Bushfire Survival Plan for the school and the wider community.

NUMBERS CONTINUE TO GROW

The numbers of residents attending Community Fire Safe meetings at Rustlers Gully, on the northern tip of Port Lincoln, continues to grow.

The initial public meeting held in the local playground in 2007 gave

an indication of the interest in the area, and since then, a number of meetings have been held.

One complete Community Fire Safe information session was held, and residents have requested another session to follow up

and to include all the new recommendations coming from the Victorian Royal Commission.

Community Education Officer Therese Pedler attributes much of the success of the group to the residents who live in the area.

They realise they must be self sufficient and are prepared to use their initiative to achieve this.

A number of telephone trees for each street and links or 'branches' between these streets have been established.

MOUNT LOFTY RANGES BUSHFIRE READY

The communities of Belair and Coromandel Valley, in the Mount Lofty Ranges, have been issued a challenge to be Bushfire Ready.

Community Education Officer Michelle Egel ran two Community Fire Safe Challenge events late last year, to provide a 'refresher' for local fire safe groups in the lead up to the Fire Danger Season.

"The events were held with the primary focus on providing a refresher activity to all of the current or active Community Fire Safe Groups within the Belair and Coromandel Valley areas," she said.

"Attendance at the Challenge

events was extremely pleasing, with an attentive audience in excess of 80 at Belair and more than 90 at Coromandel Valley."

The events comprised a round-robin series of mini workshops, which covered a number of topics, including action planning (simplified), personal survival and first aid, pump maintenance and trouble shooting, ember proofing and hazard identification, survival and relocation of children.

Michelle thanks the members of the Belair and Coromandel Valley CFS brigades for assisting to make the events such a success.



Attendees at the Community Fire Safe Challenge learn practical tips from the CFS.



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VOLUNTEER - COMMUNITY EDUCATION

AN ODE TO THE FORMER DIRECTOR

By: Clyde D Buttery

From time to time the Macclesfield Community Association newsletter publishes an 'early' photograph of a local or well-known person, and asks for readers to identify the subject of the photo.

Clyde D Buttery offered the photo of a very young Fred Kerr, former director of the Country Fire Service.

Clyde went on to write an article about Fred, which he has kindly shared with the Volunteer magazine, and another on the now disbanded Northfield CFS, which will appear in a future edition of the magazine.

In his words, "These stories are but a drop in time in their history".



DID YOU RECOGNISE THE MYSTERY MAN?

The mystery man was none other than the former director of the Country Fire Service, Fred Kerr, who was responsible for building up the tremendous organisation. But, what is the story of Fred Kerr?

Fred Kerr was like many other young people during the Depression.

He had trained as a pharmacist, but found that jobs in his chosen profession were scarce, and not very well paid.

Being keen on fitness, he did what many other young men did and worked out at the YMCA Gymnasium, where he befriended several members of the fire brigade, who were also engaged in gymnastics, weightlifting and wrestling.

Fred fitted in with them like a hand in a glove, so they encouraged him to join them in the fire brigade, and he applied in 1936.

In his pre-employment interview, Fred was having a bit of trouble convincing the Chief that he was 'up to the job', even though he had references from several senior brigade officers.

The Fire Board had a minimum

height standard and the Chief was looking for a reason to get around this, because Fred was about one and a half centimetres under the 'standard'.

The Chief laid great emphasis on physical fitness and asked Fred to do a handstand to show his athleticism.

Fred grasped the edge of the Chief's desk and lifted himself up, from the floor, into a handstand, on top of the desk. Needless to say he got the job.

Fred was now working with some of the best weightlifters and trainers in the country and went on to win the Australian Junior Lightweight title in 1939.

He also applied himself to the job and found that his knowledge of chemicals and his mental acuity helped him to pass the brigade promotion examinations and he was promoted to the rank of Station Officer.

Possibly because of his knowledge of chemicals, he was appointed to the position of Officer-in-charge of the fire station at the Munitions Research Establishment, at Penfield, during the war.

At that time officers worked 72

hours on duty and then had 24 hours off.

Most married officers lived in quarters at their station, but Penfield was a restricted access area and therefore did not have married quarters.

To gain access to Penfield, fire service personnel had to have a security clearance from the Commonwealth Police Department, which is now known as ASIO.

Such was the restriction, that if there was a fire, they couldn't call for a back up from another station.

They had to put it out themselves, or stand well back, protect the surrounding area and let it burn.

During his time at Penfield, Fred came to the Brigade's attention for the outstanding job he did in training Munitions Research Establishment staff in fire fighting.

And, as hard as it may seem to believe, Fred spent his one day off duty, at headquarters, training Emergency Fire Service and Civil Defence personnel.

At the end of the war, Fred asked for a demotion to Senior Fireman and a transfer to Glenelg.

After a short time at Glenelg, he was transferred back to headquarters as the Brigade's Drill Instructor and, because he had built up such a rapport with the Emergency Fire Service (EFS) people, was seconded to the position of Assistant Director of the EFS as well.

In 1949, when the incumbent was promoted within the brigade, the Fire Brigades Board recommended that First Grade Senior Fireman Kerr F.L. be appointed to the position of Director of the Emergency Fire Service.

Premier Sir Thomas Playford agreed with the recommendation and, remembering the chaos of the 1939 fires, made it a permanent appointment, charging Fred with the job of uniting all volunteer units into one service.

Fred became a one-man fire service, but what a man. And today, what a service. As they say in the classics, the rest is history.

If you would like to know more, there is a very good book, 'Tried By Fire', which is a history of the Country Fire Service and is available from the CFS.