

Emerald Fire Brigade

Information sourced from Bough's Blitz's & Buckets, The History of South Australia's Country Fire Service (circa 1994) Betteridge and Jarman.

Emerald Fire Brigade, in the Millicent District Council area.

(1955 - 1989.)

Prior to 1955, if there was a fire in the Emerald district, local people would attend with what ever they could use to suppress the outbreak. Concerned at the inadequacy of this situation, Mr. T. N. Bell convened a Public Meeting at his home on Emerald Station. This meeting held on the 17th of January, 1955, was attended by 17 local landholders. Mr. Bell, moved the formation of E.F.S. unit in the area, a motion that received unanimous support. Mr. E. C. Hutchesson was elected as the brigades President, Mr. D. A. Cameron was the Secretary and Mr. B. N. Bell was the Chief Officer. It was agreed that the brigade would purchase a Rex 4.M Pump, for £131, it was to be housed centrally at the Emerald Station. Storage of water to be in 44 Gallon drums, at least three to be on each property. Later a Finsbury Pump and two Ajax Hand Pumps were also purchased.

The Emerald E.F.S. was registered with Minister of Agriculture, under the provisions of the Bush Fires Act, on the 10th of April, 1959, Reg. No. 68/5.

The brigades first vehicle purchased on the 13th of December, 1959, was a second hand 1950 Chevrolet, tray top truck, purchased locally for £400, onto which the drums and Rex pump were loaded. A 250 gallon tank was purchased on the 18th of June 1962. It has been reported in the brigade minutes that the brigade won the South East Fire Competitions, Zone 2 ?, in 1965.

A replacement vehicle, a 1969 Bedford cab/chassis was purchased for \$3,271 on the 9th of September, 1970 and was built up by the brigades members. The old vehicle was sold privately.

The brigade was Registered as a Country Fire Services Brigade on the 9th of May, 1979, Registration Number 60/3.

Prior to the construction of the brigades station next to the Sebastopol Machinery Services in 1981, both Appliances had been housed at Emerald station. The Bedford appliance was transferred to the Hatherleigh brigade in 1983 and was replaced by the ex-Millicent International D1610.

In 1986, the brigade amalgamated with the Sebastopol Country Fire Service Brigade. The Emerald C.F.S. was disbanded and deregistered on the 31st of July, 1989, following its amalgamation with the Hatherleigh brigade to form the new Argyle C.F.S. The International was taken over by the new Argyle brigade and is still in use with the brigade today.

More information can be found on this brigade at the CFS Promotions Unit History section of our website, for appliance and station details.

<https://www.fire-brigade.asn.au/about-sacfs-history/default.asp>