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Region 3

Murraylands & Riverland
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Murray Bridge
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Region 4

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Region 5

South East
46 Smith Street, Naracoorte
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The Voice of South Australia's Volunteer Fire Brigades

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Have you got something to contribute to Volunteer?

Send your photos and stories to:

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or e-mail: cfshq@cfs.org.au

Don't forget to include your name, address or brigade and a contact phone number.

Photography should be supplied and posted as original prints, negatives or slides. Please avoid digital photography and scanning of any type. Include your name and address on the back of the photos you want returned. Text can be supplied as hardcopy or electronically as a Microsoft Word document or WordPad/NotePad (PC).

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Front cover photo: Surveying the aftermath of a structure fire at Blackwood

CEO Report – Euan Ferguson



Summer has made a spectacular entry, heralded by significant fires at Mallala and Yankalilla in the last week of November. These fires have served as an early warning of what I suspect will be a severe fire season for us.

Most parts of South Australia have experienced extraordinary grass and crop growth in the last weeks of November. The bulk has now cured off substantially and is ready to burn.

It is timely to reinforce the message that, in everything we do, the safety of our people, and of other emergency services, comes first. Safety is everyone's responsibility. Bushfires often occur under extreme conditions. They are dynamic and can be difficult to predict. It is vital that in our response to bushfires, we always identify a safety zone and escape routes, should there be a sudden change in fire behaviour.

This year the Government has again provided additional funding for the "Bushfire Blitz" campaign. Following last

These are all exciting initiatives that show the value of CFS establishing close relationships with the community.

Recently we have seen new legislation pass through Parliament that will allow people who have committed certain minor fire offences to be issued with an on-the-spot fine. This is one of the first tangible outcomes from the Premiers Bushfire Summit in May this year.

One thing that remains constant however, is the commitment, dedication and skill of our volunteers. The signs for this fire season look ominous. Every fire results in substantial commitment, not only fighting the fire, but in mopping up and subsequent patrol, restoring gear, writing reports and making good the absence from home or work.

"It is timely to reinforce the message, that in everything we do, the safety of our people, and of other emergency services, comes first. Safety is everyone's responsibility."

years pilot program, there will be three facilitators who will conduct street corner meetings and provide information at a local level.

It is with great pleasure that I am able to announce that SGIC has entered into a sponsorship arrangement with CFS for the Bushfire Blitz program. In this partnership, publicity materials, Bushfire Blitz vans and uniforms, and equipment will be provided by SGIC. In return, SGIC will have signage rights and naming rights on the SGIC Fire Ban Hotline. This is an exciting relationship that we hope can be fostered into the future.

The State Government, in partnership with the Federal Government, has also provided additional funding for the provision of a medium firebombing helicopter with a smaller supervision helicopter. The addition of these aircraft to our fixed wing fleet will allow more flexible use of the fixed wing aircraft across the state. In the south east, the forest owners and bluegum growers have joined forces with CFS to fund a second firebomber on very high fire danger days.

On behalf of the CFS Board, thank you for your ongoing commitment to your community and to CFS. CFS does great work within the community. Every member plays a part in what is a terrific team effort. Thank you to each and every one of you.

Hopefully the weather at Christmas will provide some respite for us. I hope that Christmas can be a time of peace and joy, surrounded by family and friends. I trust that each of you has time to pause, and to enjoy and reflect on the things that we truly value in our life, health, family and the community we live in. Values that you protect, as CFS volunteers.

Happy Christmas and a peaceful and safe New Year to all CFS members, and to all those other agencies, employers and sponsors who support us.

Be safe!

Euan Ferguson
Chief Executive Officer

A message from the Minister

With another fire danger season already well and truly underway I would like to wish all of you a safe summer and thank you all for your invaluable contribution to our community.



Living in South Australia brings with it its own peculiarities from Mother Nature. At the beginning of November it was still raining and vegetation in many parts of the State was too damp to burn. By the end of the month CFS crews were battling grass and crop fires around Mallala, Lower Light and Dublin and bushfires on Kangaroo Island, in the Upper South-east and near Yankalilla.

Despite a tight window for cold burning this season, the Government remains committed to the \$10 million, four year campaign announced at this year's Premier's Bushfire Summit for bushfire hazard reduction.

Education for residents in high-risk bushfire areas has been stepped up again this year and it is great to see the successful Bushfire Blitz program returning for a second season. I know a lot of people learnt so much from the street corner meetings and the associated learning literature last year.

This year we welcome a very generous financial commitment from the SGIC to support CFS education programs and the SGIC Fire Ban Hotline.

SGIC says it wants to help reduce the risk of bushfires in the community and to support the tireless work of the CFS volunteers.

The Government has increased funding to the CFS by 10 per cent to a total of \$43.5 million and the CFS management team is ensuring the money is being spent on the priorities of the organisation.

As well as recognising CFS volunteers, we also want to give recognition to the people who employ CFS volunteers. The Government, after a request from the VFBA, has printed up stickers that acknowledge that a business employs CFS volunteers.

I hope that businesses displaying the stickers will benefit through increased community patronage and that it will help repay the generosity of employers who allow their staff members to drop everything at a few seconds notice to attend an emergency. I hope as many volunteers as possible will assist to distribute these stickers to their employers. Those of you who are self employed should reward yourselves with a sticker.

I know many of you will be in the field this season fighting fires and I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas and I look forward to catching up with you in the New Year.

Hon Patrick Conlon
Minister for Government Enterprises
Minister for Energy
Minister for Emergency Services



A message from the VFBA President

As we enter into the season of goodwill, may I offer to you all the compliments of the season. It would be my earnest hope that you and your families enjoy a peaceful and harmonious time of fellowship together. It is at this poignant time of the year, that some of our volunteers share in the loss, suffered by some of our community members by fire or accident.

Social capital is a term, which has been introduced into our vocabulary of recent years. If ever there were an example, the efforts of CFS volunteers would be it. Total brigade responses at 12,745 and volunteer hours at these incidents being 1,722,526 for the 12 month period until this November, times by what you believe an hourly rate for a volunteer is worth, comes to a tidy sum. A further 257,021 hours were provided in administration, training, meetings and other activities. Add to this the moral and other supports, most often given during these incidents provides a very significant community investment.

I am often encouraged by the empathy that many members exude during and after the activity towards people who may be just embarrassed on one hand, to deeply distressed on the other. This is particularly so, when there is a reluctance to provide assistance to others in these more selfish times from the general populace.

For many of our country volunteers this is an extremely busy time. Seasonal conditions have been favourable for most and while that is most gratifying, we do feel for those who are suffering



adverse conditions whether it be drought, frost or other difficulty. Notwithstanding, the growth this season has been significant and of course dependent on prevailing weather conditions during the summer, we could face another high-risk year.

Following on from the Premier's Bushfire Summit, which we

enthusiastically supported, we continue to advance the cause of fuel reduction wherever possible, which is in line with much other thinking. It is interesting to note these circumstances will most certainly occur in the future and then couple that with the predictions in weather patterns of temperature increase of one degree and more turbulence.

We continue to celebrate with a number of brigades, fifty years and in some cases more, of community contribution. The leadership of the past are good examples to follow, in maintaining and improving our service. It also provides opportunities to skill and uplift in a variety of ways, the newer members.

Our Association has been extremely busy of recent times and we greatly appreciate those who accepted positions on specific committees for the ongoing Review process. This allows for a wider volunteer input and opportunity of consultation for which we are grateful.

Once again all the very best for Christmas and I hope the year 2004 will be fulfilling to you all.

Cam Stafford AFSM
President VFBA

Christmas message from Shadow Minister



As Shadow Minister for Emergency Services and Volunteers, I would like to wish all members of the South Australian Country Fire Service an enjoyable and safe Christmas and prosperous 2004.

It has been my privilege to work alongside such a passionate and dedicated group of people, who are prepared to put their lives on the line to service our great community in South Australia.

I am immensely proud to be one of your representatives in the Parliament, and on behalf of my colleagues and the many citizens who have benefited from

your commitment, I thank you for your consistent effort and hard work.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your families, and I look forward to joining with you again in 2004 to assist in the challenges that lay ahead.

Robert Brokenshire
Shadow Minister for Emergency Services

VFBA News

I have been working with the VFBA for some nine months now, and am into my first full fire season. I was driving through the Mt Lofty area a couple of weeks ago, remembering how this time last year I would have simply admired the beauty of it all. Now all I see is the fuel load. I have come a long way!

Recently I attended a training night with the Happy Valley Brigade. I attend many brigade and group meetings around the state, but it was good to join a hands on session and don my pristine yellows. My thanks to Sam, Gary and Bill and the brigade for a great evening. I would love to receive invitations from other brigades whether it be to participate in training or to talk about volunteer issues.

Employer Recognition stickers have been sent out to groups and brigades that have requested them. The stickers are a token of our appreciation to employers of volunteers, to say thankyou for their support. We hope that when community members see the stickers displayed on business windows and vehicles, they in turn will support those employers. I still have a good

supply if your brigade would like some of these stickers. Please contact me and I will send out your stickers as well as the accompanying letter from the Hon Patrick Conlon, Minister for Emergency Services, who has sponsored this program.

The South Australian Police and Emergency Services Games (SAPES) are to be held next year from April 16 to 24, which is in the school holidays. It would be great to see the CFS well represented in the large numbers of sports that can be participated in. Carolyn Bishop (tel 8383 0290) and myself are the SAPES liaison officers for the CFS. I will be sending out posters and brochures regarding the Games during December. If you would like any more information please contact either Carolyn or me at the VFBA office.

The VFBA raffle is going well with some 23,000 people around South Australia having pledged their support to buy tickets. It appears at this stage to be a financial success, but we are considering this first raffle as a trial. Please note we have had to extend the draw date to January 30, in response to some training issues we had with the telemarketers. Once the raffle has been drawn and fully audited, we will be making decisions as to whether to continue the program.

The first beneficiary of the fundraising is a research project into volunteer safety and welfare. It is called WARPS which stands for Wireless Automated Response Positioning System. The research project is being funded through Emergency Management Australia, with the VFBA funding the capital component of the program - some \$11,000. You can read more about the project on page 42 of this issue, or on our website at www.savfba.org.au

I take this opportunity to wish all CFS Volunteers and Staff a safe and happy Christmas and a quiet fire season.

Wendy Shirley
SAVFBA Executive Officer

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Summer Action Hots Up for CFS

*The ominous prediction by CFS that
grass fires would be a major concern
proved a reality in late November*

As the majority of people look forward to some down time with family and friends over the Christmas period, CFS volunteer firefighters across the state are preparing themselves for what is the “business end” of the year.

The 2003/04 Fire Danger Season has gotten off to a raging start – with a number of major fires occurring early and threatening dozens of homes.

The ominous prediction by CFS in media statements that grass fires would be a major concern, proved a reality in late November when a large grass fire started near an electricity line at Lower Light, north of Adelaide.

More than 350 firefighters battled the large grass fire that was burning in both cropped and uncropped land. Firefighters were forced to perform asset protection to more than a dozen homes to prevent them from being engulfed.

Strong winds and heavy fuel loads saw intense fire behaviour which jumped a number of containment lines

and saw the firefront sweep over the top of several fire appliances and continue spreading. One fire appliance received minor damaged.

More than eight strike teams from nearby areas also responded to the scene to assist the local crews in trying to halt the rapid spread of the fire, which took more than three hours to bring under control.

Less than forty eight hours later, lightning strikes started a series of fires on Kangaroo Island and on the Fleurieu Peninsula near the township of Yankalilla.

The largest fire was at Kemmiss Hill, which burnt more than 300 hectares.

Erratic wind conditions caused

problems for fire crews by creating unpredictable fire behaviour and hampered efforts to bring the blazes to within control fires.

More than 400 volunteer firefighters and 100 fire appliances were involved in the incidents on the Fleurieu Peninsula, Carey Gully and Kangaroo Island.

The largest fire of the season to date, occurred in the Upper South East in the Mount Rescue Conversation Park on Sunday 30th November as a result of a lightning strike.

Almost 2000 hectares of scrub was blackened over the two day fire, with CFS combining forces with the Department of Environment and Heritage to bring the fire under control.





Semi Collision Causes Havoc on Freeway

A collision between two semi trailers at Murray Bridge caused chaos for South Eastern Freeway commuters on 24th October.

The incident occurred east of the Adelaide bound entrance to the South Eastern Freeway shortly after 12.30pm as one semi trailer clipped the other.

SA Country Fire Service volunteers provided fire cover while also assisting in the salvage and clean up of the freight.



House Severely Damaged by Fire

Fire caused more than \$200,000 damage to a house at Lewiston, north of Adelaide, on 30th July.

The fire started in the home on Two Wells Road at 4.45pm.

The house was well ablaze when more than 20 SA Country Fire Service volunteer firefighters arrived on scene a short time later.

A woman inside the home suffered smoke inhalation. Two children also inside the house were not injured.





Truck Crash at Mylor Brings Down Power Lines

A truck carrying cattle crashed into a stobie pole at about 5.10pm on Sunday 26th October at Mylor.

Local CFS volunteers had just finished instructing a Level One course at Mylor Station when the emergency lighting came on and they saw power lines swaying. Upon investigation it was discovered that a cattle truck travelling down Cross Street collided with a stobie pole on the other side of Strathalbyn Road.

Public safety was paramount, as both 400-volt and 11000-volt lines had come down on Strathalbyn Road and for 80 metres up Cross Street. Traffic was detoured around the scene and the cattle were transferred to another truck. The driver sustained minor injuries.



Blackwood Blaze Destroys Warehouse

Written by
Adam Thomson





A number of Adelaide Hills brigades attended one of the largest structure fires the area has seen for several years, when a large storage warehouse known as the "Cold Stores" at Blackwood went up in flames on 13 October 2003.

The alarm was first raised just after 12.30am but despite a rapid response, crews could do little to save the Station Avenue building. The fire had spread into the roof cavity of the 90m x 20m building and taken hold inside.

More than 60 firefighters from both the SA Country Fire Service and Metropolitan Fire Service battled the blaze throughout the night, and at sunrise fire crews were still trying to extinguish a number of flare-ups within the building.

Crews were forced back by the intense heat, which buckled brick walls and caused parts of the roof to cave in. A leaking 150kg ammonia gas bullet added to concerns, with crews forced to wear breathing apparatus because of the thick smoke.

The building contained a number of storage areas, an antique shop, a toy storage facility and carpet store. At least one vehicle was also destroyed.

Local residents have thanked fire crews for their efforts to stop the blaze from engulfing surrounding homes, as well as salvaging a large collection of wine and toys stored in the building.

Thick plumes of smoke blanketed Blackwood and surrounding suburbs, with the public being advised to stay inside and keep windows closed until the morning winds dispersed the smoke layer.

Fire Cause investigators were unable to confirm the cause of the \$2 million fire but could not rule out arson.



Bool Lagoon

Prescribed Burn

Written by
Phil McDonough
Region 5

In early November, CFS and the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) undertook a very successful prescribed burn in the Bool Lagoon reserve, to reduce fuel loading adjacent to a private dwelling that backed on to the south western corner of the reserve. This burn involved an area of approx 200 hectares, which has resulted in the significant reduction of the fuel level in this area.



A burn plan was developed by Jeff Wauchope (NPW&S) and Phil McDonough, which involved obtaining Native Vegetation approval and establishing the parameters for the burn. It was determined a spring burn would have the best effect to achieve the objective, the weather was monitored for 3 weeks.

A plan was developed which highlighted a number of safety issues crews needed to be aware of, not the least being heavy infestation of tiger snakes within the burn area. A test burn was conducted at 9.30am, which

confirmed conditions were suitable to proceed. The actual burn commenced once all resources arrived, and a briefing was conducted. A foam line was laid along the eastern end of the burn area to prevent fire escape across a fuel-reduced break and then the burn was on.

The vegetation was mainly thick scorbria with high fellarious grass. The height of this grass was in excess of 7ft in places and so thick that walking in some areas was difficult. Another hazard encountered was, with all the rain that the area had received over the last few months, the lagoon had

substantial amounts of water in it. This meant that the burn area was in fact up to 1ft deep in water. At the height of the burn, flame heights of 8-10m were observed with rather intense fire activity. The area burnt was over 2.5kms by 250-300m wide.

This was a very successful joint operation to complete a prescribed burn to reduce fuel loading in a specific area. Parks are keen to undertake a series of burns in a number of areas.

This is a great opportunity to further enhance our work with the DEH and other stakeholders.



Regional and State Levels of Preparedness for the Fire Danger Season

The CFS has introduced a standardised colour-coded system of Operational Preparedness for the State Coordination Centre (SCC) and Regional Coordination Centres (RCC).

Preparedness levels are triggered by a combination of forecast fire danger and/or the actual or perceived risk of incidents (including non-bushfire incidents such as severe weather, flood warnings or terrorist attacks etc) occurring and the level of risk and threat to the community.

Regional (RCC) preparedness levels will be determined in the first instance by the Regional Duty Officer. State (SCC) preparedness levels will be determined in the first instance by the Deputy State Coordinator and will also take into account the relative preparedness levels of the Regions.

CFS PREPAREDNESS LEVELS		
Code Green - Low	Definition	Low
	Bushfire Danger	Low to Moderate
	Other Risks	No particular threat
	On-Call & Staffing	Normal On-call Arrangements
Code Yellow - Elevated	Definition	Elevated
	Bushfire Danger	High
	Other Risks	Specific threat identified
	On-Call & Staffing	On-call staff available
Code Orange - High	Definition	High
	Bushfire Danger	Very High
	Other Risks	Incidents causing widespread damage
	On-Call & Staffing	On-call staff available within 45 Min
Code Red - Severe	Definition	Severe
	Bushfire Danger	Extreme
	Other Risks	Significant commitment of CFS
	On-Call & Staffing	Staff on SCC and RCC

Care should be taken to ensure that this system is seen as an internal system only, NOT a public system. The Public Warning systems already in place via the daily media (radio and newspapers) will continue as before. This system is primarily to ensure the communication of preparedness levels within the CFS and other emergency service organisations.



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Forcible

Breaking our way into premises is something the Fire Services have been doing since the days of horse drawn steam pumpers. With the increased levels of breaking and entry, society is becoming more conscience of home and business security. Firefighters who previously would have encountered a locked door, are now finding roller shutters, security screen doors and steel or solid doors with multiple locks. The days of either finding the key under the mat or kicking the front door in with your size 12 boots are quickly disappearing.

The question Australian Fire Services need to be asking themselves, is what equipment and training should we be offering our firefighters to ensure that this heightened security will not impede them in doing their job. To answer this question we need to look at other Fire Services and learn from their experience.

One Fire Department whose members have been breaking through heavily fortified doors for years is the City of New York. In the late eighties, the FDNY moved away from their traditional forcible entry tools, the Axe and the Halligan type tool, to a new system using hydraulic rams.

These hydraulic systems were placed between the door and the doorframe and by pumping the system the ram would force open the door or break it off the lock.

For years the FDNY used these tools with much success, but unfortunately the traditional techniques for forcible entry were being lost.

In New York, the residents have become so conscious about the safety of their homes, it is usual for firefighters to be confronted by a door with more than three locks, with some doors having as many as seven. With these extra locks, the FDNY has found that the hydraulic systems they were using were no longer completely successful and have had to reassess their methods for forcible entry.

In a complete turn around, the FDNY is now retraining their firefighters the almost lost art of using the Irons.

A Firefighter's Irons are his Probar and Axe. The Axe used by the FDNY is substantially heavier than a conventional wood axe and designed to be used as a striking tool. The Probar is a Halligan type tool, which is a one-piece construction of drop forged alloy steel. The FDNY chose this brand of tool because they were breaking the tools made by other manufacturers on a regular basis.

In the borough of Manhattan, the crew of Rescue 1 would force on average 5 doors a day, so it is important for them to have tools that would be able to take the punishment.

The use of Irons has proven to be the saving grace for FDNY in forcible entry. When the 'Irons' are used correctly, an experienced team can force any heavily fortified door in minimal time. A Forcible Entry Team consists of two firefighters, one to set the Probar and the other to strike it using the back of the Axe.

In the next edition I will explain the procedure used by the FDNY for Forcible Entry – Through the Door and Through the Lock.



Entry:

Part One

Written By Dale Thompson
CFS Prevention and Community
Awareness Officer



New Water Restrictions and the CFS

As of Sunday 26th October 2003, South Australia had new permanent water conservation measures. These measures apply to all water supplied by the SA Water system. This includes areas previously not covered by water restrictions - such as the areas in the State's South-East. The new measures replace the Level 2 water restrictions - except in the Eyre Peninsula where existing restrictions continue to apply.

1. The new permanent water conservation measures will not affect CFS service delivery to the community or our operational capability. CFS will continue to use water for firefighting and other operational purposes.
2. The new permanent water conservation measures will not adversely affect the safety of firefighters or the public.
3. CFS is a responsible corporate citizen and will actively seek to conserve water in all non-essential activities.

The following guidelines have been developed to provide guidance across the State and to ensure a smooth implementation of the new permanent water conservation measures.

- **Firefighting & Operations** - As necessary for operational purposes.
- **Re-supply Appliances & Bulk Water Carriers after firefighting/operations** - As necessary for operational purposes.
- **Pump Testing/Drills** - Pump testing/drills may be carried out with the water being returned to the tank or supply (open or static water sources).
- **Booster Testing** - Every effort must be made to conserve water. Where possible water is to be discharged to lawns or gardens.
- **Decontamination Hazmat** - As necessary for operational purposes.
- **Decontamination of CFS Vehicles (Phytophthora & Broom Rape)** - In accordance with the established guidelines for decontamination.
- **Washing CFS Vehicles** - As per the new permanent water conservation measures (buckets etc) and only as necessary.
- **Washing down Engines Bays and Forecourts** - Not allowed, dry methods of cleaning are to be employed.
- **Training** - As necessary to maintain safe and competent firefighters and established levels of preparedness.
- **Public Demonstrations (ie: school visits)** - demonstrate equipment without using large quantities of water.
- **Fire Plug Inspections** - Approved, in accordance with the Fire Plug Inspection Procedure, all faults and deficiencies will be reported to SA Water for rectification.
- **Gardens** - as per the new permanent water conservation measures.

Further information is available from (08) 84634206 or the SA Water web site:

<http://www.sawater.com.au/Restrictions/index.html>

Incident Management - Mapping Support Unit

The SA Country Fire Service and the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) have jointly established a Mapping Support Unit. The Unit has been established to primarily provide the following mapping services:

- An enhanced mapping support function to CFS and DEH operational personnel at the designated Incident Control Centre established during a significant incident.
- Provide an enhanced mapping support function to CFS and DEH operational personnel at the CFS State Coordination Centre.
- Provide an enhanced mapping support function to the CFS & DEH after a significant incident to ensure that the extent, nature and impact of the incident is captured appropriately.

The Mapping Support Unit consists of a team of GIS trained operators employed by DEH. At present the team has nine members available plus two supervisors. Members are also being provided with Level 1 Protective Clothing, GRN Pagers and Basic Firefighter Training.

The Mapping Support Unit will be deployed in support of a significant incident where the requirement for their services is expected to remain for an extended period. The Unit will take several hours to deploy and then travel to the incident, thus Incident Management Teams should be prepared to make alternative arrangements prior to the arrival of the Unit.

The CFS Deputy State Coordinator and/or the DEH State Coordinator will deploy the Mapping Support Unit to an Incident Control Centre at the request of an Incident Management Team in consultation with the CFS Regional Duty Officer. The Unit will be deployed to the CFS State Coordination Centre at the request of the CFS Deputy State Coordinator and/or the DEH State Coordinator.

When deployed to a CFS Incident Control Centre in the field and/or the CFS State Coordination Centre, the MSU will be deployed in teams of 2 persons as a minimum. Once deployed the members of the DEH Mapping Support Unit will operate under the direction of the CFS Planning Unit either at the CFS Incident Control Centre or the CFS State Coordination Centre.

The Mapping Support Unit will respond with GIS & IT equipment (laptops, data, printers and communications equipment) so as to be able to meet the mapping requirements of a CFS Incident Control Centre in the field.

The Mapping Support Unit will have their own land-based transport, however they will have to be catered for and accommodated, as a component of the overall logistics needs of the incident. The Unit will also require a suitable place to work (a table & chairs for 2 persons) adjacent to where the Incident Management Team is established, 240V power and preferably a dedicated telephone line.

Following a deployment of the Mapping Support Unit, the unit will be asked to participate in the CFS/DEH

Operational Debriefing processes to ensure all possible learning opportunities are captured in an environment of continual improvement.



Chubb Fire Safety

Wish all the CFS Staff, Volunteers and Families a Merry Christmas and Safe & Happy New Year 2004

From all the Staff and Management of Chubb Fire Australia

Suppliers for all your Fire & Safety Needs

Sabre*BW Gas Detection*Angus* Kidde, *ISG Thermal Cameras, *Protective Clothing, *Pacific Helmets,

*Fire Curtains for Inside Fire Truck Cab, *Respirex*Holmatro*3M*Akron* Fire Pumps

REMEMBER: If we don't have it we can certainly get it!!

Chubb Fire Australia

24 Crittenden Road Findon SA 5023

Phone: (08) 8300 3995 Fax: (08) 8300 3990

Valuing New Recruits

Written By Adaire Palmer

As the Volunteer Management Team work with brigades across the state, a common theme continues to come up. New recruits are waiting...

... waiting for their criminal records check clearance

... waiting for their Level 1 training

... waiting to get on the truck

... waiting to be included in what everyone else does

... waiting to feel like their contributions are being valued by other members

... waiting to feel like they are fully-functioning team members

When a potential recruit walks into your station, what do you do? How fast do you get them involved in meaningful tasks and feeling like a member of your team?

An article by Paul G Landreville in a recent emergency services magazine highlights some interesting points.

"To some firefighters, adding new recruits means more hands to help wash trucks, repack hose, and clean

the station bathrooms. To others, it's another opportunity to take willing men and women and transform them into firefighters."

If you keep new recruits out of the action and cleaning bathrooms for any length of time (particularly without pitching in yourself), you are unlikely to keep them.

Landreville suggests that a mentoring program would assist in overcoming some of the issues that a new recruit faces. There are also other things a brigade can do to make sure their new recruits fit into the brigade as quickly and as neatly as possible.

Here are some hints on keeping your new recruits:

- Make sure you process their paperwork as soon as its filled out (particularly important for Criminal Records Check)
- Make sure you have Level 1 training organised as soon as practicable following the return of their approval letter to join the brigade
- Make sure ALL brigade members share in the jobs that are not seen

as all that important (such as cleaning the bathroom, sweeping the floor etc)

- Once trained, make sure every person has equal opportunity to 'get on the truck' – even the newbies need to gain experience somehow
- Make sure the new recruits are included in any communications and information sharing that goes to the rest of the brigade
- Make sure new recruits contributions are recognised and valued by each member of the brigade, this means listening to their suggestions and ideas, despite the fact they haven't been around for 15 years!
- Make sure your new members are included in every aspect of running the brigade that they ought to be, even new recruits bring life-skills, experience and knowledge that can be valuable if recognised and harnessed.

If your brigade wants more information about getting and keeping new recruits, the Volunteer Support Officer can be contacted through your Regional Headquarters.



Ember Attack on Roof Mounted Air Conditioners

Written By Amy Marshall

A discussion paper recently released by the Fire and Emergency Services of Western Australia (FESA) has focussed on the problems roof mounted air conditioners pose in the case of a bushfire.

Most problems have been the result of embers produced and carried by wind and convection currents associated with bushfires, when the embers come into contact with combustible and flammable materials inside the air conditioners. These combustible materials are generally leaf litter, air conditioning housings, and filter pad materials.

As the paper notes, "Once developed, the fire then drops into the home below and has the potential if not identified to spread around the property". Most of the fires reported in air conditioning units have occurred in properties located within bush or rural areas, or properties close to urban bushlands that skirt the greater metropolitan area.

FESA has released a number of media alerts regarding ways to reduce the risk of ember attack, including:

Australian Standards suggest that evaporative air conditioning units in bushfire prone areas should be encased in corrosion resistant steel or bronze mesh. In high hazard areas the case should also be made from non combustible materials

With some evaporative air conditioning systems, it is possible to have water flowing onto the filters while the fan is turned off. This is a good way to keep filters wet and minimise the risk of the filters catching fire. In cases where the fan cannot be switched off independent of the water supply, the system should be switched on to wet the panels. It should be turned off when

smoke enters through the system or sparks start to fall around the house

Long-term solutions are also discussed, including appropriate testing to gain better scientific information on ember attack, and promoting and developing ember screens for roof mounted air conditioning units. Such long-term solutions will require the combined effort of fire services, Local Government,

and manufacturers involved in the production of air conditioners.

It is important to be aware of the vulnerabilities of property during a fire, and if remaining in a house during a bushfire to remain alert to the possibility of fire entering through roof-mounted air conditioners.

The information used for this article was sourced from a discussion paper released by FESA, at www.fesa.wa.gov.au





Brentwood Road Crash Hero

A young CFS volunteer endured an icy night alone in his crashed car listening to his would-be rescuers on the UHF radio fitted to his car. Matthew Cross, 17, was on his way to meet friends near his home in Brentwood when his car crashed into a tree on August 14.



He had told his parents he would be back for dinner, and when he didn't come home his parents became worried. They began calling friends and went looking for him, before calling the police at 1am. "We were so worried at that stage... we just didn't know what had happened" said his mother, Leanne Cross.

Fourteen hours after his car had left the unsealed road near Minlaton, a family friend came across the crash site on their way to work. The popular year

11 student from Minlaton District School suffered two broken legs and three broken vertebrae, and was transferred via helicopter to the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Doctors induced a coma to promote a faster recovery.

"It's really fantastic to see how quickly everyone responded and we're really grateful to everyone", Ms Cross said.

Matthew will soon complete rehabilitation for his injuries. We wish Matthew the best for the future and commend his bravery and stoicism.



Firefighter Safety Around Helicopter Bombers

SAFETY NEAR HELICOPTERS:

- Stay in the pilot's field of view at all times
- Stay away from spinning main and tail rotor blades. They are not readily visible.
- Stand outside the main door rotor disc and enter in a crouch only when the pilot signals, ie gives the thumbs up sign
- Don't approach the helicopter until the rotors have completely stopped. A slowing down rotor can tilt downwards, especially in windy weather.
- Be aware of ground irregularities on uneven, sloping terrain. Approach and leave on the lowest, down-slope side to give yourself maximum clearance.
- Don't rush, take time to think and observe. Remember a helicopter can move in all directions.
- Look after your own gear and be ready to board when directed to do so.

GROUND SAFETY

- If working on or near an airstrip/helipad always wear goggles and ear protectors.
- Carry all hats, including hard hats, unless chinstraps are secured. Particularly watch for persons wearing soft peaked (baseball style) caps.
- Don't leave loose objects near aircraft or landing areas where they may be blown about.
- Remain well clear of landing and take off areas when aircraft are operating unless a specific task requires you to be in the area.
- Don't smoke within 30 metres of an aircraft, fuel dump or refueling equipment.
- Stay away from any moving aircraft parts.
- Always follow the directions given by the pilot, flight crew or airbase manager.
- If dealing with groups of people not involved with the airstrip management:
 - Conduct a safety brief.
 - Keep them together to one side of the landing area.
 - Instruct them to face away during takeoff or landings.



Copycat

How the Flames are Fanned

Part One

Written By Rebekah Doley BA(Hons) Grad Dip App Psych MSc(Inv Psych) MAPS1

Copycat: noun 1. a child who copies another's work 2. a slavish imitator - adjective 3. similar to or imitative of some other occurrence: copycat murder (Delbridge et al., 2001).

"Copycat", "imitation" and "contagion" are terms that have been used interchangeably throughout the literature to refer to behaviour that has been inspired by a previously witnessed act. Traditionally research in this area has focused on the effect of suicide stories relayed in visual and print media on subsequent suicide rates. As a result, the impact of media reporting and portrayals of suicide incidents on actual suicide behaviour has been widely recognised (O'Carroll & Potter, 1994; Phillips, Lesyna, & Paight, 1992; Stack, 1987). In fact the issue has become so concerning that recommendations have been made for the responsible reporting of violent incidents of this kind (Gould, Jamieson, & Romer, 2003). While the exact nature of the effect has yet to be clarified, the evidence for a copycat phenomenon for suicide appears to be substantial. Less clear is whether this effect can be generalised to crime.

Copycat Crime

A clear definition of copycat crime is somewhat elusive but probably best explained by Ray Surette, a criminologist who has been exploring this issue since the mid-1980s. He states that for a crime to be considered copycat there must be some element of the original crime incorporated in its undertaking, such as in the choice of victim, motive, or technique (Surette, 1998). Taking this notion beyond mere similarities in modus operandi the concept of a copycat crime is that it has been inspired in some way by a crime previously committed by someone else. A recent review of the relevant literature found that the weight of evidence for copycat crime suggests that the phenomenon exists but at an unknown rate, although this is by no means conclusive (Surette, 2002).

Commentators (including the media themselves; see Turnbull, 1997) have highlighted the potential for media to influence criminal proceedings depicting journalists as jostling for position as the incident unfolds, generally getting in the way of the authorities and releasing unauthorised details of the crime that compromise



Arson

subsequent investigations (Turnbull, 1997). Certainly there are anecdotal reports that in some cases media involvement has hindered the effective handling of an incident, particularly concerning the delicate negotiations in sieges involving hostages (Munday, 1994). Links between media reports of armed robberies or incidents of mass murder and subsequent increases in the rates of these crimes have also been highlighted (Cantor, Sheehan, Alpers, & Mullen, 1999). More generally, research into the effects of violence in the media has established a clear association to subsequent behaviour, particularly in children (Surette, 1998).

But for every account of copycat crime there is another that denies its existence (Clarke & McGrath, 1992; Stack, 1989), a position endorsed by the justice system which has so far refused to hold "the media liable for acts performed by media consumers" (Surette, 1998, p. 138). The contradictory results of research in this area could be attributed in part to certain methodological issues associated with copycat crime studies.

Theoretical Explanations

Assuming a copycat phenomenon exists, exactly how the media might influence subsequent viewer behaviour has yet to be established. Several theories have been proposed to explain the association between media coverage of suicide and subsequent suicidal behaviour but methodological and theoretical limitations restrict the extent to which they may be considered useful. Surette (1998) argues for two possible explanations as to how a copycat effect might influence subsequent criminal behaviour.

On the one hand, the media might trigger individuals to commit certain crimes as well as criminalize those who would otherwise be law-abiding citizens. In this manner media reports of certain criminal actions could influence the amount of crime that is committed. Alternatively, media might serve to influence the way in which crime is committed. Surette (1998) suggests that by providing extensive and detailed coverage of criminal acts the media

enables existing criminals to modify and refine their techniques. In this way people are not necessarily being influenced to carry out new crime types, but to undertake their existing criminal acts in a more educated and potentially sophisticated manner. Thus the media influence is to mould the quality of crime without actually increasing the quantity of criminal acts in the community.

Although claims of copycat arson are relatively common in the popular media an extensive review of the literature has found few empirical studies exploring this issue. One exception is Morgan, Cook, Dorkins, and Doyle's (1995) analysis of several fire setting incidents which they claim represent a series of copycat arsons. Ultimately, however in their analysis and discussion Morgan et al. fail to adequately demonstrate whether and how the fires lit by each of the six individuals studied are linked beyond the fact that all the fires occurred in one Unit (two wards) of the hospital and at a time when at least one of the previous arson offenders was an inpatient.

The concluding part of this article, profiling arsonists and how fires might best be reported, will be covered in the next edition of the Volunteer magazine.

About The Author

Rebekah Doley is a criminal behaviour analyst and consulting psychologist specialising in the analysis

of arson. She completed a major research project focusing on the criminal behaviour analysis of arson in the United Kingdom while completing her Master of Science (Investigative Psychology). She is completing PhD studies in the issue of deliberate firesetting in Australia with a view to identifying alternative strategies for better managing this crime. Currently she is a lecturer in psychological aspects of arson with Charles Sturt University and consults to organisations on the issue of serial arson.

As a result of her work in this area she has been awarded the Queens Trust Award in 1995 and CFS/S.A. Great Training and Research Award in 1995, 1998, 1999, and 2000. The media as well as operational and investigating agencies regularly seek her opinion on various aspects of arson.

1 Correspondence may be addressed to the author at PO Box 103, Puckapunyal Victoria 3662, Australia, or by email to rebekahdoley@bigpond.com.

2 There is some debate in the suicide literature as to whether publicized stories affect the rate of actual suicidal behaviour or only the method chosen by people who would have suicided anyway (Stack, 2000).

3 For an extensive review of the literature see Pirkis and Blood (2001).

4 For an extensive review of theoretical explanations of the copycat effect see Pirkis & Blood (2001).



Assessing Asset and Property Protection

Written By
Mark Thomason,
Regional Commander RI



ASSESSMENT: THE 4 STEP GUIDE

Crews need to assess the capability of firefighting resources against personal safety and the probability of success.

- STEP 1** Take 5. Take 5 steps back and 5 minutes to assess. Is this a place that you want to be in when a fire impacts? You may decide not to stay in that street and be prepared to lose the assets. Is the asset worth protecting?
- STEP 2** Assess the asset protection required for each side of the street and determine if both sides or only one side should be the focus point for fire fighting efforts.
- STEP 3** If crews are pre-deployed into streets then they need to assess each house on it's own merits and determine whether asset protection procedures are worth it.
- STEP 4** Clearly identify no go zones. These are areas or assets that are likely to involve extreme fire behaviour; areas where no fire prevention measures have occurred may place firefighters in an unsafe area.

This guide will be placed before the Region One Management Committee for endorsement and draft adoption during this fire season.

It is recommended that training guidelines be put in place for asset protection, and used in training manuals and practical training.

The SA Country Fire Service provides training for direct and indirect attack in regards to bushfire fighting. During severe fire behaviour activity, these strategies are modified and asset protection becomes our main focus, eg Ash Wednesday Fires.

The Urban Rural interface is more than a geographic area where structures and vegetation intermingle. Often, as severe fire activity meets structural developments, vegetation stops burning. Progressive fire may continue as a result of structural assets being hit by sustained ember attack, radiant heat and direct flame contact.

Within areas such as the Mt Lofty Ranges there are communities and areas that Brigades will have difficulty protecting. As a Regional Commander I

would have grave concerns about Brigades from rural areas outside the Mt Lofty Ranges coming into the Hills and undertaking asset protection.

This is a safety issue and is paramount to our operation within communities and within the high-risk areas of the Adelaide Hills.

This guide could be used or adapted for use in other areas or communities within South Australia. The guide can be broken down into four general steps, as displayed right.

Bushfire Blitz Launch

As SA braces for a hot summer, the SA Country Fire Service (CFS), the South Australian Government and SGIC Insurance have joined forces to tackle bushfire prevention in South Australia.

The partnership to deliver a safer community to all South Australians involves SGIC supporting the Bushfire Blitz, Community FireSafe and the Fire Bans Hotline and was launched by Premier Mike Rann on Sunday 30th November at the Mt Lofty Summit.

CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson said programs such as the SGIC Bushfire Blitz campaign was designed to help high bushfire-risk communities prepare and plan for the Fire Danger Season.

"Bushfires are part of the natural environment and will continue to occur, but we need to work in partnership with communities living in fire risk areas to identify and reduce hazards, and to learn how to better protect homes and lives," Mr Ferguson said.



Three facilitators will operate the SGIC Bushfire Blitz and work with CFS brigades to identify communities at the greatest risk, and are expected to hold more than 90 street or community meetings, covering 500 high fire risk streets.

"This means this SGIC Bushfire Blitz campaign will deliver awareness and prevention information to more than 3,500 people," Mr Ferguson said.

"The community facilitators will provide information on how to develop survival plans in the event of a major bushfire. CFS will always fight fires, but cannot guarantee a truck outside every

home, so people must take active steps to reduce the impact of a bushfire and improve their chances of surviving."

SGIC State Manager Ray Pederick said SGIC was pleased to play a part in reducing the risk of bushfires and provide support to the unpaid work of the 16,500 CFS volunteers.

"SGIC is proud to support these CFS education programs and Total Fire Ban Hotline to inform the community about the risk of bushfires," Mr Pederick said.

"As an insurer we see the devastation fires can cause, it is essential therefore that we are aware of the risks and are focused on prevention. Fire prevention is not just the responsibility of the CFS - it is the responsibility of the whole community to do what they can to manage and reduce bushfire risk," he said.



Emergency Vehicle Accident Study in the U.S.

Earlier this year the U.S. Fire Administration completed a long-term study on the safe operation of water tenders. The study was to document statistical information on water-tender accidents in an attempt to reduce those numbers through recommendations based on the statistics.

For the past several years, according to NFPA statistics, about 25% of firefighter fatalities in the U.S. were due to road vehicle accidents, making them the second leading cause of all firefighter deaths.

Two-thirds of the victims were drivers, with the remainder riding in the right front seat. Sadly, 75% of the victims were not wearing a seatbelt.

Looking at studies of both injury and non-injury accidents, there were five main causes: backing accidents, reckless driving, excessive speed, lack of driver experience and poor appliance design. These causes were then grouped into four main categories: human factors, driving surfaces, apparatus design and the emergency scene.

Human factors are the result of some form of negligence, such as insufficient training. Drivers who aren't ready to take control of these vehicles can cause accidents. Other accidents were linked to the inability of inexperienced drivers to recognise danger signs. Another human factor was



excessive speed, which was the cause of many of the accidents. The lack of seatbelt use by 75% of accident victims is especially alarming.

Appliance design is a big category because it covers a number of issues. The first issue is vehicle weight. Overweight vehicles aren't as stable as those of safe weights. An associated problem is the effect of overweight vehicles on stopping distance. Other factors associated with appliance design include vehicle age, a high centre of gravity, which was a problem particularly associated with older water tenders, and improper modifications made to appliances.

In many cases the driving surface wasn't meant for this type of vehicle. One example is the road design itself; in many cases the road's high centre was the cause of accidents. Another deficiency is improperly banked turns and corners. The surface itself can also be a factor in accidents. Surfaces such as muddy, slick, gravel or dirt roads can be particularly hazardous.

The emergency scene itself was also a contributing factor in a number of accidents, with scene congestion as the largest factor. Emergency units vying for space in a confined area led to a number of collisions. Narrow streets, poles, signs, and low-hanging or over-arching trees all create hazards. In some cases bystanders who were in the way were the cause of accidents.

The information for this article was used from an article appearing in the US Wildfire Magazine, available at www.wildfiremag.com



Hose Drills for Orangutan

Written By
Brenton Ragless

If you've ever wandered past the big cats or sun bear exhibits at the Adelaide Zoo, you might be wondering why old canvas fire hoses are being left in their enclosures.

Volunteer carers at the Adelaide Zoo have a program called Animal Behavioural Enrichment where they make items for the animals to play with in order to enrich their lives.

Some time ago the Zoo was given some old fire hoses. Some of the hoses were made into hammocks for the Sun Bears while others were used to make balls for the big cats. Their strength and durability make long lasting toys and utensils for the animals.

However, the Zoo volunteers are desperately seeking some more canvas hose to make a sunshade for the Orangutan.

If you have any canvas hoses that can no longer be used for firefighting consider donating them to the volunteers of the Royal Zoological Society. Contact **Val Green** of the Behavioural Enrichment for Adelaide Zoo Animals (BEAZA) on (08) 8406 8352 or 0411 120 873.

Pictured here are animals at the Honolulu Zoo in Hawaii taking advantage of their new toys.



CFS Competitions 2003 - Crystal Brook

The 2003 State Firefighting Competitions were held at Crystal Brook on Sunday the 12th of October. Spencer Group, who hosted this year's event, turned on near perfect weather – 23 degrees, blue skies and bright sunshine.

The location was excellent and, despite being some distance from Adelaide, many spectators attended for the day.

Twenty four Brigades from as far afield as Naracoorte and Ceduna competed against each other in a spirit of friendly rivalry and camaraderie.

It was rewarding to see the number of cadet teams competing, the greatest representation being from Region 6 brigades and Stirling North. These youngsters are the future of our Service, it's great to see them actively participating in this arena and we should all encourage them.

Nominations consisted of 78 Cadet teams from 12 Brigades competing in 3 Cadet events while 80 Senior teams from 13 Brigades competing in 5 events (not including the mixed Hose & Hydrant Drill). This makes Cadet participation almost equal to that of the Seniors – well done Cadets!

A demonstration of the "Bucket Brigade" created a deal of amusement. This was a demonstration event which may be included in future Competitions and consisted of two teams – the 'Red Helmets' (Chief Officer & Regional Commanders/Officers) versus volunteers, passing canvas buckets of

water up a tower to fill a tank at the top, in the quickest possible time. Needless to say, all participants ended up well & truly drenched! (The volunteers won.)

Winning times for the various events were generally the best for a number of years, with records broken in two events.

2004 COMPETITIONS

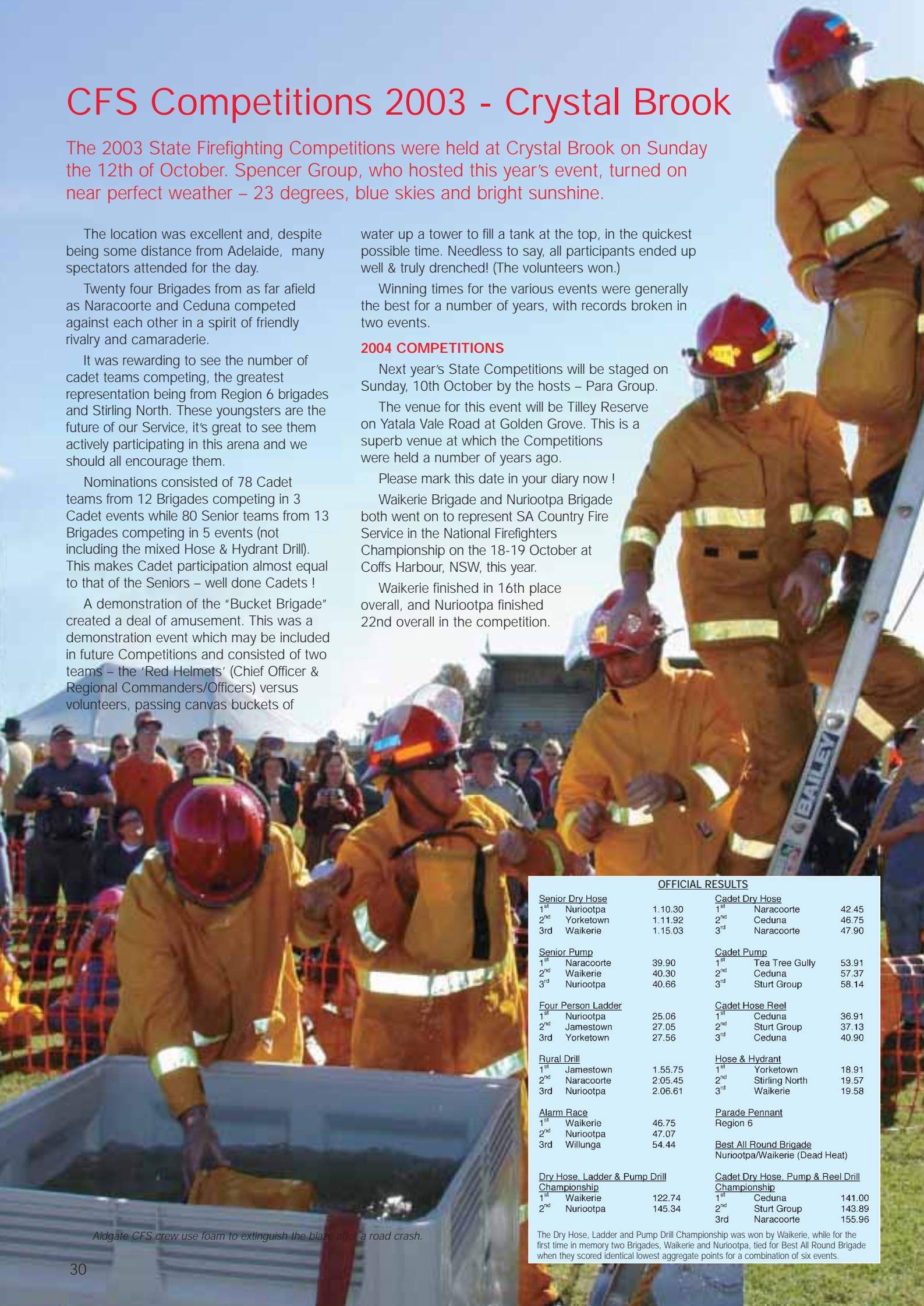
Next year's State Competitions will be staged on Sunday, 10th October by the hosts – Para Group.

The venue for this event will be Tilley Reserve on Yatala Vale Road at Golden Grove. This is a superb venue at which the Competitions were held a number of years ago.

Please mark this date in your diary now!

Waikerie Brigade and Nuriootpa Brigade both went on to represent SA Country Fire Service in the National Firefighters Championship on the 18-19 October at Coffs Harbour, NSW, this year.

Waikerie finished in 16th place overall, and Nuriootpa finished 22nd overall in the competition.



OFFICIAL RESULTS

<u>Senior Dry Hose</u>		<u>Cadet Dry Hose</u>	
1 st	Nuriootpa	1 st	Naracoorte
2 nd	Yorketown	2 nd	Ceduna
3 rd	Waikerie	3 rd	Naracoorte
	1.10.30		42.45
	1.11.92		46.75
	1.15.03		47.90
<u>Senior Pump</u>		<u>Cadet Pump</u>	
1 st	Naracoorte	1 st	Tea Tree Gully
2 nd	Waikerie	2 nd	Ceduna
3 rd	Nuriootpa	3 rd	Sturt Group
	39.90		53.91
	40.30		57.37
	40.66		58.14
<u>Four Person Ladder</u>		<u>Cadet Hose Reel</u>	
1 st	Nuriootpa	1 st	Ceduna
2 nd	Jamestown	2 nd	Sturt Group
3 rd	Yorketown	3 rd	Ceduna
	25.06		36.91
	27.05		37.13
	27.56		40.90
<u>Rural Drill</u>		<u>Hose & Hydrant</u>	
1 st	Jamestown	1 st	Yorketown
2 nd	Naracoorte	2 nd	Stirling North
3 rd	Nuriootpa	3 rd	Waikerie
	1.55.75		18.91
	2.05.45		19.57
	2.06.61		19.58
<u>Alarm Race</u>		<u>Parade Pennant</u>	
1 st	Waikerie	Region 6	
2 nd	Nuriootpa		
3 rd	Willunga		
	46.75		
	47.07		
	54.44		
<u>Dry Hose, Ladder & Pump Drill</u>		<u>Cadet Dry Hose, Pump & Reel Drill</u>	
<u>Championship</u>		<u>Championship</u>	
1 st	Waikerie	1 st	Ceduna
2 nd	Nuriootpa	2 nd	Sturt Group
	122.74	3 rd	Naracoorte
	145.34		141.00
			143.89
			155.96

Aldgate CFS crew use foam to extinguish the blaze after a road crash.

The Dry Hose, Ladder and Pump Drill Championship was won by Waikerie, while for the first time in memory two Brigades, Waikerie and Nuriootpa, tied for Best All Round Brigade when they scored identical lowest aggregate points for a combination of six events.

Toward a "Uniform" Standard Wildland Firefighting PPE/PPC

Written by Andrew Patten, Project Officer Resource Risk Assessment

A relevant Australian Standard covers the majority of Personal Protective Clothing used for rural firefighting by the CFS. The CFS, like most of the other fire agencies within Australia, is moving towards utilising products that have been certified to the relevant standard. Each product that has been certified compliant displays a label or tag that links that product to a standard as per the examples displayed below.

Major items of Wildland Firefighting PPE such as helmets, boots, gloves, two-piece and one-piece coveralls:

- AS 1801: is about Helmets. Type 3 Helmets like the Pacific Bushranger, latest model pictured right.



Notice the changes such as the ability to have built in attachments like hearing protection and a new ribbed outer shell.

- AS 4821: refers to Boots Type 1 and 2. Type 1 boots are designed with rural fire fighting in mind and Type 2 boots can be used for RCR, rural and urban firefighting.



- AS 2161.6: Covers fighting gloves Type 1 gloves being the ones most suitable for rural firefighting
- AS 4824: Relates to Wildland Firefighting PPC including coveralls and the two-piece coat and jacket. Pictured are the compliant, coat, pants and coverall produced by Stewart and Heaton.



Notable changes to these garments include removal of shoulder patches and the use of "triple

trim" reflective striping instead of the existing yellow and silver striping.

It should be noted that the current types Wildland Firefighting PPC and PPE that are currently being used will not be required to be replaced with the new AS compliant clothing. Instead existing clothing and equipment should be replaced with AS compliant equivalent until required.



The move to AS certified clothing is intended to be progressive.

If you have any further queries regarding Wildland Firefighting PPC/PPE please contact CFS Technical Services on (08) 3643 4200

Wildland Firefighting PPC proudly supplied by Stewart and Heaton ph (08) 8346 4507

Taipan Type 2 Firefighting Boot proudly supplied by Evans Safety ph (08) 8234 1920



Tags and labels utilised to identify AS compliant PPE and PPC

State Road Crash Rescue Challenge 2004

Date: April 17 & 18, 2004

Venue: State Training Centre,
Pyntes Road, Brukunga

The CFS Road Crash Rescue Competition, which was previously part of the Firefighting Competitions, is now being held independently, as mentioned in the last issue of "Volunteer".

Next year will be the inaugural Joint Emergency Services competition, as CFS has combined with the State Emergency Service and Metropolitan Fire Service to hold the event.

The Challenge is being held as a peripheral event of the SAPES (South Australian Police and Emergency Service) Games, which run from the 16th to the 24th of April. Official SAPES gold, silver and bronze medallions will be awarded to the winning crews, together with the participating agencies' Perpetual Trophies. The top crew from each Agency will be invited to compete at the National Championships later in the year.

The competition will be run to ARRO (Australasian Road Rescue Association) rules, and will be judged by ARRO accredited assessors from Victoria and Queensland.

The event will be held over 2 days, with two pits running concurrently. Limited and Unlimited classes will be judged, with no Rapid Extrication class. There will be a maximum of twelve (12) teams accepted, with preference given to those Brigades/Units who have previously competed in Road Crash Rescue competitions. If nominations exceed 12, the remainder will be selected by ballot.

Nomination forms and expressions of interest will be distributed during December, with nominations closing in January.

A big thankyou goes to the Training Section for making the Brukunga facility available for this event, which will attract a good deal of interest. There will be catering on site for spectators as well as trade displays by companies sponsoring the Challenge.

A Challenge Working Group of 8 staff and volunteers is working very hard to make this inaugural event a success - bring the family & come up for the day - there'll be plenty to see & plenty to eat !

Field Days

in Regions One, Two and



REGION TWO FIELD DAY

The Region 2 Field day was also recently held at Balaklava on Saturday 18th October.

The Region 2 Field Day included several exercises - Pumping, Hazardous materials, Driving, gas fires, Road Crash Rescue, and Incident Management. The Incident Management exercise featured a very unique set up. Crews had a scale model of a small township, which actually exists within the Balaklava CFS response area. Crews were faced with a fire in that area, with changing wind conditions, a moving fire, lack of water and other features of a real incident. Crews then had to deal with the incident, with a focus on radio communications and coordination of resources, while plotting the incident on the model.

The day was hosted by the Wakefield Plains CFS Group, with assistance from other Emergency Services - including State Emergency Service (SES), St John Ambulance, SA Police and the Salvation Army's Catering vehicle.

REGION ONE FIELD DAY

The Region 1 Field Day was also recently held at Ashbourne on the 26th October

Events at the Field Day included gas prop, CBR Theory (Chemical, Biological, Radiological), Bushfire Investigation, pumping and First Aid.

It was an excellent opportunity for volunteers to practice their skills and make and renew contacts and friendships.





REGION SIX FIELD DAY

On Sunday 28th September over 120 Region Six Fire Fighters and NPWS attended the Waddikee Sports Ground for the Region Six Field Day.

The volunteers were put to the test with a series of seven practical and instructional exercises including:

- A-class foam
- GPS operations
- Respond to a road accident
- Driver skills/memory test
- Phytophthora Washdown of CFS appliances with valuable assistance from NPWS
- Pumping and filling of Aerial Water Bombers

This day was also a valuable exercise as an Incident Management shakedown prior to the Fire Danger Season starting on 1st November, and a useful catch up day for making and renewing contacts in the vast region.

These days are an excellent way for volunteers to try some training that they are not usually exposed to such as filling the Fire Bombers.



Air Attack

The History of Firefighting Aviation



The history of firefighting has moved from the most basic type of equipment to the most sophisticated and modern concepts. Today is a far cry from the past in many respects including fuel types and flammability, closer settlement, larger populations, and the advances in science and equipment.

Not much was heard of aerial firefighting prior to the disastrous Ash Wednesday Fires. Forestry SA and some private forest companies had been in the process of evaluating various types of equipment for a number of years, including fixed and rotary winged aircraft and various retardants. As with the aftermath of any major fire disaster, better methods of combat and control were sourced.

Aircraft were used during the Second World War to spot bushfires but this was in an unofficial manner, usually when training aircraft were flying. Forestry SA saw the early merit in having a fire-spotting tower 1000 metres high and movable, a big advantage over a static location.

In 1986 an Aviation company known as Conair Canada demonstrated the Fokker Friendship F27 fire-bomber in conjunction with the then National Safety Council's 'Bell Helitanker', and a twin-engine aircraft fitted with modern computer based scanning and mapping equipment, and infra red cameras, to South Australian and Victorian Fire Authorities at the Mount Gambier Airport.

The specifications of the F27 were rather impressive: Maximum take-off weight of 20,412 kg (45,000 lbs), retardant payload 6731 kg (14,840 lbs), endurance 3-4 flying hours, normal drop speed 125 knots, cruise speed 230 knots, total useable volume of 6,365 litres (1400 gallons), loading rate 1514 litres per minute, with dropped retardant width 9 metres (30 feet). Very impressive but deemed unsuitable and too expensive for Australian conditions. Smaller, more agile aircraft as used in the crop dusting industry were proven to be better suited to the Australian scene – shorter take-off, quick turn around, and more manoeuvrability in their favour.

The Helitanker has been used with success. Although limited in carrying capacity, the load turn around is shorter because of it's ability to source water from small areas. Airtractor 502 fixed wing fire-bombers were used by the CFS in Indonesia to help combat serious forest fires that were causing heavy atmospheric pollution in the area. This overseas deployment enabled the CFS to fine tune aerial fire combat.

Between the 4th of October and the 30th of October 1997, 468 sorties were



flown dropping 1.49 million litres of water and 3,245 litres of foam on 88 fires. CFS Contingent Commander Andrew Lawson and the crews gained valuable experience in the art of aerial fire suppression during this period.

It would be remiss of me not to mention Peter Blackmore, who was one of the most experienced pilots in aerial combat of fires and was a tragic loss when he was killed in a horrific crash at an Air Show near Mount Gambier.

Then, along came 'Elvis'. The heavy lift Helitanker used in the devastating New South Wales Bushfires that occurred in and around Sydney in 2001. This aircraft was flown to Australia in a freight lifter and then partially assembled before it could be used on the firefront. The Ericsson Sky-crane was used with great success in the difficult terrain. Even though it is great to hear the drone of an aircraft engine and to see a strategic drop on a hotspot during a bad situation, it is still the foot-slogging volunteer firefighters on the ground who remain our most valuable asset.



ETSA Support During the Fire Danger Season

As South Australia's electricity distributor, ETSA Utilities is committed to providing a safe, reliable supply of electricity to its 750,000 customers.

In carrying out this role, ETSA Utilities spends many millions of dollars annually on a variety of measures to reduce the risk of bushfires.

These include a Vegetation Management Plan involving tree trimming and vegetation clearing from around powerlines in bushfire-risk areas and aerial and ground inspections of powerlines to identify any defects that could start a bushfire.

Landholders should also consider alternative sources of power for pumping water and operating firefighting equipment should ETSA Utilities need to cut electricity.

In addition, ETSA Utilities will disconnect power to parts of the state to protect rural communities during days of extreme bushfire-risk when there are high temperatures combined with gale force winds .

"Where possible, we will give advance notice of our intention to disconnect electricity through advertisements in state and local press and radio."

"Through the media, we will also issue regular updates advising customers of the current situation."

"Once the dangerous conditions have passed, we will restore electricity as quickly as practicable," said General Manager Business Relations, Mr Craig Cock.

Press advertisements outlining ETSA's policy in relation to disconnecting power are regularly placed in local newspapers during the summer months.

ETSA Utilities also raises awareness in rural communities on measures to take when preparing for bushfire season.

One of the measures recommended by ETSA Utilities involves landholders clearing trees and other vegetation from around private powerlines.

Landholders should also consider alternative sources of power for pumping water and operating firefighting equipment should ETSA Utilities need to cut electricity.

A battery-powered radio may also prove useful. These can be used to monitor the latest radio updates in relation to an impending bushfire.

For more information and for your copy of the Bushfires and your Electrical Safety fact sheet visit the ETSA Utilities' website. www.etsautilities.com.au

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Environmentally Friendly Training Centre Attracts Kleenheat Gas Donation

Efforts to maintain the CFS State Training Centre as an environmentally friendly facility have attracted a sponsorship deal with Kleenheat Gas.

Under the three-year deal, Kleenheat will provide up to \$4500 to the training centre for the purchase of safety equipment, and donate gas appliances.

The State Training Centre, located at Brukunga in the Adelaide Hills, uses LP gas as fuel for all live fire training exercises. The Centre is a world-class facility used for training the CFS' 16,500 volunteers.

CFS Training Manager Brenton Eden said the sponsorship deal highlighted the extensive efforts to maintain training for firefighters without adverse affects on the environment.

We welcome this generous donation from Kleenheat Gas," Mr Eden said. "CFS is determined to continue providing world-class training to our firefighters without damaging the environment," he said.

Kleenheat Gas General Manager Gary Ireson said: "This sponsorship gives Kleenheat Gas an opportunity to recognise the significant contribution the SA Country Fire Service makes to

the community." "We encourage and support CFS' commitment to reducing smoke emissions caused by kerosene-based fuels by switching to LP Gas", he said.





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Conditions of entry:

1. The competition is open to amateur photographers only.
2. Photographs may be of any subject but must either include CFS personnel in turnout gear or uniform, or include CFS events or incidents attended by CFS brigades.
3. Photographs must have been taken by the entrant and the photograph or its negative must not be enhanced by computer or other means.
4. The size of each photograph must not exceed 210 x 295mm (A4 size).
5. Only one entry per person per quarterly competition.
6. All entries become the property of the CFS. The CFS may use the entry for any of its non-profit publications or displays with due acknowledgment made of the photographer.
7. Please enclose your name, address, brigade (if applicable), telephone number and a description of the photo on a separate sheet of paper.



PHOTOGRAPH 1:
Photo submitted by Peter Best
Level Three Training Course at Streaky Bay,
20 September.



PHOTOGRAPH 2:
Photo submitted by Dale Thompson
Eden Hills House Fire, October 2002

And the winner is... Bob Price

Support crews cleared the firebreaks
in front of the on-coming Lincoln
National Park Fire

Send your photos to:

VOLUNTEER Photo Competition
SA Country Fire Service
GPO Box 2468
Adelaide SA 5001



Cadet Corner

When you put out a call for participation and commitment you can count and rely on Cadets to be there.

Numbers speak volumes and the 78 Cadets from 12 Brigades were very proud to march along side the Senior Firefighters at the opening ceremony at CFS State Competitions at Crystal Brook.

Comments from Cadets on the day included "this is really cool", "its great to compete and have go" and "can we come again next year".

Cadets enjoy the opportunity to participate and have fun within the program both at the Regional and State-wide level because of the unwavering support from their dedicated Cadet Leaders. Many thanks to Region 5 for bringing their Cadets all the way from down the South East, for Region 6 who organised for their Cadets to camp overnight under the Grand Stand at the competition site and to all other Regional Cadets who travelled and competed on the day.



As the Cadets return to their Regions they will undoubtedly share their experiences with others and we expect to have increased numbers next year.

All who came were winners with special congratulations to the Cadet Dry, Hose, Pump & Reel Drill Championship place getters 1st Ceduna, 2nd Sturt Group and 3rd Naracoorte. Well done!

State-wide projects began with Cadet Leaders Forums already being held in Regions 2 and 5. This day covers training on the 'good, the bad and the ugly' in the new Cadet Guidelines that recently were approved by the Board in June 2003. Mick Ayre and Stephen Rogers from Risk Management, ESAU provided practical information on risk assessment and



seeking approval procedures for activities. A brochure describing an easy step by step process will be released in February 2004. The Regional Volunteer Support Officer presents recruitment and retention strategies and resources and the Regional Cadet Rep provides information on the Regional Cadet Committee such as when/where/who/what of Cadets.

Also coming in 2004 are two other State-wide projects namely, Leadership Training for Cadets (provider Bob Kearney) and Cadet Leaders Training (provider Scout Association). Both of these courses are only going to be run in 2004 and not likely to be repeated again for a couple of years as Volunteer Management Branch wishes to provide something different in 2005 so Cadets and Cadet Leaders are encouraged to come in 2004.

Leadership Training for Cadets will be a one-day session with the first being held at Brukunga on 8 February 2004 for all Region 1 Cadets aged between 15 – 18 years. Spending a day with our charismatic Bob Kearney will surely have an impact on 'creating the future' for our Cadets. Something not to be missed! Information will be sent to Region 1 Groups/Brigades shortly. Dates in 2004 for other Regions are yet to be set. When they have been advertised register with your Regional Volunteer Support Officer.

Cadet Leaders Training with the Scout Association (registered RTO) will provide valuable information on alternative ideas for programming,

activities and will also look at behaviour management and child protection policy issues. All Cadet Leaders and those interested in taking on the role are welcome to attend.

Communication in all facets of our lives is very important as well as in the CFS. All Cadet Leaders are asked to ensure that their information is correct on the TAS system by notifying your Regional Administration Officer. Information for the above-mentioned and future State-wide and Regional projects will be posted to you and we want to ensure that you receive information on opportunities that are provided for your benefit.

Thank you to all Cadets and Cadet Leaders for your participation and support respectively during 2003 within the cadet membership. Above all have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and make sure it's a safe one because we want to see you all again in 2004.

Julie Francis
Youth Programs Officer



Employers Sticking with Emergency Volunteers

CFS Volunteers are saying "thankyou" to their employers by presenting them with Employer Recognition stickers.

The stickers inform the community that the business supports CFS volunteers, and in turn encourages the community to support the business. They are for display on shop or office windows or on vehicles.

The Employer Recognition stickers have been supported by the Minister for Emergency Services, The Hon Patrick Conlon and have been funded through the Community Emergency Services Fund.

Minister Conlon has written a letter to employers, a copy of which is given to the business along with the sticker.

The program is an initiative of the VFBA and the SES Volunteer Association. For those businesses that employ both CFS and SES Volunteers there is a separate sticker.

Many brigades and groups across the State have already received the stickers in the numbers they requested. If your brigade would like to place an order ring Wendy Shirley at the VFBA on 08 8244 6500.



Dehydration Problems Facing Firefighters

Dehydration is a problem faced by firefighters throughout the year, and particularly in summer as the temperatures rise.

High temperatures and physical activity means the body loses water, which leads to dehydration.

The body loses water because physical activity and high temperatures cause the body's temperature to rise. The body tries to cool itself down in two ways: by sweating, and by increasing blood flow to the skin so that heat from the blood can radiate through the skin. This uses large amounts of water from the body.

In high temperatures the body also needs more oxygen for the muscles being used. This in addition to sweating and giving off heat through the skin puts extra strain on the heart and cardiovascular system. This means fitness is an important issue for firefighters, as their bodies need to be able to do these things without putting too much strain on their heart.



Other important issues and problems faced by firefighters include humidity, which reduces the effectiveness of sweating, and heavy clothing which reduces the ability of the body to lose heat through the skin.

It is vitally important to drink lots of water before, during and after firefighting to re-hydrate the body and avoid dehydration or heat stress. It is recommended to drink around 500ml of water in the two hours before the activity, and around 1L of water for every hour of physical activity to replace the water your body has lost. In the extreme conditions often encountered in firefighting you may need to drink even more.

It is also important to eat a little bit of salty food as the salts help your body absorb the water better. Sugar, caffeine and alcohol all reduce the body's ability to absorb water.

The information for this article was sourced from Peter Langbridge and Nicole Taylor's article "Dehydration and the Firefighter", from www.afac.com.au



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A CFS family servicing the CFS for over a decade.

Women of the CFS

We are all involved with the CFS for different reasons, yet much of what we gain remains the same. Here, two women share why they joined the CFS, their best and worst moments, what they gain from it, and their experiences as a woman in a male-dominated organisation.



EILEEN LYNCH
Poochera Admin Officer



"I wanted to help. This is the reason I joined the CFS. I had seen the things my husband and the other volunteers did and decided I wanted to help.

"I found the Level 1 training interesting. Some I already knew, a lot I didn't. Doing my training with men stopped me asking some of the questions that were in my head like "what exactly are exhaust brakes?" When 'Women of the CFS' training at North Shields came up, four women from Poochera brigade jumped at the chance to ask those 'stupid' questions without feeling silly. We learnt a lot because we were able to relax and ask questions.

"I have been lucky with the men in my brigade, they happily handed over the job of Administration Officer, taking the truck on runs to keep the batteries charged during winter months, looking

after the women and children at accidents and the job of organising new recruits and all the trainings.

"I was asked what was my best CFS moment, but with the fire and accidents it's hard to have a best moment but I do have one I'll never forget. The day we took our long serving Captain to his final resting place on the back of the fire truck with the crew that followed him into many situations with confidence. A trip he would have seen as very appropriate.

"Joining the CFS has made me grow as a person. Made me more confident and able to handle an emergency situation. I hope to keep growing and become better at what I do".

ANGELA WHILLAS
Greenpatch Brigade Captain



"I joined CFS in April 1987 because it was the thing to do at the time and I don't recall if it was just a recruiting drive

or a secret succession plan by some of the existing members but I am still here.

"In my short career in the CFS, I have seen many changes with dramatic improvements in technology (introduction of GRN & GPS), PPE and appliances but what hasn't changed is why we do it.

"I was elected Brigade Captain 5 years ago, basically because no one else wanted to do it. Since taking on the role I have found that it's a lot more than keeping the brigade in shape and safe. I have:

- Been asked to guest speak on 4 occasions in the last 12 months
- Done radio interviews with the local ABC
- Attended functions with politicians
- Delivered training and attended more training of my own, just to name a few.
- I loathe hearing people ask "what's it like being a woman in CFS?" Frankly the only issues I have or had are:
- Dealing with men's egos (which can be ongoing)
- Finding somewhere suitable to go when in the need of a pit stop.

"The worst moment in my experience with CFS was during the Tulka fire, when Robert Maddern (Lower Eyre GO) and I drove into the township after the fireball had passed and saw the devastation and loss of homes. The best moment could be many but at this point, was being selected to return to Sydney for the tickertape parade and to be asked to carry the flag.

"As a volunteer we contribute hundreds of hours but I find that it is rarely taken for granted and the rewards far exceed the input".



VFBA Pilot Project in Firefighter Safety - EMA Trial of WARPS in Mt Lofty CFS Group

Recently, concerns have been raised by rural firefighters about the health and safety risks for volunteers when incident controllers do not know their exact location – especially with respect to active firefronts. Concerns were also raised over the many hazards that can arise from existing methods of voice reporting of location over the radio, particularly human error.

WARPS position-reporting technology developed in SA by ITinc Developments at Lobethal was developed in response to these concerns.

A trial, under funding to ITinc from the Commonwealth Government agency, Emergency Management Australia, and supported by the SA VFBA, will run in several Brigades in the Mt Lofty CFS Group from December through to the end of February.

What is WARPS?

WARPS is the Trademark of ITinc developments, and stands for: Wireless Automated Response Positioning System

WARPS is a unique (patented) method for determining and transmitting the identity and location of vehicles over existing two-way radio systems whenever the microphone “press-to-talk” button is used. Vehicles may also be automatically polled (interrogated) from headquarters or from a laptop in a Command vehicle.

WARPS was designed specifically to meet the recognised need for rural fire services, and will enable the immediate location of operational vehicles, particularly during fires, where they are outside the urban environment, away from visible landmarks, in smoke or unfamiliar terrain, and with respect to active fire-fronts, to enable redeployment

to safer positions, as well as for re-provisioning during extended incidents.

WARPS is a simple to use, cost effective, GPS-based position reporting system which plugs directly into existing vehicle-mounted radios, and automatically transmits vehicle identity and location over the GRN, or other mobile radio networks, without interruption to normal voice communication. A standard WARPS set-up involves a Remote unit in each vehicle and a local Base Station, and may also include a Command unit, which provides a vehicle-mounted, mobile base-station. It takes only 250 milliseconds for the transmission to come through, and does not interfere with radio communications.

Project Goals

To assess WARPS capacity to reduce preventable risks to rural firefighters

To determine accuracy of WARPS-determined location reporting versus voice-reported location – especially in areas of high-risk – with few visible indicators

To measure radio and logistics efficiencies – reduction of voice traffic for position reporting, and enhanced deployment

Project Description

Fitting WARPS units to 8 CFS vehicles based in 4 brigades across Mt Lofty Group

Connecting 1 WARPS Base Station and installing software on computer at Regional HQ Bridgewater

Establishing measurable outcomes in conjunction with CFS

It is anticipated that the trial will be of benefit to the CFS by allowing improved safety for volunteers, and enhancing the operational efficiency of the existing communications infrastructure.



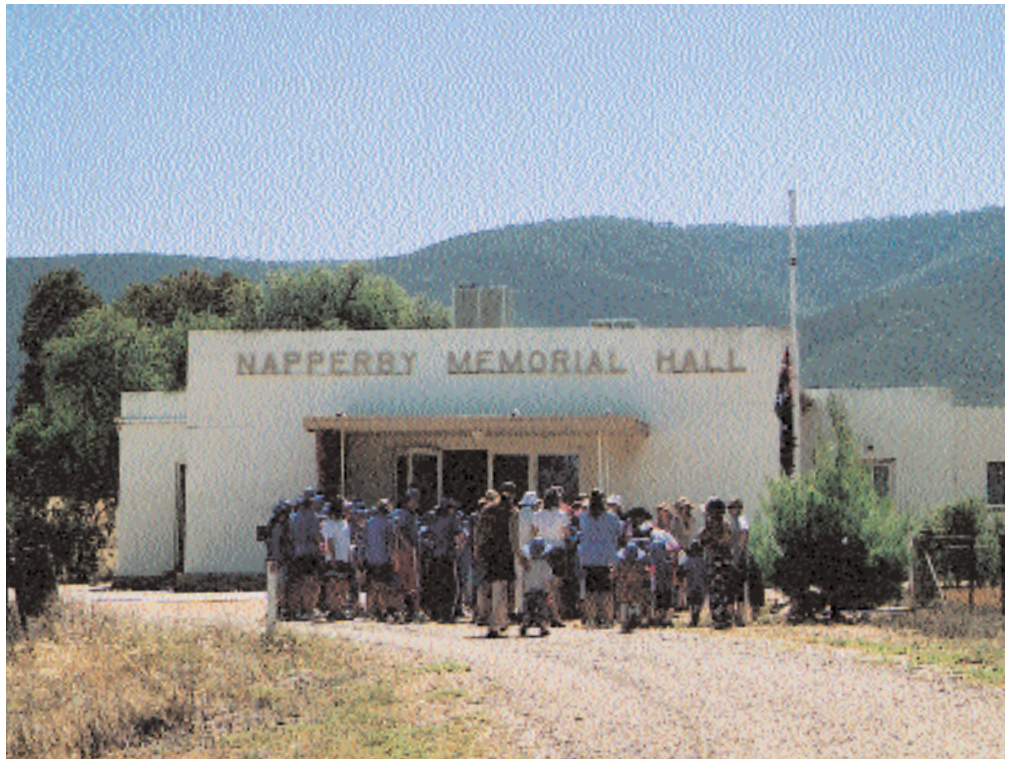


Remembrance Day 11/11/2003

Written by Maurice Walter, Napperby Brigade

The Napperby Primary School was looking to add a local touch to their Remembrance Day activities. As a local and a Grandfather of Reception student Esther Mieglich, I was more than happy to participate in their activities.

I spoke to the students about the meaning and significance of Remembrance Day. The students were receptive to my talk and were able to relate their own perceptions and feelings. The students also had the opportunity to view and hold my father's Commemorative Medals. He was a member of the First AIF in the 10th Battalion. Of the original 1001 men who went away to serve during World War I, only some 30 returned home.



The school held a Flag Lowering Ceremony at the school prior to an excursion to the Napperby Memorial Hall. In 1998 a pine tree was planted at the Hall. The seedling was propagated from the

original tree at Lone Pine.

The Ode of Remembrance was recited to the Last Post and the students and teachers observed one minute's silence at 11am.

Principal Denise Higgins, her staff and students are to be congratulated on organising the day and for raising the awareness and significance of November 11.



Forreton Brigade was called upon to help with the making of an advertisement for Mitsubishi All-wheel Drive. Several members spent a day rubbing shoulders with Olympic speed skating legend Steven Bradbury.

Thanks to Sue Doyle for her letter (on page 46) and this picture.

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NEW LOOK SURVEY

A survey of readers of the Volunteer magazine was recently conducted. A total number of 868 people completed the survey, of whom 804 were staff and volunteers, and 64 were not.

The vast majority of feedback about the new look of the magazine was positive, with 94.5 percent of respondents rating the magazine overall as excellent or good. 87.5 percent of respondents indicated that the magazine was useful in providing helpful information, and 87.3 percent indicated it was relevant to their interests.

Photographs and illustrations were particularly highly regarded, as were the feature articles.

The results of the survey will help the CFS continue to improve on the Volunteer magazine, ensuring we are covering relevant stories and providing important information, along with stories of interest and great pictures.



New Classroom for Region 5

Region Five would like to welcome the arrival of a new classroom for the Regional Training Centre. A lot of blood, sweat and tears from many people have seen this come to fruition.

Two courses have now been run in this facility and both have proven successful. Regional staff have received excellent feedback from volunteers that have used this facility. This will prove to be a valuable asset for the Region.

The classroom has seating for 30, tables, kitchen, bookcases, OHP, LCD Projector, whiteboards and all the modern comforts.

Special thanks goes to Dean Ludwig, Brenton Eden, Brukunga Staff, Vince Montorola and Rob Sandford for making this come true.

If you are in the Region at anytime call in and have a look.



CRASH SCENE EXERCISE AT KADINA



On the evening of Monday 18th November at Kadina there was a multi jurisdictional exercise with the CFS, MFS, SES, SA Ambulance and SA Police.



The scenario was a three-car accident, with a bus also present at the incident but not actually involved in the crash. There were three people trapped, and two "drunk" people from a car involved in the crash running around.



It was aimed at promoting the services, learning how each other work, and teaching the public, particularly school children, about the problems and the damage drink driving can create.



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CFS Presence at the Adelaide Classics Rally

CFS members were present again this year at the Adelaide Classics Rally. They were present in a number of capacities, including aiding in the operational organisation at the Rally headquarters.

CFS members were also present in the role of Fire Marshals in the "First Intervention Vehicles" class. Plus the larger "unseen involvement" of CFS crews were on standby ready to be called for Fire &/or Rescue backup to the Rally Emergency Teams.

CFS members have been involved in this event for a number of years as volunteers.



**CFS
VOLUNTEER
AND FOOTBALL
CHAMPION**

Congratulations to D. Newett on achieving this years Reserves Magarey Medal!

OBITUARIES

BRYAN OBST

Life Member and dedicated member of the Greenock Brigade Bryan Obst passed away on the 8th of June aged 63. Bryan was a member of the CFS for 43 years.

He held the position of Deputy Lieutenant for 18 years and the position of Secretary for 3 years.

Our sympathies are with his wife Elaine, daughter Tracey, son Matthew and their families.

IRIS POSSINGHAM

Iris Possingham served the community, and in particular, the CFS, for the majority of her life. She died peacefully on 31 October as an active auxiliary member aged 83.

She was actively involved with the Montacute Brigade, and had been working as a telephone respondent for over 30 years for the EFS before being officially recognised as a member in the mid-1970s along with many other women working in auxiliary capacities.

She had been a telephone respondent since inception in 1942 and was still involved in the weeks prior to her passing.

Our sympathies are with her two sons, one of whom is the first lieutenant at Montacute CFS, and their families.



Order of Australia for Cudlee Creek Volunteer

A volunteer from Cudlee Creek, Rebecca Hawkins, has received recognition for her dedication and perseverance in community services by being awarded an Order of Australia medallion certificate for Most Outstanding Citizenship Service.

The student from Kildare College was nominated for the award after an accident at school where Rebecca administered first aid and her extensive participation in community service was discovered.

Rebecca has been a CFS volunteer for 6 years, as well as donating her time to the Daughters of Charity Meal Centre, aiding Father Dean from Modbury Church perform communion to those in hospital or nursing homes, and supporting Trees for Life and Save the Murray. She also volunteers for Gorge Wildlife Park and the Kidney Foundation, as well as participating in numerous fundraising events for Kildare College.

"I started volunteering with the CFS because I enjoyed it, I still get an adrenalin rush for every incident I attend. Now I also benefit from the knowledge that I am helping others", Rebecca said. "I enjoy mixing with other people, seeing the different sides of life. It really opens your eyes", she said.





Your Letters

Have your say!

Letters for inclusion in 'Volunteer' should be addressed to:

The Editor,
Volunteer Magazine
GPO Box 2468, Adelaide SA 5001
or e-mail to: cfshq@cfs.org.au

Don't forget to include your name, address or brigade and a contact telephone number.



HYDRANT ACCESS

Dear Sir,

Ever been to a fire or on an exercise where setting up a standpipe to get mains water was difficult or impossible because the hydrant access point was full of dirt?

SA Water is investigating the possibility of installing plastic discs under the lids to stop the mud and grit getting in and burying the bayonet fitting.

I'd be interested in hearing from any brigade that has experienced the problem, especially outside the Hills area.

I can be contacted at 3 Branch Road, Aldgate, SA 5154, or by email bdonaghy@internode.on.net

Yours sincerely,
Brian Donaghy

FORRESTON BRIGADE MEET STEVEN BRADBURY

The Editor,

Next time the Mitsubishi All-wheel Drive advert comes on your TV, take a close look! It only runs for 30 seconds so don't blink.

The area where it was filmed looks like an alpine setting, but it was actually filmed in our own Mount Crawford Forest. Forreston Brigade was called upon to help with the set. Several members spent a day rubbing shoulders with Olympic speed skating legend Steven Bradbury.

Steve has just signed up with MFS in Brisbane, but with a three-year waiting list we tried to encourage him to join Forreston!

Yours sincerely,
Sue Doyle
(Pictured on p43)

MANY THANKS TO CFS VOLUNTEERS

To the CFS,

This letter is to show our appreciation for your efforts in the search and rescue operation conducted in Ngarkat National Park on Monday October 8th to locate and recover both myself and my friends and our stranded vehicle.

I appreciate the sacrifices made by the volunteers and Police force, in giving up their valuable time for the function of their respective services. Without these volunteer efforts the situation may have ended quite differently. We were very impressed with the speed and accuracy of the whole operation.

We would again just like to say thank you.

Yours sincerely,
Ross Presgrave, Phil Kovaleff, and Mel Tcharke.

THANKYOU CFS

I am writing in to say a heartfelt thank you to the many CFS members who attended a fire that ripped through our property on Friday, November 28th 2003. Both my husband and I have been members for many years and have always dreaded that this day may come. We lost over 2000 acres of crop, stubble and some fencing, but thankfully no lives or houses were lost. The initial call of a small grass fire, which had started next to an ETSA transformer pole, was the understatement of the year! The gusty winds and 34 degree temperature sent it out of control.

Strike teams were called in from near and far. Units came from Virginia, Salisbury, Dalkieth, Tea Tree Gully, One Tree Hill, Mount Pleasant, Eden Valley, Lyndoch, Williamstown, Port Clinton, Port Broughton, Kadina, Cunliffe, Paracombe, Hermitage, Forreston, Mount Torrens, Mount Templeton, Nantawarra, Balaklava, Port Wakefield, Owen, Hamley Bridge, Lenswood, Lobethal, Oakbank, Woodside, Angaston, Tanunda, Truro, Nuriootpa, Norton Summit, Athelstone, Basket Range, Piccadilly, Carey Gully, Clare, Watervale, Sevenhill, 4 x MFS appliances, Region 2 comms and our own Light Group of Mallala, Woolsheds/Wasleys, Dublin, Two Wells, Freeling, Sheoak Log, Greenock, Gawler River, Roseworthy and Kapunda.

Also thanks to Rescue 52 helicopter, St. John Ambulance, SA Ambulance, Police, Mallala council, AWB-Mallala, Balco-Balaklava and Peter Kemp. The Salvation Army Emergency Services team did a fantastic job cooking over 500 meals for the hungry volunteers. There were also hundreds of private units and people who came from as far as Snowtown. It was an overwhelming sight and something which will not be forgotten.

So to all of you that were involved in any way and to those I may have missed, a heartfelt thank you. Tim and I have never been more proud of our CFS "family" and you should all pat yourselves on the back for a job well done.

Tim, Julie, Tom, Sarah and Kelly Jenkin.
Mallala Brigade.

MANY THANKS

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all who came and assisted with the fire on Friday, November 28th. To know how far some of you came from to fight was overwhelming. To you the farmers and CFS crews and to those who just came to help please accept this as our sincere and personal thank you.

Keith and Rosemary, Tim and Julie, Ian and Yvette Jenkin and families.
Mallala.



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