

Volume 113 December 2005 ◀

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VOLUNTEER



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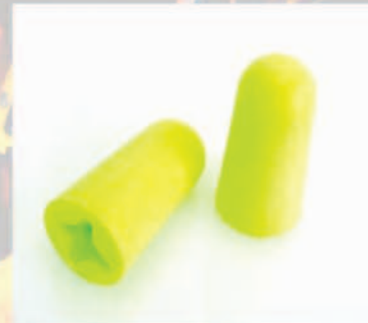
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WELCOME TO VOLUNTEER MAGAZINE

54: INTERSCHUTZ

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Managing Editor: Lisa Lalic Tel 08 8463 4214 **Editor:** Krista St John Tel 08 8463 4289 Assisted by: Matt Bonser and Brenton Ragless. If you would like to contribute to *Volunteer...*

Send your photos and stories to: The Editor, Volunteer Magazine, GPO Box 2468, Adelaide SA 5001 or email: publicaffairs@cfs.org.au Don't forget to include your name, address or brigade and a contact phone number. Photographs can be supplied digitally (min 1024x768 @ >300dpi) or as original prints, negatives or slides. Text can be supplied as hard copy or electronically as a Microsoft Word or Notepad document. **Deadline for next issue: Monday 9 January 2006.** *Volunteer* is published by Boylen Publishing.

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Volunteer is free to all CFS volunteers. To subscribe email your name and address to publicaffairs@cfs.org.au



Welcomes

[CHIEF OFFICER EUAN FERGUSON]

G'day Ladies and Gents,

As I write, the Coronial Inquest into the Wangary fire is in full swing. We can expect there to be much coverage in the media of the CFS and our members. Whilst some coverage may be negative, there is much to be positive about for the CFS and the future.

Since the Wangary fire, the CFS has undertaken many actions from the recommendations in Dr Bob Smith's Independent Review and Project Phoenix. These changes will ensure that our systems of work continue to reflect best practice.

Just a few of the examples of changes for this fire season include:

- the establishment of two pre-formed Level 3 Incident Management Teams comprised of CFS volunteers and staff, along with Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH), State Emergency Services (SES) and South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM) personnel;
- the implementation of a new bushfire information and warning system;
- a revised policy for the use of CFS fire station sirens for community warnings;
- more community fire education personnel for the West Coast, Mid North and Lower South East;
- additional firefighting aircraft for the Lower South East and the West Coast from the National Aerial Firefighting Centre using Australian Government and State Government funding;
- reinforced incident management arrangements from the Operations Update program.

In addition, as a result of the 2003 Bushfire Summit and through a Planning Amendment Report within Planning SA, new 'Bushfire Prone Areas' are being declared for parts of the West Coast, Mid North, Yorke Peninsula, Kangaroo Island and Lower South East. The existing Bushfire Prone Area in the Mount Lofty Ranges will also be extended.

During Project Phoenix a number of important strategic issues have been noted. These include the need to review and recommend changes to our bushfire prevention legislation, and a need to better define the skill requirements of our volunteer leaders. I am also aware of the need to create better relationships and define clearer procedures with farmer firefighters in some parts of the state. These are longer term projects which have commenced but will come to fruition later in 2006.

During this year, a small but dedicated group of volunteers has also been working on processes to ensure improved communication with volunteers on key issues and to better involve volunteers in decision-making. Their work is impressive, and in 2006 I expect that we will see a lot more change to our internal consultation and decision-making processes. It is vital that CFS volunteers are involved in the decisions that affect them as much as is possible.

The CFS and our volunteers continue to be strongly supported by the Government through our Minister the

Hon. Carmel Zollo MLC. Many of the changes that I have referred to have been because of the leadership and initiative of the Minister and Government. We also need to recognise the excellent relationships and support we enjoy from kindred emergency service organisations such as DEH, ForestrySA, Police, SES, Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS), Ambulance and SAFECOM.

Most weekends, Kristin and I take to the road to attend CFS related activities. It gives us immense pleasure to share in the achievements of CFS people as individuals, teams, brigades, groups and as part of the wider community. A constant flavour is the spirit of community service. I see the pride of achievement borne of sacrifice, the comradeship of teamwork through adversity and the initiative of resourceful professionals. For all this, the community and the Government are extremely fortunate and eternally grateful.

In conclusion, Kristin and I would like to wish you and your family a safe, peaceful and very happy (and incident-free) Christmas. 2006 will be a great year. Thank you.



] MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES Hon. Carmel Zollo

It's my first fire danger season as Emergency Services Minister and as a grim anniversary looms, I'm hoping and praying that we don't see a repeat of last summer.

The devastating bushfire that swept through the southern Eyre Peninsula last January brought home to all South Australians the dangers our Country Fire Service volunteers face as they bravely work to protect lives and property.



] SAVFBA PRESIDENT Ken Schutz AFSM

The phrases, 'we live in interesting times' and 'we have interesting times ahead' have been quoted a lot lately by a number of people and they have full justification for saying it.

The SAVFBA and CFS have a number of major issues, changes and projects going on at the moment, so life is definitely not boring.

The SAVFBA has had numerous meetings with CFS, Government, Crown Solicitors

Many who battled the fierce firestorm were also touched by the most tragic of losses – with 9 people perishing, including CFS volunteers Trent Murnane and Neil Richardson.

You will understandably be thinking that time has passed far too quickly since those black days.

This summer there is a boost to resources with two aerial water bombers to be based on the West Coast.

It's also hoped that new bushfire warning system and a significant expansion of bushfire awareness campaigns will ensure people understand the risks and are properly prepared.

Despite recent rains, I'm told many areas across the state are starting to dry out and it won't be long until some areas are tinder dry.

However, this unusually heavy rain has also caused devastating floods in the greater Adelaide area and to the city's north.

I have nothing but admiration for the volunteers

who worked around the clock for days on end and would like to extend a special thankyou for their families and employers who make allowances for the demands of the vital role you perform.

I donned the gumboots for a visit to Virginia during that operation, along with Family and Community Services Minister Jay Weatherill and Gawler Mayor Tony Piccolo, and was heartened by the scenes of hard work.

The flood emergency did serve as an excellent example of how the CFS, SES and MFS work well together - though the last thing we would have wanted was proof of this magnitude.

From October 1, this unified approach was sealed with the official commencement of the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission, or SAFECOM, the body charged with playing a governing role in the sector.

After two years of consultation and planning we

have now entered a new era in the emergency services sector.

As well as the SAFECOM Board, the Act establishes a SAFECOM Advisory Board, which will provide information and advice to the Commission and the emergency service organisations.

SAFECOM will help our emergency services to concentrate on the important principles of Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery.

I look forward to SAFECOM having a positive impact on the recruitment, training and retention of volunteers.

Being properly resourced is also a priority and recently I had the pleasure of delivering the 16th new appliance to the CFS this year, commissioning a new 34P tanker at the Norton Summit-Ashton Brigade.

There will be 29 more reasons to celebrate in the New Year, with that many new vehicles on the way for other Brigades.

The 34P really is an impressive vehicle and, notably, the safety features are outstanding.

It's certainly a proud moment when you hand over the keys of an appliance that will provide superior protection for those who work so hard to protect others.

There's further good news for the Mt Lofty Ranges, with the new Mt Crawford Airstrip providing an invaluable landing site and two new helicopters on the way, also in the New Year, to compliment the fixed wing water bombers.

For now, to all of the volunteers, right around the state, I wish you all a very safe summer and a safe and Happy Christmas and I look forward to meeting more of you throughout the season.

Office and Attorney Generals Office in regards to supporting our volunteers throughout the Coronal Inquest into the Lower Eyre Peninsula bushfires.

It has been a slow process dealing with the government departments, as despite their best intentions and desire to cooperate, each department needs to get a legal opinion on everything before progress can be made. However we are definitely moving ahead.

By the time this is being read the inquest would have started. We have done our best to ensure we have everything in place to give the best possible support to our volunteers who are called to the witness stand.

We have asked Wendy Shirley (SAVFBA Executive Officer) to attend every session of the inquest, so that the SAVFBA can keep on top of the goings on.

This may mean that for

other volunteers around the state, Wendy may be hard to contact but leave a message and she will get back to you as soon as possible.

SAFECOM is now well and truly up and running and hopefully also by the time you are reading this report, the SAFECOM Advisory Board is also up and running.

We have had assurances by the Minister Carmel Zollo that the Advisory Board will be meeting by mid-December.

Our representatives on this board are Wayne Thorley, SAVFBA Vice President, and John Forster, past CFS Board member and past SAVFBA Executive Officer.

November saw the SAVFBA hold two major meetings -the SAVFBA AGM and the SAVFBA 21-year reunion.

The AGM saw a couple of changes to the SAVFBA Management and Executive with the retirement of Rick

Elyward from the Mount Lofty Branch.

We thank Rick for his many years of service to the SAVFBA and wish him well in his future ventures, which will see him spend a great deal of time out on the water sailing.

Glen Wilson from the Kangaroo Island Branch has been elected to take Rick's place on the SAVFBA Executive. Glen is a keen and thoughtful person who will bring new ideas to the Executive.

Roger Flavell has taken Rick's place as the management delegate from the Mount Lofty Branch. Roger has always had active input into our general meetings and will bring this to our management meetings as well.

At the AGM we thanked John Forster and Russell Branson for being our nominees on the CFS Board for the last few years - their

time and efforts have been greatly appreciated.

The SAVFBA 21-year Reunion was held on November 13, with a number of badges presented for Meritorious Service to the VFBA. We also took the opportunity to present five people with a SAVFBA Life membership.

The Life memberships were awarded to Cam Stafford, Russell Branson, John Forster, Mike Arnold and Graham Koch, a full list of the Meritorious Award recipients, report and photos will be in the next *Volunteer*.

In closing, the fire season is now upon us and the significant winter rains have promoted the growth of a significant amount of fuel across the state.

We pray that this season is a quiet one and everyone returns home safely after each incident. Take care of each other and yourselves.



WELCOMES [FROM PUBLIC AFFAIRS]

Wow – who can believe the Fire Danger Season has arrived again!

The past 12 months have just flown by. It seems like only yesterday we were reporting on bushfires and warning people about preparing their properties for summer, and now it's time to do it all over again!

CFS Public Affairs has been busy over the past few months completing a number of projects including the '15 minutes of flame' production for the Royal Adelaide Show, where 100,000 spectators watched more than 40 volunteers from around the state strut their stuff in the main arena each night! It was spectacular.

In addition to this the team has provided 'bushfire awareness training' to more than 130 South Australian

media representatives. This training focused on providing them with a clear understanding of attending bushfire incidents, the role of the CFS at incidents, a basic understanding of fire behavior, and proper safety precautions to take when around fire-related emergencies. The sessions were well received and members of the media have been issued with new media passes. For more information about the passes and media access to the fireground look at page 19.

More than 30 volunteers attended a media training workshop held at Mount Barker in late November to find out more about the media, their importance and role and some tips and techniques for dealing with them effectively at incidents. More of these sessions will be scheduled shortly, so keep an eye out –

we'd love to have you there!

Work continues on the review of the CFS website, with some tweaking of the look and feel still required before the new site goes live. We're looking forward to the new site offering lots of additional features. One of the new features is a section 'for volunteers' providing a simple one stop shop for everything you need including news, forms, and guidelines.

One of our most exciting projects is the development of the Fire Danger Season Awareness Campaign. We were fortunate to receive funding this year which enabled us to produce a new TV, radio and print advertisements to run across the state. Featuring James Blundell, these new adverts were launched on December 1 and will be supported by public relations activities. Watch out for them!

We hope that you enjoy this new look edition of *Volunteer* magazine. We bring you stories on the November Floods, an update on Project Phoenix and associated works, as well as news from around the regions. Inserted with this magazine is a pocket guide to the new Bushfire Information and Warning System and a brochure on the Working in Harmony program.

As always, we welcome your contributions as *Volunteer* is your magazine. Feel free to email us at publicaffairs@cfs.org.au.

Wishing you and your family a safe fire season and a **Merry Christmas!**

Lisa Lalic (nee Tenace)
Krista St John
Brenton Ragless
(and our ever reliable
Matt Bonser!)



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VOLUNTEER - WELCOMES

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◆ Knapsack Bag:

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Structure Helmet Bag: ◆

- 12oz Heavy Duty Canvas
- Padded Interior
- Velcro Tabs



◆ Pager Pouch:

- All leather mobile phone belt clip
- Press stud on bottom to protect pager face

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\$50⁰⁰



Vest Holder: ◆

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◆ Drink Bottle Holder:

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\$50⁰⁰

Note Pad & Radio Holder:

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GENERAL NEWS

[THE ANZAC SPIRIT]

ALIVE AND WELL IN THE EMERGENCY SERVICES

By: Bob Kearney, Training Consultant

As I travel around the state in my role as a Training Officer I frequently pass well cared for war memorials which list the names of many thousands of men and women.

These men and women voluntarily left their peaceful homes and families to answer the call to arms in the Great War of 1914 –1918, and all wars and conflicts since.

Why did they do it? Why did they put their own lives in danger rather than just leave it to someone else?

On Remembrance Day, I was asked to attend the ceremony at Melrose and while there

unveil a new memorial to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the landing at Anzac Cove and those from the town who made the supreme sacrifice.

As I drove back from Melrose and listened to the news about the flooding I heard the many positive comments made by newsreaders about the ordinary people who make up the Emergency Services team and the extraordinary work they do when called upon in emergencies.

Why do they do it? Why do they put their own lives in danger rather than just leaving it to someone else?

They do it for the same reason the Anzacs did.

They do it because it's worthwhile work and it makes the world a safer and better place.

They do it because it needs doing and rather than sit back and watch others risk their lives, they step up and make a start knowing full well that in time, others will follow.

They do it because it's work that's dirty and hard but when it's done it results in something that ranks right up the top with love and dreams – self-esteem.

They do it because it's Australian to look after your mates, even if you've never met the person you're helping before.

The world today, as it was in 1914, is a very dangerous place and becoming more so every year.

The Australian values of

mateship, integrity, loyalty, service and self-sacrifice are what the Anzac spirit was, and is, all about.

Today with the changing weather patterns, terrorism, and an obvious increase in natural disasters we need to help each other more now than we ever did.

Driving back past the Virginia turn-off, I saw CFS, SES, MFS and police officers all working together as a team.

With the ANZACS still on my mind from the earlier ceremony, I couldn't help but feel how proud they would be to know that the torch they lit on the morning of April 25, 1915, is still alight and held high today.

The uniforms are different but the Australians wearing them share the same spirit and it doesn't matter what it is they do, they're out there having a go.

GENERAL NEWS

[CFS ENHANCED MAPPING PROJECT]

By: Rob Sanford, Manager Operations Planning

Work on the next CFS map book in the series is well underway with our partners Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH). This book will cover the Eyre Peninsula.

As part of the development process, representatives of local CFS groups and brigades are called together and provided with full colour copies of the maps covering their area and adjacent areas.

They are then provided with a brief training session on field verification with particular emphasis on the key items as far as CFS is concerned (ie: road names,

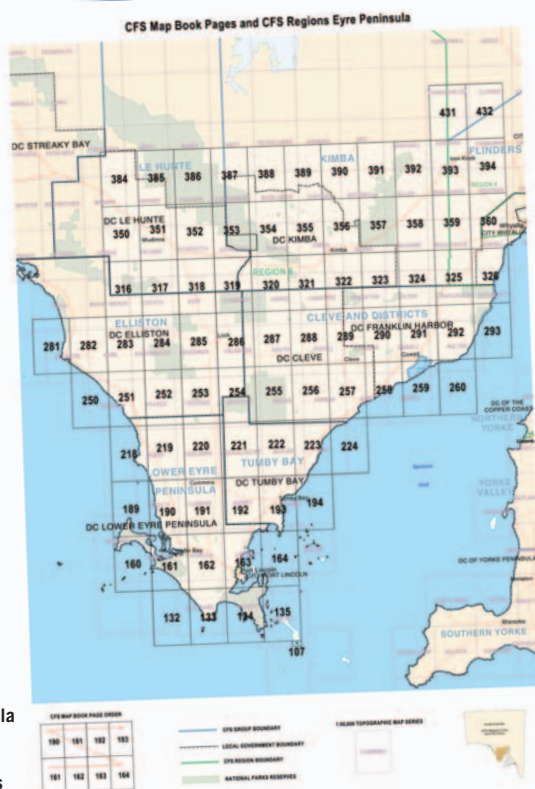
property names, place names, water points road/track classification).

Draft maps with notations and updates are returned to the Project Team for inclusion in the update process. Once all maps have been returned the map book is finalised and sent to the printers.

At this stage it is planned to be able to have this book completed by the end of December 2005.

Work has also commenced on the last map book in the series - the West Coast - which we plan to release towards the end of 2006.

>> The Eyre Peninsula Map Book will cover these widespread areas



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VOLUNTEER - GENERAL NEWS

GENERAL NEWS [SAFECOM]

- NEW ERA FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

On Saturday, October 1, the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM) officially came into being, with the proclamation of the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*.

The structure of SAFECOM draws the CFS along with the state's other emergency service organisations – the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) and the State Emergency Services (SES) – into a framework governed by the SAFECOM Board.

Emergency Services Minister Carmel Zollo said the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM) has been formed after more than two years of consultation and planning within the emergency services sector.

"The establishment of SAFECOM comes after years of hard work by all in the emergency services sector,"

Minister Zollo said.

"As well as the SAFECOM Board, the *Fire and Emergency Services Act* establishes a SAFECOM Advisory Board, which will provide information and advice to the Commission and the emergency service organisations."

Proclamation of the Act, provides for the repeal of the *Country Fires Act 1989*, the *South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service Act 1936*, and the *State Emergency Services Act 1987*, and consolidates organisational and administrative regulations for the entire sector.

CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson, acknowledged the official establishment of SAFECOM by reflecting on the efforts of the many people across the sector who had contributed to the process.

"It is important to reflect on these efforts and note that

>> Fundraisers such as Bluey Day have brought emergency services together



although the organisation has come into being, the hard work does not stop here," said Euan.

"The next 12 months will see the development of SAFECOM as it takes shape as an organisation of its own being.

"Accompanying that growth we can expect to see systematic and enduring changes across the sector.

"It is important that we continue to move forward with a positive attitude and a can-do cooperative focus.

"New alignments, relationships and directions will emerge from the creation of the new Board which now applies governance across the

whole sector, and from the restructure in the SAFECOM Office.

"As a sector, all agencies need to continue to work together in the spirit of goodwill and with a unified approach.

"The trend in the future will be for stronger leadership from the Board across the whole sector, alignment of direction and service delivery standards and common planning processes.

"The end result however will be a seamless, effective and value for money delivery of community safety outcomes for the community, organisations and individuals," Euan said.

The act is available from www.cfs.org.au

The SAFECOM Board comprises of eight members being:

Vincent Monterola as the Presiding Member | Euan Ferguson, CFS Chief Officer | David Place SAFECOM Chief Executive Officer and SES Chief Officer Grant Lupton, MFS Chief Officer | Lena Grant, Attorney-General's Department (Ministerial appointment) | Kathy Gramp, Austereo Group (Ministerial appointment) Wayne Thorley, VFBA Vice President (VFBA nominee) | Derren Halleday (SES Volunteers Association nominee)



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VOLUNTEER - GENERAL NEWS

GENERAL NEWS [FAREWELL TO THE CFS BOARD]

After a 28-year history, the CFS Board met for the last time on September 29, 2005, where they handed over responsibilities to the interim SAFECOM Board.

To say 'thank you' as we move to the future as part of SAFECOM, here's a snapshot of the Board's history taken from *'Tried By Fire'*, by Julie-Ann Ellis.

The CFS Board met for the first time on June 14, 1977, and was made up of men carefully chosen to represent various interest groups.

The Ash Wednesday fires in the early 80's led to a major restructure within the Country Fire Service and the establishment of the new *Country Fires Act 1978* ('the Act'), which defined the clear role and responsibilities of the CFS Board, along with increased powers to ensure that adequate fire prevention measures were instigated.

Volunteers believed that the passing of 'the Act' was a big step forward in being recognised as a vital part of the State's emergency infrastructure.

When CFS moved into its new headquarters at Keswick, Fred Kerr - the then Director - wrote of his "persistent sense of disbelief that he finally had first class administrative and operational facilities, with airconditioning and

was able to sit in a carpeted office as the official representative of a prestigious fire service". At that time the CFS had 19 staff.

However, the history of the CFS Board has not been without controversy. On February 20, 1980, the Board was faced with the dramatic demands of the first Ash Wednesday fires. As a statutory body, the CFS and the Board understandably became more closely scrutinised.

Ash Wednesday 1983 was a pivotal event in the life of the then CFS Board.

A battery of reports and inquiries into the fires and adverse publicity continued to wear down the Board and on October 16, 1984, the Minister of Emergency Services, Jack Wright, announced he was introducing amended legislation which included the termination of the office of all the existing Board.

The history of the Board has also not been without humour. In 1989 the pain of change was being felt on many levels as the service evolved from the family style CFS, enjoying a sense of local involvement and local control, into an emerging corporate body.

In the winter of 1989 when the CFS Board and staff met in Clare they found a council

official had assigned them to an unheated room and a staff member reported: "We were running on the spot, jumping and flapping our arms to keep warm."

During April 1984, formal support was being amassed for the formation of a volunteer fire brigades association and in 1989 'the Act' established the South Australian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association to represent the interests of volunteer members of the CFS.

Two nominees from the Association were appointed as volunteer representatives on the CFS Board and this representation carried through until the final board meeting, with the SAFECOM board having continued SAVFBA representation.

Since 1977 there have been seven Presiding Members, one Chair (A D Macarthur) and 39 members of the CFS Board.

During this time Board members have overseen many challenges, including; the introduction of a Standards of Fire Cover methodology in 1981 to decide priorities for funding equipment to brigades, and the introduction of the Emergency Services Funding Bill and subsequent

Emergency Services Levy.

The challenges and changes continued with the rollout of the South Australian Government Radio Network; the transfer of ownership of council assets to the Minister for Emergency Services; the establishment of the Emergency Services Administrative Unit and now the transition of governance for the sector to the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission.

What has emerged from the governance of the CFS Board is a centralised, highly equipped service striving to adhere to its operating procedures and demonstrating the ability to cope with the impact of change and responsibilities and implement opportunities for improvement.

Members of the outgoing CFS board are:

Mr Ray Dundon
Mr Russell Branson AFSM
Mr John Forster AFSM
Ms Lisien Loan
Mr Russell Peate
Mr Brian Treloar



>> SA Country Fire Service Board (L to R: Russell Peate, Euan Ferguson, Brian Treloar, Russell Branson, Raymond Dundon, Lisien Loan (inset John Forster)



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VOLUNTEER - GENERAL NEWS

[EYRE PENINSULA INDEPENDENT REVIEW]

The report of an independent review into the circumstances surrounding January's devastating bushfire on the Lower Eyre Peninsula was tabled in State Parliament in September.

Issues surrounding the fire have been the subject of a range of inquiries, including CFS's Project Phoenix, a police investigation on behalf of the State Coroner, and the subsequent Coronial Inquest.

The report by Victorian forestry expert, Dr Bob Smith includes 31

recommendations covering the topics outlined in his terms of reference, including:

- Prevention and Mitigation activities; preparedness and response by individuals, the community, organisations and statutory authorities
- The use of fire-fighting aircraft
- The actions taken by local government prior to and during the fires
- The impact of roadside vegetation in relation to the fires
- The role of police during the fire, including their capacity to control access

to affected areas during the fires and

- Issues arising from the behaviour and progression of the fire originating at Wangary.

Minister for Emergency Services, Carmel Zollo believes the Smith report is a comprehensive review of the circumstances surrounding the fire.

"The review includes a range of considered recommendations about community education and awareness, utilisation of available resources, teamwork and leadership, and the strengthening of links between the CFS and local communities," Minister Zollo said.

"The independent review process has been open and accountable. In preparing his report, Dr Smith met with many people throughout the Eyre Peninsula, and attended a range of formal and informal forums to hear the concerns of the community."

The SA Country Fire Service and the Government are already acting upon a number of Dr Smith's recommendations.

CFS Acting Deputy Chief Officer, Andrew Lawson said

the CFS had been proactive in identifying and implementing change, with many of the recommendations from the report mirroring recommendations from the Project Phoenix review.

"We have been implementing a number key changes in the lead up to the fire danger season," Andrew said.

"We have just completed a review and upgrade of all CFS operations management plans, and have launched the new bushfire information and warning system to the community.

"The new Bushfire

Information and Warning System replaces the Phase Warning system which has been in existence since Ash Wednesday, and we have released a community awareness campaign to promote the new system to the community.

"The Government has also made available, an extra \$2.4 million in funding over four years to increase our aerial firefighting capacity, especially in the State's West Coast and South East regions.

"Many other long term projects are also underway involving local farmers, councils and government."



▲ One of Dr Bob Smith's findings was that "The extreme fire danger weather conditions experienced on Monday afternoon and significantly increasing on Tuesday generated conditions where any on-going bushfire would be considered uncontrollable."

NEWS & UPDATES

[CORONIAL INQUEST BEGINS]

The Coronial Inquest into the Eyre Peninsula Bushfires began on Tuesday, November 22, at the Port Lincoln Racing Club.

The inquest, being conducted by Deputy State Coroner Tony Schapel, is expected to continue well into February next year and will involve more than 50 witnesses.

As many of the witness are CFS members, the CFS is ensuring the highest level of welfare support is provided.

The Stress Prevention and

Management (SPAM) team has maintained a presence in Region 6 since the Lower Eyre Peninsula bushfire for CFS members and will continue their support during the Coronial Inquiry.

CFS consultant psychologist Jill Scott will be leading the team, assisted by other professional and peer support team members. SPAM service provision to all CFS Regions will also continue throughout the Coronial Inquiry.

SPAM is a 24-hour service for CFS members and their

immediate families.

To access SPAM contact

- State Operations Centre - 8463 4222
- SPAM Team Coordinator, Trudy Whelan - pager 8273 2411 or mobile 0409 155 181
- Consultant Psychologist, Jill Scott - pager 8273 2399

In the first week of the Inquest, the Deputy Coroner travelled around the Lower Eyre Peninsula viewing a number of sites affected by the fires.

The inquest will break over Christmas from December 16, 2005, before reconvening on January 16, 2006.

For a brief update on the day's proceedings during the Inquiry, visit the CFS website www.cfs.org.au

If you are a CFS volunteer or staff member, and would like more information on preparing for your inquest appearance or any other court processes, please contact the CFS Project Manager Brenton Eden on 0419 823 360 or via email on eden.brenton@cfs.org.au



GENERAL NEWS [AFAC FIRE INDUSTRY STUDY TOUR]

By: Dean Ludwig, Region 5 Training Officer

The second Australasian Fire Authorities Council Fire Industry Study Tour took place in mid September this year with most fire services across Australia represented on the tour led by former CFS CEO Stuart Ellis.

Over seven days we visited 26 services or sites across Australia, giving us the opportunity to see the day-to-day workings of officers, managers and firefighters.

We were able to meet with these services and discuss openly with them the successes and challenges they face in the modern environment.

The pace of the tour was frenetic, with each day commencing at 0700 for breakfast and a briefing, followed by a carefully timed visit to as many organisations as possible before a flight to the next state in the late afternoon.

It was interesting to see that many of the challenges CFS is working through are also being faced by other emergency services across the country.

From a training perspective it was great to discover that CFS is at the forefront with the delivery of the Public Safety Standard of training. From my observations no other

volunteer fire service has entry level firefighter training that compares with our Basic Firefighter One (BFF1).

In most other comparable services, the training given to firefighters is based directly on the risks and responsibilities their individual brigade has.

With an increasing number of CFS strike teams working out of their basic response area, and with many communities continually changing, there are immense benefits in volunteers being qualified and skilled in a wider range of areas. This also supports the strong 'Safety First' culture CFS promotes.

One of the most interesting parts of the trip was our visit to the urban interface areas most affected by the 2003 Canberra fires. The particular streets we visited lost 40-50% of the houses to a depth of about three streets.

We visited in spring and it was difficult to imagine the conditions when the fire tore through the area, but we were assured that the fuel loading in the surrounding paddock was about the same!

It really reinforced the effect that ember attack can have and the importance of keeping flammable fuels and growth away from your house.



>> The fuel loading in this paddock is at the same level as it was when the Canberra bushfires tore through

During the fires a few local residents remained and were able to save several houses. It certainly reinforced my belief in the CFS message that a well prepared home can provide protection during fires if people choose to stay and defend.

During our brief visit to the Queensland Rural Fire Service (QRFS) Specialist Response section at Cannon Hill, the group was amazed by the standard of equipment available.

QRFS has the ability to put 64 personnel independently into the field for 10 days with food, field kitchens, and sleeping equipment all on pallets ready to load.

They also have a large number of specialised response vehicles fully equipped to support major road crash rescue (RCR), urban search and rescue (USAR), compressed air breathing apparatus (CABA) and Hazardous material (HAZMAT) operations. Their CABA vehicle is able to refill 77 cylinders

before they start the compressor!

Each of the agencies we visited have also looked at the issue of 'I Zone' (urban interface) with the concept always at the forefront in the minds of their managers and operations planning staff. ACT and NSW Urban Brigades have set up 'I Zone' Community Fire Units. These are members of the public given small amounts of equipment and set up to protect their own neighbourhood.

It was interesting to note that there has also been a great increase in resource and planning for CBR, terrorism and USAR incidents in all the fire services visited and that all services are working on improving their information flow to the community during emergencies.

Despite the pace of the tour, I was able to gain a much greater understanding of the Australian Emergency Service industry as well as having made some wonderful new friends and very handy contacts.



>> QRFS have an amazing array of equipment



GENERAL NEWS - COMPETITIONS ROUND-UP

[2006 STATE ROAD CRASH RESCUE CHALLENGE]

By: Augie Gray, SAFECOM Competitions Coordinator

The State Road Crash Rescue Challenge for 2006 will again be staged in conjunction with the Adelaide Motor Show at Wayville Showgrounds on the weekend of April 8-9.

This year's event was an outstanding success, and the committee is aiming to make next year's even better.

Timeframes allow for a maximum of 12 teams to

compete over the weekend and, with all three emergency services now committed, it is hoped to achieve a full commitment of four teams from each agency.

Interest generated by the last challenge indicates increased interest from all three services. That being the case, a 'sudden death' elimination may need to be held prior to the event for

each service to select the final teams.

For this reason, nominations will close on January 27, 2006. Visit www.cfs.org.au to download a nomination form.

Expressions of interest are open for support personnel to assist in the running of the event, for further information or to register interest please give me a call on **8463 4042**.

[STATE FIREFIGHTING COMPETITIONS]

The 2005 State Competitions were held on Sunday, August 28, at Callington, and opened by the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon. Carmel Zollo.

Coming from all parts of the state, 17 brigades competed against each other in nine events.

Nuriootpa CFS was awarded the Best Overall Brigade award and the Government Cup for the Senior

Championship. Sturt Group cadets were the overall winners of the Cadet Championship.

The high standard at the competitions this year saw state records broken in four events – the Senior and Cadet Pump Drills, Cadet Hose Reel Drill and Portable Pump Alarm Race.

Photos from the competitions may be viewed on the Promotions Unit website at

www.fire-brigade.asn.au

Some changes are in the wind for next year's competitions, which will be held on the south coast at Goolwa.

The committee is working to revive at least one of the one-person events and is seeking additional funding to enable it to provide increased travel, accommodation and meal subsidies for attending brigades.

CFS STATE COMPETITION RESULTS

Government Cup Champions	Nuriootpa	119.15
Cadet Champions	Sturt Group	82.13
Senior Dry Hose	Nuriootpa	72.39
Senior Pump Drill	Nuriootpa	29.61 (New State Record)
Cadet Dry Hose	Sturt Group	45.96
Cadet Pump Drill	Sturt Group	36.16 (New State Record)
Four Person Ladder	Yorke town	22.47
Hose & Hydrant	Nuriootpa	17.9
Cadet Hose Reel	Nuriootpa	28.05 (New State Record)
Rural Drill	Waikerie	2m. 00. 10s.
Portable Pump Alarm Race	Yorke town	31.02 (New State Record)
Parade Pennant	Region 2	

BEST ALL ROUND BRIGADE NURIOOTPA

>> Photos: CFS Promotions Unit



>> A balance between speed and accuracy is needed for the rural drill



>> It was a great day for the Cadets who showed their skills



>> What's a competition without the bucket brigade



>> A big thank you to the volunteer judges



>> Teamwork plays a big part in the hose and hydrant event



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VOLUNTEER - GENERAL NEWS

[AUSTRALASIAN RCR CHALLENGE 2005 REPORT]

As winners in the 2005 State Road Crash Rescue competition, Blackwood CFS travelled to Hamilton, New Zealand in October, to compete in the 2005 Australasian Road Crash Rescue Challenge.

The Blackwood team comprising of Craig Oates (Captain), Jon Moore, Lucas Wilson, Peter Carter, Colin Willoughby and Brett Brodie had spent a considerable amount of times training leading up to the event.

Staged at Mystery Creek on

the North Island, the largest event centre in New Zealand, the event saw 22 teams from Australia and New Zealand compete against each other in Limited, Unlimited and Rapid Extrication classes.

The competition was fierce with the overall winner representing Burwood NSW Fire Service.

Blackwood CFS finished in 7th place overall with the other two South Australian representatives - Salisbury MFS and Laura SES - finishing 11th and 12th respectively.

>> Blackwood CFS placed seventh overall and we can proudly say that our training and the service we deliver on the road is as good as anywhere in the world



[AUSTRALASIAN RCR CHALLENGE 2005 REPORT]



[NEW NAME FOR THE STATE OPERATIONS CENTRE]

As part of the SACAD transition project, the name of the SOC has changed to the State Operations Call Centre (SOCC).

The current functions have not changed at this stage and the SOCC will continue to be staffed 24/7.

When you speak via the radio the call sign is still "State Headquarters".

Hot on the heels of the State Challenge, SAFECOM is proud to be hosting the 2006 Australasian Road Crash Rescue Challenge in Adelaide from July 20-23, 2006.

This will incorporate teams from all over Australia and New Zealand.

The venue for this major event will be the Wayville Pavilion at the Showgrounds.

At 7,500 square metres, it is the only facility large

enough to accommodate the event, which will also be open to the general public.

For emergency service members, additional attractions will be a Learning Symposium, Swap Meet and trade displays from national companies.

The Perentie, logo of the 2006 Australasian Challenge, will be widely promoted on Challenge merchandise in the form of polo shirts, rugby tops, jackets, baseball caps and souvenir coffee mugs etc.

[NO MOBILE PHONES TO BE TAKEN INTO PRISONS]

The CFS has been advised that mobile telephones are now prohibited items within correctional institutions (prisons) and the Department for Correctional Services. It will therefore be strictly adhering to a no mobile phone entry policy.

The need to strictly adhere to the policy is paramount given the technological development with mobile phones that present security risks within

the correctional environment.

This ban applies to all prisons in South Australia and is effective immediately.

It is critical that all volunteers and staff who may respond to incidents within the boundaries of a prison comply as a maximum penalty of six months imprisonment can apply if a person brings a mobile phone into an institution without the permission of the prison manager.



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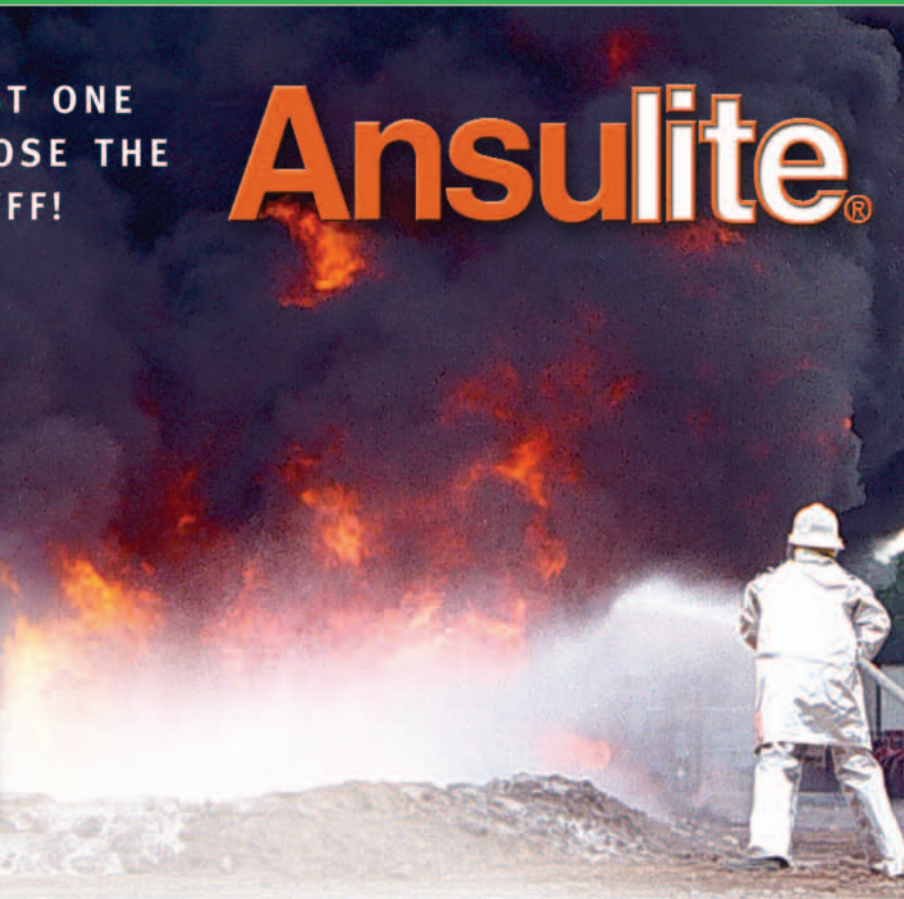
VOLUNTEER - GENERAL NEWS



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GENERAL NEWS

[NEWS FROM VFBA]

By: Wendy Shirley, Executive Officer SAVFBA

SAVFBA Reunion

The Association held a very successful 21st Birthday Reunion on November 13 at Lobethal.

The day was attended by about 80 past and present CFS volunteers many of whom were instrumental in setting up the State Association from a number of separate regional firefighters associations.

The reunion provided a great opportunity for members from around the state to catch up on old times.

The SAVFBA took the opportunity to award Life Memberships to;
Mike Arnold AFSM
Russell Branson AFSM

John Forster AFSM.

These worthy recipients join Peter Swann AFSM, Brian Wilson AFSM and Stuart Ellis AM as life members of the Association.

The SAVFBA also gave out Meritorious Awards to 45 members who have served the Association with four or more years in the capacity of Branch President or Secretary, or on the State Management Committee or CFS Board.

Anne Macarthur, wife of the late Donald Macarthur,

a former CFS Chief Officer travelled from Victoria to present the awards.

The next issue of *Volunteer* will have the full story of the

SAVFBA reunion along with a list of all award recipients and many photos taken on the day.



>> Mike Arnold, Peter Swann, Graham Koch, Brian Wilson and Bev Branson (accepting on behalf of Russell Branson, John Forster and Cam Stafford)
Absent: Stuart Ellis
Photo: Terry Halford

GENERAL NEWS

[VOLUNTEER LEADERS PROGRAM 2006]

Applications for the 2006 Volunteer Leadership Program are open!

>> Are you interested in building your skills and developing your leadership potential?

The Volunteers Leaders Program is a five-day intensive program held in Manly NSW.

Facilitated by the Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC), the program aims to develop the leadership potential within the volunteer services so that leaders and organisations are better prepared for future challenges and changes.

The residential program is highly recommended by the 12 CFS volunteers who attended previous sessions.

Salisbury CFS Captain Rob Styling attended in December 2004 and said "I would encourage anyone who holds or aspires to a

leadership role in the CFS to apply for this course. It is very worthwhile not only for self development but as a life experience".

The program is designed for current and emerging leaders of Volunteer Emergency Services and focuses on developing leadership capabilities, extending industry knowledge and forming strategic alliances.

This is achieved through examining issues relating to leadership, exploring corporate governance roles and responsibilities, and recognising different leadership styles and behaviours.

A strong focus is also placed on achieving a sound work/life balance and on developing skills associated with strengthening personal effectiveness and workplace relationships.

Three courses are available to volunteers in 2006:

- April 19-23
- November 8-12
- November 20-24

Sponsorship from Dulux and Bunnings has allowed these courses to be offered at no cost to participants.

To apply, simply write to the SAVFBA and tell us why you would like to participate in the programme and tell us where you see yourself within CFS in the next few years and beyond.

Be sure to also include a short resume and your preferred date of attendance.

Applications should be addressed to:
Wendy Shirley
SAVFBA Executive Officer
PO Box 2359
REGENCY PARK SA 5942

Applications must be received by January 31, 2006.

For extra information on the course or to discuss course content and your application, please contact Wendy at the Association State Office on 8244 6500



GENERAL NEWS

[2005 ANZPES GAMES]

By: Brenton Ragless, CFS Media Liaison Officer

hockey, were contested over eight days of competition from April 9-16.

Mel and Lana Samsonenko – sisters and volunteer firefighters for the Blackwood CFS Brigade – were just two of 36 CFS members who competed along side other emergency service personnel from Australia, New Zealand and the Asia Pacific.

Both women successfully competed in the swimming to take home seven gold, three silver, and five bronze medals between them.

Mel Samsonenko, 20, said it was a great opportunity to

break the normal circuit of competition and compete in something completely different that relates to both passions in firefighting and sport.

“Normally we compete with swimmers from all different backgrounds but to be at the ANZPES Games was good because it allowed us to compete with others who have common interests and share similar passions in the emergency services,” Mel said.

“The competition was definitely different. The atmosphere was competitive, the rivalry very friendly but making contacts with other emergency service personnel was more valuable than winning any medal.”

Lana Samsonenko, 17, added she found that her swimming helped her to be a better firefighter.

“Fitness is definitely important and, for me, swimming is essential to my overall well being. If I haven’t been in the pool for a while I really notice it at brigade training or being out

at call outs. When I swim, I find that my physical performance as a firefighter is better,” Lana said.

CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson passed on his congratulations to the CFS athletes saying that it came as no surprise that medals were won and that it did the service proud to see members succeed in other areas outside their CFS commitment.

“Often CFS volunteers are very successful at other areas of life, including sport, because they learn to apply themselves so well at Brigade which has a positive influence on their attitude in other areas,” Euan said.

The ANZPES Games provided Adelaide and its emergency service competitors with an excellent opportunity to prepare for the World Police and Fire Games to be held in Adelaide from March 16-25, 2007.

The next South Australia Police and Emergency Services Games will be held in April 2006.

The CFS was well represented at this year’s 11th Australia and New Zealand Police and Emergency Services Games (ANZPES) held in Adelaide.

Forty-eight sports, ranging from athletics, swimming, cycling, tennis, equestrian, and team events such as basketball, volleyball, netball, cricket and

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If so, we want to hear from you now.



>> CFS Volunteers formed part of the opening ceremony
Photo: Steve Cuff

GENERAL NEWS

[PROJECT PHOENIX CONTINUES]

In the eight months since the commissioning of CFS's Project Phoenix, CFS has made numerous changes to its operations, planning, training and community awareness of bushfire incidents.

Some of these changes include the introduction of operational updates, which involved a series of training sessions for CFS brigades on topics such as turnover procedure, and deadman zone.

Level 3 incident managements teams have been established, and will be in place from the beginning of the 2005/06 fire danger season.

There will be two teams to enable two shifts and/or two

incidents to be supported.

The previous bushfire phase warning system has been reviewed and a new, more simplistic system has been developed. Workshops for staff and volunteers, as well as awareness for media and community will be taking place prior to next year.

Many more projects are underway. While some of the recommendations from the report can be quickly implemented, others are longer-term projects requiring significant consultation.

The following pages provide an update on some of the actions and projects that have been implemented in the lead up to the fire danger season.

“TO RISE LIKE A PHOENIX FROM THE ASHES IS TO OVERCOME A SEEMINGLY INSURMOUNTABLE SETBACK”

GENERAL NEWS

[CHIEF OFFICERS STANDING ORDERS & STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES]

The annual review of the CFS Chief Officers Standing Orders (COSO's) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) are almost complete.

The COSO's and SOP's have been reviewed with the principle "Safety First – Come Home Safe" at top of mind.

Once they have been approved, distribution of the updated copies will occur to all brigades and groups.

What is a COSO?

A COSO is a detailed Order that pertains specifically to firefighter safety and is a method or instruction that must be followed in all circumstances.

The COSO sets out specific responsibilities, both individual and organisational for all volunteer and career staff to follow without exception.

What is a SOP?

An SOP is a detailed set of operating guidelines, methods or instructions to be followed in specific circumstances.

SOP's set out who does what, in what manner and in what sequence. Procedures set out the 'steps to follow' to achieve a desired outcome.

These orders and procedures are ever evolving to meet operational requirements, with several additional procedures released over the past 12 months.

New SOP's include:

- Multi Agency Response Team (MART) SOP 2.9
- Clandestine Drug Laboratories SOP 4.14
- Satellite Communications SOP 10.13
- Responding SA Police to Vehicle Accidents, Fires and Other Emergencies SOP 2.8
- Bushfire Information and Warning SOP 5.1

GENERAL NEWS

[OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES]

Like COSO's an SOP's the CFS Operations Management Guidelines (OMG's) are reviewed annually and all CFS Officers, brigades and groups can expect to receive their updated versions shortly.

Why have Operational Guidelines?

Operations guidelines describe the principles, operational systems of work and operational management structures for the CFS and the CFS State Coordination Centre (CFS SCC).

The intention is to provide a documented record of the operational policies, systems of work and operational management practices used by CFS.

In places these guidelines compliment and reinforce doctrine

that is documented elsewhere such as in the COSO/SOP, training notes and fire ground practices.

These guidelines are evolving and any comments on additions are welcome.

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GENERAL NEWS NEW BUSHFIRE WARNING SYSTEM

By: Andrew Lawson, Acting Deputy Chief Officer

<< A media conference was held to help communicate information about the new system to the community



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VOLUNTEER - GENERAL NEWS

The CFS phase warning system is now a thing of the past, having been replaced with the 'Bushfire Information and Warning System'

The new system is based on a set of standard messages which provide information to the public about what the fire is doing, and what actions they should consider.

It has no impact on the declaration of the Fire Danger Season or Fire Ban which will be published in the same way they have been for many years.

Acting CFS Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson said that the new system uses two messages being a 'Bushfire Information Message' and a 'Bushfire Warning Message'.

"A Bushfire Information Message will be issued to ensure the community is kept informed about a bushfire which is threatening or has the potential to threaten the safety of the community in the immediate area of the fire," he said.

"The Bushfire Information Message will also provide information and advice relating to the affects of a bushfire which may impact on people who are not in the immediate area such as smoke or road closures.

"A Bushfire Information Message will be issued by the Regional Duty Officer, so it's vital that all CFS volunteers and staff understand the process.

"A Bushfire Warning Message however will provide the community with information concerning a major bushfire that is

burning out of control under very high or extreme weather conditions and is threatening public safety.

"If a Bushfire Warning Message is issued, a significant and widespread life threat exists and an immediate response is expected of the community to ensure their safety and survival.

"These messages are issued by CFS Public Affairs.

"SOP 5.1 has been developed so that there are clear guidelines on how this is done.

"CFS will be holding workshops and sending out information to volunteers and staff so they are aware of their responsibility with this issue."

Both the Bushfire Information and Bushfire Warning Message will answer the following questions:

- Where is the fire now?
- Where is the fire expected to move next?
- What are the risks faced by people in the area?
- What are the public advised to do about those risks?
- What is the CFS doing about the situation?

Bushfire Information and Warning Messages will be issued to media to alert the public and will also be placed on the CFS website.

Using fax and email, they will be distributed to all appropriate media outlets including ABC, 5AA, Nova FM and any other media which broadcast to the affected area.

ABC, 5AA and Nova FM have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the CFS and will break into programming to broadcast these messages verbatim.

At present there is no agreement in place which guarantees other media outlets will immediately break into their programming to broadcast bushfire information and warning messages, however all media understand the importance of broadcasting these messages to the community and we are confident that these messages will be relayed to the community as soon as possible.

We have asked that these messages be broadcast verbatim at regular intervals, with each message having an expiry time. CFS may also update the message at any time, depending on the fire situation.

All messages will include information about how to contact the CFS Call Centre (CFS Bushfire Hotline 1300 362 361) for details on the fire.

The CFS Call Centre and all CFS receptions will have access to the State Incident Summary (via the Intranet – On-line Forms) and a database containing answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's).

DURING A BUSHFIRE

All emergency service personnel and police officers are to follow the position that each household shall make their own decision in regards to staying and defending their property or whether they will go early.

Going early means leaving the area early on a day of high fire danger well before a bushfire threatens.

It is also critical that the

following advice is followed and understood:

- Do not advise residents to evacuate their homes if smoke or flames are known to be close;
 - People who are well prepared and take shelter in their homes have a very good chance of surviving a bushfire. A house can survive a bushfire if people remain to extinguish small fires that may have started in and around the house;
 - The deadliest option is late evacuation. Residents should not risk being caught in a bushfire whilst on foot or in a vehicle;
 - Radiant heat is a killer in a bushfire. Cover up to protect all exposed skin from this invisible heat, and take shelter inside a building;
 - Buildings are most commonly ignited by sparks and embers. Buildings will generally survive the initial passage of a bushfire providing adequate preparations have been made;
 - If sheltering in a building remain vigilant and keep an eye on what is going on around you as the fire front passes. Move outside the building if it catches fire and you cannot extinguish the fire. Conditions outside may still be hazardous – caution is required.
- When a Bushfire Warning Message is issued, residents will be advised to shelter in their homes and stay off the roads until the danger has passed. For a rapidly moving bushfire, a Bushfire Warning message may be the only information or warning issued.

]

GENERAL NEWS

[OPERATIONAL UPDATE SEMINARS]

By: Rob Sandford, Manager Operations Planning

Since October, regional staff have been running 'Operational Update seminars' to volunteers across the state.

These seminars provided the opportunity for the CFS to improve the integration of AIIMS into our systems of work, improve knowledge and application of incident management, and to reinforce safe systems of work on the fire ground.

Aimed at all personnel, the sessions contained a mix of

new information for some and a refresher/update for others.

Lasting for around three hours, the seminars covered a range of topics including a nationally accredited AIIMS module, which included incident levels and status, and incident communications such as SITREPS and SMEACS.

The sessions also covered levels of preparedness, chain of command, command, control and coordination, and commander's intent.

In line with the 'safety first' culture of the CFS, volunteers were given a refresher on bushfire hazards, appliance and crew protection, anchor points, LCES (Lookout, communications, escape routes, safety zones), safety messages – red flag warnings, The dead man zone and WATCHOUT.

Interaction between facilitators and participants was encouraged, with the belief that it is important to share our experiences with

others and the lessons learned.

If you have not participated in one of these seminars and would like to, please contact your regional office via the chain of command.

The concept of operational update seminars will be further utilised as an annual program to provide key updates for all personnel.

Should you have an idea for inclusion in this type of update, please forward it through the chain of command.

GENERAL NEWS

[GOMP, ROMPS AND SOMP?]

>> GOMP, ROMP and SOMPS? Are they a new form of glue? Are they a type of foreign food? What about an exotic holiday location?

A GOMP

A GOMP is in fact a Group Operations Management Plan (GOMP), formerly known as Group Response Plans.

These plans bring together the how and what groups do from an operational perspective for dealing with incidents.

Over the past couple of years these plans have evolved to be user friendly and provide a standard template for groups across the state.

While these templates set minimum requirements, they are not meant to be restrictive, simply provide the foundation for plans to be developed.

GOMP's include, at a group level, information on how to

respond to incidents, what resources are available, communications, and where the main risks are within the group area. Information for group strike teams including logistics support etc also form an important part of a GOMP.

Each group is required to have a GOMP, which should be developed in partnership with the adjoining group,

Regions are available to work with groups in developing these plans and if help is needed in developing your GOMP, contact your Regional Office.

ROMPS?

If a GOMP is a Group Operations Management Plan, then what is a ROMP?

Yes, it's a Regional Operations Management Plan.

Each Region has a ROMP, previously known as Regional Response-Management Plan, they have now evolved and each region has a standard ROMP.

These plans bring together the how and what regions do for coordination of incidents within the region, and the operational support provided to groups whilst they are dealing with incidents.

These plans provide a standard framework for all Regions, so inter-operability across regions is seamless and support from an adjoining region can be easily obtained.

SOMP?

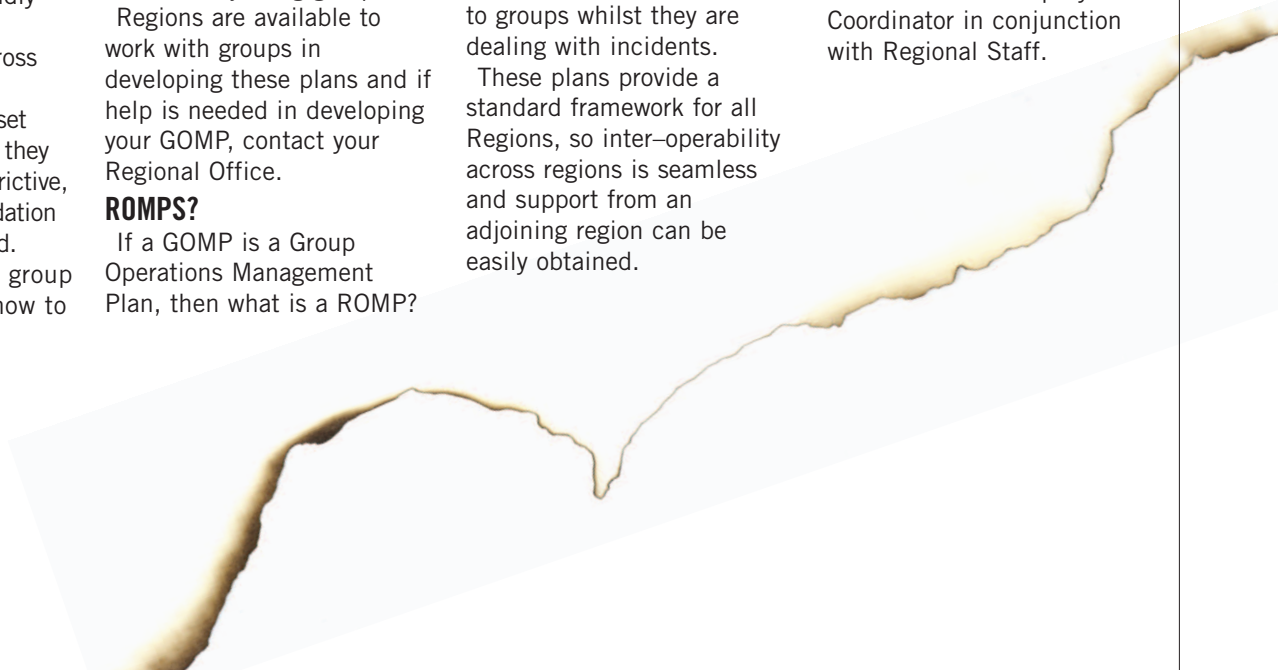
So what is a SOMP? A SOMP is the State Operations Management Plan and has been developed to provide the how and what CFS does at a State level.

The State Operations Management Plan provides a framework for the coordination of regions and state resources by the State Coordinator and Deputy State Coordinator in conjunction with Regional Staff.



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[FARM FIRE UNITS]

**By: Brian Holecek, State Operations Planning Officer
– Combatant Services**

South Australian farming communities provide significant support to assist communities when fires occur along with the CFS. It has been recognised that a cooperative approach to coordinate efforts will provide the best opportunity to manage safety and deal with the occurrence of fires.

An opportunity to improve safety for all involved with fire fighting was identified as part of the CFS review (Project Phoenix).

A working party was formed with representatives of CFS volunteers/staff, VFBA, SA Farmers Federation, Local

Government Association and Workplace Services. The Farm Fire Unit Working Party met in August and September this year with an outcome to draft Joint Guidelines for Operating Farm Fire Units and the Joint Fire Awareness Information for Operating Farm Fire Units.

These guidelines are based on the CFA's Operating Private Equipment at Fires. The Farm Fire Fighting Unit Working Party is currently reviewing these draft documents.

The CFS is committed to working with the operators of farm fire units to ensure that safety is at the front of everyone's mind at fires.

The guidelines:

Promote the safe, efficient, effective and cooperative involvement of farm fire units to control a fire in the shortest possible time; and give operators of farm fire units, information so that they can make informed decisions about their actions.

These guidelines are in support of local initiatives or arrangements in place and provide a basis for establishing and maintaining a consistent approach in the use of farm fire units at fires across South Australia. They provide equipment operators with information to improve their knowledge in fire behaviour, fire hazards and suppression activities, as well as providing guidance on fire equipment, communications and protective clothing.

Farm Fire Units should be identified on the fire ground with amber rotating beacon lights for easy identification and to be seen in the smoke.

These guidelines will assist all stakeholders to understand their and the

Country Fire Service's obligations regarding workers compensation and rehabilitation issues and other relevant state regulations. The separate fire awareness information document is based on the CFS Level 1 Module to provide a basic look at fire fighting including information on general health hazards, overview of the Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System (AIIMS), working around Helicopters and Firebombing.

At the conclusion of this working party the intention is to have a framework and processes to enhance farm fire unit's safety, effectiveness and efficiency where farmer fire fighters will not only feel valued and safe but will be coordinated and integrated within the CFS resources. CFS volunteers will feel that farmer fighters are an extension to CFS resources and will be satisfied with systems of work, communications and coordination.

>> Amber rotating beacon lights now must be fitted to farm fire units



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[LEVEL 3 INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM TRAINING]

By: Leanne Adams, Incident Management Project Officer

During October and November volunteers and staff from all over the state attended training at Brukunga for the State Level 3 Incident Management Teams.

Stuart Ellis (previously CFS Chief Executive Officer) facilitated the weekend and provided a great insight into leadership styles, operations

management and decision-making.

The hypothetical exercises were really helpful in understanding how incident management teams need to work and communicate together.

One of the key issues that came out of the training weekends was to ensure that when these teams respond, that they are supporting the local

personnel and community.

Some time was spent emphasising the areas of incident management that need the input of local knowledge, just a few of the many areas included knowledge of: local weather patterns; fire behaviour; topography; access points; local contacts; and local logistical resources.

Development of State Level 3 Incident Management Teams

The CFS is taking steps to improve its ability to manage significant incidents particularly where cross agency involvement occurs.

This fire season will see the first 'State Level 3 Incident Management Teams' (SL3 IMT) established and ready to respond to manage major incidents.

A mix of volunteer and staff will be drawn from all over the state to work side by side during Level 3 incidents to facilitate incident management forming two teams.

Teams are currently being finalised for this year and if all goes well, there will be additional teams established next year.

Extra teams would help us respond more effectively on a geographic basis eg Region One/Two, Three/Five and Four/Six teams and/or with a functional focus, eg: Bushfire/Hazmat/CBR/Urban.

Activation of a State Level 3 Incident Management Team can occur, at the request of a region, or by the recommendation of the Deputy State Coordinator and

acceptance by the region, or at the direction of the Chief Officer or delegate.

The development of the teams has involved a strong focus on the following principles:

- Local knowledge will be recognised and integrated into the team;
- Coaching and mentoring opportunities will be created; where practical
- The teams will have a strong leadership and managerial focus.

Understanding Level 1, 2 and 3 incidents

The AFAC Australasian Interagency Incident Management System (AIIMS) provides a clear explanation on the classification of incidents.

As incidents grow in size and/or complexity, management of these incidents becomes more demanding and the Incident Controller needs to consider the delegation of responsibility.

In smaller incidents, the Incident Controller may have the capacity to undertake more than one role and delegate others.

As an incident develops, the Incident Controller may elect to delegate additional functions to enable her to devote more attention to the

control function.

A Level 1 incident is characterised by being able to be resolved through the use of local or initial response resources only.

In a Level 1 incident the major function is operations focused on resolving the incident.

Control of the incident is limited to the immediate area and therefore, the operations function can usually be carried out by the Incident Controller.

Being relatively minor, the other functions of planning and logistics will generally be undertaken concurrently by the Incident Controller.

Level 2 incidents are more complex either in size, resources or risk. They are

characterised by the need for:

- Deployment of resources beyond initial response; or
- sectorisation of the incident, or

Tips from some experienced incident management people...

- the establishment of functional sections due to the levels of complexity; or
 - a combination of the above.
- Level 3 incidents are characterised by degrees of complexity that may require the establishment of Divisions for effective management of the situation. These incidents will, usually, involve delegation of all functions.

- **Make sure the incident management team is adequately resourced.**
- **Obtain regular situation reports from the fireground.**
- **Always have a back up plan. For example, if you're planning for a staging area always have a second option.**



↑ Stuart Ellis briefs the 'yellow' team at IMT training.

Want to be kept in the loop?

To receive regular information about incident management including upcoming training, implementing incident management teams at brigade and group level, relevant articles and websites, meetings of functional areas (eg logistics, staging area managers, finances), email adams.leanne@cfs.org.au

CFS INCREASES ITS AERIAL FIREFIGHTING CAPACITY

>> CFS on the ground firefighting operations will be assisted by an increased number of fire bombing aircraft this fire danger season.

This summer, three primary response zones have been established for aerial fire bombing operations. The primary response zones are defined as the areas where an uncontrolled grass or bushfires could have disastrous consequences on community, environmental or commercial assets, and where the rapid response of fire bombing aircraft strategically located, could assist the early control of the fire.

CFS has established these zones in the central Mount Lofty Ranges, the Lower South East and the Lower Eyre Peninsula as part of a rapid and early response strategy for fire bombing response. The remainder of the state has been included in this plan as a secondary response zone.

While fixed wing bombers cover the high risk areas of the state, they will be assisted in the Mount Lofty Ranges by two fire bombing helicopters over the peak of the summer.

The broadening of the CFS Air Operations Program has been made possible as a result of additional funding from the State Government and the enhancement of the fleet under the National Aerial Firefighting Centre arrangements. In addition the new Adelaide Bank Rescue Helicopter Service

commencing on December 12, 2005, will build upon CFS aerial operations.

The National Aerial Firefighting Centre aircraft are jointly funded by the State and Australian Governments and is administered by the Department of Transport and Regional Services.

But despite the increased availability of fire bombing aircraft, Manager Aviation Services, David Cant reminds people that the use of aerial fire bombers is just an additional tool to support the volunteer fire fighters on the ground. "Firebombing aircraft are only one tool in an overall fire suppression strategy," David said.

"To be effective, fire bombing aircraft need to be used when a grass or bushfire is small and in its early development.

"We believe that the rapid response by aircraft in the primary response zones will assist ground crews to keep the fire small and enable early control.

"Water bombing aircraft can assist with containment of larger fires, but are limited to assisting with direct attack where assets or strategic containment lines are at risk, or indirect attack for the construction of chemical fuel breaks.

"While aerial firefighting is an important tool, aircraft must be supported with ground crews to ensure effective containment of the fire, and

response tactics should be integrated into the Incident Management Plan.

"The bulk of the work has always and will always be done by firefighters on the ground."

AIR OBSERVERS AND AIR ATTACK SUPERVISION

In the Mount Lofty Ranges, Air Attack Supervising and Observation aircraft will be supplied under the Adelaide Bank Rescue Helicopter service.

This service has three aircraft available through a contract with Australian Helicopters, with CFS primarily using Rescue 53.

Both the Lower South East and Lower Eyre Peninsula will be supported with Fixed Wing Aerial surveillance aircraft. Their call signs are Fire Spotter 505 for the Lower South East, and Fire Spotter 506 for the Lower Eyre Peninsula.

Under a 'call when needed basis' CFS has access to another fixed wing bomber and helicopter on days of extreme fire danger.

SAFETY ON THE FIREGROUND DURING FIREBOMBING OPERATIONS

Aerial firebombing can provide a considerable risk to ground crews due to the weight and force of water being dropped, and the impact hazard of other materials such as tree branches and limbs, falling onto the ground.

For example, a 2,000-litre drop equates to two tonnes of material being dropped over a small area from a height of 20-30 metres.

Crews working in the

primary bombing zones should always be alert to the possibility of bombers working in the area.

Where a bomber is mobile to an incident the pilot will contact the Incident Controller on the local talkgroup, who will in turn alert crews and ask them to clear the identified drop zone.

If you are caught in a drop zone take the following actions:

- Where possible, shelter in a vehicle
- Move away from the fire line
- Watch out for falling branches and debris
- Place hand tools well clear of you
- Hold onto your helmet or protect head with arms
- Watch your footing due to the ground being slippery
- Identify escape paths.
- Be aware that after a fire bombing drop, the ground maybe slippery from foam or retardant.

Aerial fire bombers in the majority of drops will be using water or a foam fire suppressant, which is a white

detergent like liquid.

Alternatively, fire retardant may be dropped as slurry and is red to ochre in colour.

If firefighters are hit with foam or retardant, it is important to wash the affected areas with cold water with clothing washed as soon as practicable upon leaving the fireground.

Seek medical attention if required and refer to Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for further information.



CFS AIR OPERATIONS FOR THE FIRE DANGER SEASON

MOUNT LOFTY RANGES

Covering an area from Gawler, to Mount Pleasant in the north, Mount Torrens, Wistow in the east to just south of Mount Compass in the south. The zone is flanked on the right by the Adelaide Metropolitan area.

AIRCRAFT	IN OPERATION	CAPACITY / FUNCTION	CALL SIGNS	LOCATED
Two Fixed Wing Air-tractors (AT802)	5/12/05 - 31/3/06	3200 litre with computer controlled bomb door	Bomber 581 Bomber 582	Woodside
Two rotary wing Augusta A119 'Koalas'	2/1/06 - 2/4/06	1200 litre fixed belly tank	Helitack 533 Helitack 534	Adelaide Airport

LOWER SOUTH EAST

Covering an area south of Naracoorte to Robe and bounded by the lower south east coast

Two Fixed Wing Air-tractors (AT602)	26/12/05 - 26/3/06	2400 litre with computer controlled bomb door	Bomber 563 Bomber 564	Mount Gambier Airport
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LOWER EYRE PENINSULA

Covering the bulk of the council areas of Lower Eyre Peninsula, Tumby Bay and the City of Port Lincoln

Two Fixed Wing Air-tractors (AT502)	12/12/05 - 12/3/06	2000 litre with single drop bomb door	Bomber 557 Bomber 558	Port Lincoln Airport
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ADELAIDE BANK RESCUE HELICOPTER SERVICE

Bell 412 helicopter	Primarily used for aero medical flights	Rescue 51	Adelaide Airport
BK117 helicopter	Is used for aero medical flights, however is also available to assist with aerial firefighting or crew transport. 1000 litre bucket	Rescue 52	Adelaide Airport
Eurocopter 130 helicopter	CFS Air Attack Observation Platform	Rescue 53	Adelaide Airport

>> Photo: Promotions Unit.

<< The fire bombing helicopters are known as Koalas - Photo: Heliair



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VOLUNTEER - GENERAL NEWS



GENERAL NEWS

CFS EMBRACES TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE

OPERATIONAL INFORMATION FLOW

By: Yvette Dowling, State Operations Planning Officer



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VOLUNTEER - GENERAL NEWS

CFS has developed an internet based online forms system for critical incident information to assist with incident management.

The internet based system will allow operational incident information to be directly entered into the database, improving incident information flow up and down the chain of command and to ensure that real time information is provided to the community.

Eventually the aim is to have a snapshot of online forms available through the CFS website allowing the community to view what incidents are occurring.

Using the system, staff who have undergone training are able to directly enter information into the online forms system, saving time and reducing paperwork.

This information can be entered directly into the online forms system using computers connected to the network or via laptop computers, connected to the system by CDMA or satellite connections.

In the future the system will also provide Incident Management Teams in the field or located at group bases with immediate access to operational information.

How does Online Forms work?

The changes for volunteers are not highly noticeable at this stage, however in the future volunteers will be able

to enter incident reports directly into the system, eliminating the need to complete and fax manual forms.

Changes are more immediately noticeable within State Headquarters.

As a brigade responds to an incident, the State Operations Centre Operators (OCO's) enter the initial incident details into the online forms system, with most of this information entered before fire appliances leave the station.

This information is automatically transferred to an 'Incident Summary table' that can be viewed by all approved users of the system, with information being automatically refreshed every 45 seconds, so it is always current.

Following the initial entry in the system by the OCO's, others with access to the system can then add information into the system as necessary.

Online Forms is also integrated with the Australasian Incident Reporting System (AIRS), ensuring information only needs to be captured once.

The current system

Online Forms currently has the following reports available:

- Situation Reports (SitReps)
- Regional Reports
- State Reports
- Incident Logs
- Resource Tracking Sheets

- Bushfire Information Messages
- Bushfire Warning Message Attendance at a training session is required prior to connection to the system, and 95 percent of CFS operational staff have access to the system.

The system has been operation since July 1, with staff trialling it during exercises such as Mercury 05 and other incidents including the Virginia floods.

Future Developments

Stage two of the project will see maps and Incident Action Plans incorporated in the online forms system and the provision of information on incidents directly to the CFS website.

Stage two will be completed by the end of January 2006, and stage three will commence after the 2005/2006 Fire Danger Season.

For additional information, contact:

Yvette Dowling

Online Forms CFS Business Specialist State Operations Planning Officer

Phone 08 8463 4200
dowling.yvette@cfs.org.au

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GENERAL NEWS

[COMMUNITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN]

This summer the CFS Fire Danger Season community awareness program has been strengthened as a result of additional funding being provided to the CFS by the

South Australian Government.

This funding has allowed the CFS Public Affairs Unit to produce a new TV advertisement, a series of radio announcements and a print

advertising campaign to complement the ongoing public relations activities the Unit undertakes.

Beginning on December 4, for three months, the campaign features an

Australian country singer and songwriter James Blundell, and has a focus on four simple messages for the community:

- There is a new Bushfire Information and Warning System;
- Be prepared and make a bushfire action plan;
- Decide now whether to stay and defend your property or go to a safer location on high fire risk days;
- Clear your property, and gutters, service farm and fire equipment and ensure that adequate firebreaks are in place.

The campaign has a strong emphasis on individuals taking responsibility and finding out what they need to do to prepare for summer. The advertisements reinforce this message with the line "It's your responsibility so plan to survive".

The TV advertisement discusses the new Bushfire Information and Warning system and was filmed on location at Mallala around one hour north of Adelaide.

Featuring local Mallala residents and James Blundell, the advertisement uses a mix of indoor and outdoor shots with some of the images included in the print advertisement to tie in the different campaign elements.

The advertisement complements the Australian Government TV advertisement on bushfire preparedness, which will also run over the summer months.

The TV commercial will air on all TV networks across South Australia and will be complemented by the three radio advertisements, which will air as community service announcements.



>> A scene from the new commercial featuring local Mallala residents.



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CFS [COMMUNITY EDUCATION]

SGIC SPONSORS CFS COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

S GIC has again sponsored the CFS Community Fire Safe program for the 2005/2006 Fire Danger Season.

This continuous support will enable us to purchase equipment and develop education resources for use at bushfire education workshops, community displays and events.

SGIC will also promote the CFS and community education to all its clients through promotional material, media releases and the SGIC website.

Providing bushfire education to all communities

For more than seven years the Community Fire Safe program has been assisting communities living in high bushfire threat areas to prepare for bushfires.

This program has been highly successful in establishing Community Fire Safe Groups, with the formation of more than 200 groups and the involvement of more than 3,000 households primarily within Region 1.

The program works extremely well in communities living in the rural/urban fringe areas

where groups of people living in the same street can come together.

Increasingly we have received requests from individuals and community groups in more rural areas and coastal towns for assistance in delivering bushfire education programs that are relevant to their area and in a format that is better suited to the residents.

This season Community Education Officers have been employed to deliver a range of community education initiatives to communities across South Australia. The role of the Education Officer will be to determine the best approach based on the community and the fire threat.

Traditional programs such as Community Fire Safe and Bushfire Blitz will continue to be delivered in areas where we know these initiatives work. However, extending the programs will enable CFS to deliver and support a greater range of community activities that aim to raise awareness and educate the community.

Linking With Communities

Linking into established community groups or organisations provides CFS

with a great opportunity to reach more communities and promote bushfire fire safety and preparedness.

The CFS Community Education Team has established close links with land management programs, Neighbourhood Watch groups, Water Catchment and Landcare groups to name a few.

Linking with other organisations not only increases the number of people we can reach but it is also a more efficient approach than targeting communities on our own.

Often a number of

organisations are working with the same community so working collaboratively makes sense; otherwise we end up competing with each other for the community's time.

Linking with other organisations also enables us to build on the commonalities we often share. For example, good fire management is also linked with good land management practice.

For more information about CFS community bushfire education and awareness activities or how your brigade can be involved, contact:

JOHN GAWEN

**CFS Prevention and
Community Awareness Officer**
8463 4127
gawen.john@cfs.org.au



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VOLUNTEER - GENERAL NEWS



GENERAL NEWS

[NATIONAL POSITION PAPER ON BUSHFIRE WARNINGS]

By: Andrew Lawson, Acting Deputy Chief Officer

In January 2005, the Australian Government released the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Report into the National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management.

The Report made a number of recommendations for consideration and adoption by all levels of government, communities and individuals.

The Australasian Augmented Police Ministers Council (A/APMC) were tasked with reporting to the Australian Government via the Australian Emergency Management Committee (AEMC) on progress made by each jurisdiction towards implementing the recommendations.

Following the release of the COAG Report to the public in January 2005, and taking note of the progress already underway, the AFAC Council resolved to select a manageable number of recommendations for priority action based on the following criteria:

- How can we better prepare agencies and communities for the coming 05/06 fire season?
- How can we build on existing work within agencies and AFAC Committees?
- How can we have strategic impact at a national or state level?
- How can we ensure this is cost-effective and timely?

It was therefore proposed that the AFAC Governance Committee deal with the 10 recommendations in priority

order within the next 18 months, while consideration is given to planning the implementation of the other recommendations.

The AFAC Governance Committee has chosen to discharge its role in this regard via the development of a series of AFAC Position Papers in a similar form to the AFAC Position Paper on 'Community Safety and Evacuation during Bushfires'.

Each state and territory has nominated an individual officer or teams of people to address a selected recommendation. South Australia has nominated Mr Andrew Lawson (Acting Deputy Chief Officer) to take the lead at a national level on the development of a National Position Paper on Bushfire Warnings to address recommendation 8.5 from the COAG Report.

Recommendation 8.5 has the following points.

The Inquiry endorses the recommendations on warning systems in the report Natural Disasters in Australia. In addition, it recommends as follows:

- *That all fire ban advice and subsequent bushfire threat warnings related to specific fires be conveyed consistently in all states and territories, including the use of the Standard Emergency Warning Signal when lives or property are threatened;*
- *That the final structure of the warnings be based on the findings of the Bushfire Cooperative*

Research Centre's project Communicating Risk to Communities and Others;

- A full version of the COAG report can be found at www.coagbushfireenquiry.gov.au/findings.htm

The first draft of the National Position Paper has been completed and distributed to all AFAC members for their consideration.

The paper draws upon the South Australian experience with major campaign and impact fires over many years. It also draws on many related papers, research and guidelines prepared by CSIRO, Bushfire CRC and the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) in conjunction with the Australian Emergency Management Committee (AEMC).

The draft position paper addresses the key elements of Recommendation 8.5, and has been constructed in a similar manner to other AFAC Position Papers in that it aims to:

- Provide broad guidance in the form of 'Principles' to member agencies. While not attempting to be prescriptive, it does aim to provide what would be considered to be 'best practice' based on existing research in this field. The guidance provided is not intended to be binding on any agency or jurisdiction. It provides linkages to and draws on related position papers, guidelines and procedures established or being considered at a national and jurisdictional level.

It does not attempt to

provide technical solutions, as it is fully recognised that there are many technical solutions available in the market place.

It does not attempt to provide procedures – the actual procedures are best established at a jurisdictional level based on a common nationally agreed set of principles.

The draft position paper has been published on the CFS component of the SAFECOM Intranet.

A printed copy of the draft paper is available through each CFS regional office.

The development and review work undertaken has also contributed to the review process and the development of the South Australian Bushfire Information system (formerly known as the 'Bushfire Phase Warning System'). This is a key feature of the CFS Annual Plan for 2005/06 and a key recommendation from Project Phoenix.

While the CFS is pleased to be able to take the lead on issues such as this at a state and national level, the key objective is to minimise the confusion between agencies and within agencies during major impact events like the Eyre Peninsula fire.

Minimising the opportunity for confusion will result in significantly improved safety outcomes for agencies and the public alike.

[WORKING IN HARMONY]

Workplace dignity is the responsibility of everyone in the CFS. This case study provides an example that what some people may perceive as harmless fun can actually be seen very differently by others.

CONSIDER THIS SCENARIO...

Sophie is a new member of the brigade having joined about two months ago and is part way through her Basic Firefighter One.

She has approached you as a fellow brigade member with concerns about the behaviour of some other members of the brigade.

Sometimes after training, most members of the brigade go to the local pub for a drink. Sophie had gone along on a few occasions, wanting to fit into the team and not wanting to be left out.

On a couple of occasions whilst at the pub, one of the male members approached Sophie and put his arms around her then pinched her on the behind.

She told you she had noticed this type of behaviour from several of the male members of the brigade towards other females and sometimes from females towards males.

She also told you that she didn't do or say anything at the time as she wanted to be part of the team, but it did make her feel uncomfortable and uneasy.

Sophie mentioned also that there seemed to be a lot of smutty and degrading jokes about women and men circulating among the members, most of them written and printed from email sources.

Again, she had pretended not to be offended when someone handed her a few of the written jokes, but found it difficult to find the humour in the jokes as they were so distasteful.

Sophie did not want to come across like a prude or go against the existing values, attitudes and team culture, but she was considering joining a neighbouring brigade or another volunteer agency. Although she felt that everyone was very friendly here, she was not getting the professional respect that she expected and wanted as a volunteer.

SO WHAT DO YOU DO?

The prevention of workplace harassment and bullying is a responsibility of EVERY member of the CFS.

If the above case study sounds familiar, or you have seen or experienced harassment, sexual harassment or bullying in your brigade, there IS something you can do about it.

CFS has policies and procedures on how to deal with harassment issues as well as trained Volunteer Harassment Contact Officers you can talk to if you are in this situation.

Workplace Dignity Training can be delivered at your brigade on a brigade training night to ensure that all members understand their responsibilities.

For more information contact your Volunteer Support Officer or for a confidential referral to a trained Harassment Contact Officer, phone 1300 364 587.



>> Volunteer Harassment Contact Officers and program support personnel at a training weekend in October.



[15 MINUTES OF FLAME]

>> CFS volunteers enjoyed '15 minutes of flame' as they 'performed' every night in the main arena at this year's Royal Adelaide Show from September 2-10.

This year the CFS moved from a static display at the Royal Adelaide Show to something different and far more spectacular.

The Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society offered the CFS the chance to be part of the nightly main arena presentation during the show.

This marvellous promotional opportunity gave CFS volunteers a chance to promote some positive messages about the CFS to the community.

At 8.15pm every night, following the Holden Storm Riders Precision Driving Team, more than 40 CFS volunteer firefighters joined 'Smokey' the Koala to present an entertaining look at how the CFS has evolved from a bushfire brigade to a highly sophisticated multi-emergency response agency.

The presentation started with a re-creation of the days when volunteer firefighters from the Emergency Fire Service (known today as the CFS) would parade around the arena in their red, open deck fire trucks before

competing in hose and ladder drills during the 1950's. Two vintage fire trucks from the original Clare EFS unit paraded in the arena while images of the early fire service were featured on the arena's big screen.

After a glance back to the 'way we were', the presentation came alive with a series of 'live' emergencies using spectacular pyrotechnics including fires and explosions, hazardous material spills and a road crash rescue.

The CFS crews – all active members from brigades across the State – then responded to each emergency under lights and sirens using the latest 3 4 Ps, all carefully choreographed to a fabulous soundtrack.

Over the nine nights, the CFS message reached more than 100,000 people – that's the equivalent of more than \$150,000 worth of advertising.

Production Director, Brenton Ragless said many CFS volunteers enjoyed the camaraderie of mixing with members from other

brigades.

"Great relationships were formed under 'social' circumstances that will better prepare the firefighters for teamwork during more demanding situations," Brenton said.

"It was an exciting opportunity for the CFS to 'shine' and promote to a wide audience that CFS members are actually volunteers who are active 24 hours a day, every day of the year, responding to all kinds of emergencies, not just bushfires.

>> Volunteers wowed the crowd with the five man attack



"While the presentation featured stunning visual effects, it's the passion of the CFS volunteers that made the performance come alive. Their enthusiasm made it a winning display."

Brenton wishes to thank all the CFS volunteers that were involved for their tremendous contribution and support.

Look for the pull-out Royal Show poster in the middle of this edition of *Volunteer* magazine.

[RIVERLAND AND PASKEVILLE FIELD DAYS]

September was a month of CFS displays.

Following the 'Fifteen Minutes of Flame' presentation at the Royal Adelaide Show, CFS was once again in the spotlight at the Riverland and Paskeville Field Days.

The annual Riverland Field Days at Barmera were this year held from September 14-15.

The biennial Yorke Peninsula Field Days at Paskeville were held from September 27-29 and are the oldest and biggest field days held in South Australia.

Both events attracted hundreds of exhibitors from

all over Australia and included displays featuring the latest machinery and technology in the agricultural industry as well as information and products directed to all aspects of rural living.

The general interest section hosts a wide range of crafts, gifts, clothing, fashion parades and cooking demonstrations.

CFS shared a display area with other emergency services inside a large marquee and provided information to people visiting the sites on how to better prepare against the threat of bushfires.



>> The displays gave the community a chance to ask questions

[ADELAIDE MOTOR SHOW DONATES \$46,000 TO CFS FOUNDATION]

The Adelaide Motor Show has continued its ongoing support of the South Australian community, by donating more than \$46,000 to the CFS Foundation.

The cheque handover, conducted in July at the Blackwood CFS station, followed a pledge from Adelaide Motor Show organisers to donate to the CFS \$1 for each person who attended the 2005 event. Bruce MacFarlane and Ian Digby, on behalf of the Automotive Exhibitors Association, presented a cheque for \$46,760 to CFS

Chief Officer Euan Ferguson, representing the CFS Foundation.

"The Adelaide Motor Show is proud to help the Foundation, which assists CFS volunteers who suffer personal loss not covered by insurance," said Mr Digby.

"The work of CFS volunteers often goes unheralded and Adelaide Motor Show organisers were keen to recognise their efforts." The donation builds on an already strong relationship between the Adelaide Motor Show and the CFS.

The 2005 Road Crash Rescue Challenge was held at this



year's Motor Show and proved highly successful, with Blackwood CFS the overall winner in the CFS division of the competition.

"The CFS is extremely grateful to the Adelaide Motor Show for their support," said Mr Ferguson.

[CFS BRANDING]

As an organisation which is often seen within the community, it is vitally important for the CFS to have a consistent approach to branding and documentation.

With this in mind, the Public Affairs Unit will commence a review early next year of the CFS Branding Guidelines. This

will also include the auditing CFS documents such as stationery and templates.

This is a long-term project with the aim of identifying gaps and providing all brigades, groups and staff with clear guidelines for use of the CFS corporate Logo and insignia. It will provide consistency with the

provision of templates for stationery and other items.

Changes made to the 'Guidelines for Government Branding' earlier this year will also be implemented with this review.

Copies of the guidelines and templates will be distributed to all brigades and groups once they are available.

Current CFS guidelines are available on the CFS website.

[OFFICIAL CFS UNIFORM IS AVAILABLE!]

Stewart and Heaton have been awarded the contract to supply all uniforms for the Justice Department, including the CFS dress uniform, casual uniform and the soon to be introduced corporate uniform.

The Uniform Committee, headed by Chris Martin, has been working closely with the suppliers to ensure that the uniform meets the required specifications.

"We've been working with the suppliers for quite some time to ensure the uniform they provide and their supply systems meet our needs," Chris said.

"The majority of the dress uniform is now in stock and

the final items, being casual polo shirts, baseball cap/bucket hats and the field uniform will be available in a few weeks.

"Stewart and Heaton have advised that the polar fleece will take a bit longer, and should be available in early February."

One thing that will be of interest to many volunteers is that as the official uniform supplier, Stewart and Heaton are authorised to supply polo shirts, polar fleece and baseball caps and bucket hats featuring the CFS insignia.

"The insignia is a feature of the official CFS uniform and can only be worn on official CFS uniform items,"

Chris said.

"The insignia is embroidered onto the polo shirts supplied under this contract. The shirts are dark green or light green flecked with bottle green collar and cuffs.

"The caps and hats have a red/yellow checked band and feature the CFS insignia and the polar fleece jacket is dark green with the CFS insignia.

"Stewart and Heaton are the only suppliers authorised to provide CFS volunteers and staff with the insignia on these items of clothing." If volunteers wish to purchase items using their own funds, they are free to contact Stewart and Heaton direct,

however if items are to be purchased using CFS funds, the order needs to be placed through Group Officers, Regional Headquarters staff. Contact your regional office for further information on their procedures.

An online ordering facility will be available at the end of January to assist with the ordering process, however contact can be made by phone/fax directly to Stewart and Heaton.

Further information contact Stewart and Heaton on 08 8346 4507 or visit them at 5/4 Coglin Street, Ridleyton.

2005 AFAC AND BUSHFIRE CRC CONFERENCE

By: Brenton Ragless, CFS
Media Liaison Officer



A wide range of equipment was on display from 45 different exhibitors ^

The 12th annual Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC) and Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Innovation and Technology Conference was held in October in the City of Sails, Auckland.

Hosted by the New Zealand Fire Service, the conference was based at the Sky City Convention Centre at Auckland, fervently referred to as the 'City of Sails'.

The conference theme for 2005 was 'Innovation and Technology', with each of the sessions addressing how innovation and technology is shaping the way fire agencies manage fire suppression and recovery. Many of the ongoing challenges facing fire agencies were also discussed.

Delegates were given the opportunity to showcase their own research and experience with a poster display that reflected project work being undertaken across the Australasia.

A large component of the conference was the annual

exhibition of fire equipment wholesalers and service providers.

This year, 45 exhibitors ranging from communication technologies, hydraulic rescue equipment, hoses and branches, beacons, personal protective clothing, and breathing apparatus displayed their goods and networked with conference delegates.

The conference was officially opened with a 'Powhiri' welcome, which involved an exchange between the traditional Maori owners of the land and the conference dignitaries including AFAC President, Peter Akers and Bushfire CRC Chairman, Ian MacDougall.

There were eight keynote speakers and more than 30 stream speakers, covering a range of topics including:

- Technology: friend or foe?
- Dealing with arson
- Fire weather research
- Incident management and development

- Fire safety design
 - Experiments in fire behaviour
 - Peopleless computer aided dispatch
- A definitive theme emerged from the conference being the development of the 'geospatial environment' and how it applies to the management of bushfires.

The geospatial environment refers to the 'geographic location and characteristics of natural or man-made features and boundaries on the earth, or more simplistically, the earth, the atmosphere, and everything in between.'

This information is gathered from remote sensing, mapping, and surveying using technology that captures images and data of the geospatial environment and is useful for many industries.

For fire agencies, this information means a radical shift in the way bush and forest fires are likely to be managed in the future.

With technology being continually updated, incident management teams are now able to know the exact location of fire appliances, their movement on the fireground, the number of crew onboard, and even the health of that crew.

When combined with real time data indicating thermal activity and the intensity and direction of the fire at the firefront it will be possible to make decisions as events occur rather than via delayed radio

communication back to incident command.

Geospatial technology has already been put to good use here in South Australia following the Eyre Peninsula bushfires. Images, taken showed the fire spread and the detail of what structures were affected and have been of assistance to the CSIRO in their post fire research.

There are many advantages of geospatial fire management, the most obvious being that it enables incident management teams to capture real time information that will make for better decision-making and a safer working environment for ground crews.

The public will also be able to benefit as they access websites that provide similar real time data allowing them to make decisions in response to bushfires that may threaten their safety.

Climate change was also discussed at the conference.

Fire weather experts are suggesting that, with the increase of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, our earth is likely to increase in temperature resulting in higher frequency of natural disasters such as floods and bushfires (...welcome to South Australia!).

The 2006 AFAC/Bushfire CRC conference will welcome a new alliance:

The International Fire Chiefs' Association of Asia will be held at the Melbourne Convention Centre from August 10-13 to the theme of "Building our Legacy".



Around 700 delegates attended the three day conference ^



[BUSHFIRE CARDS FOR MEDIA]

In 2003/04, CFS Public Affairs introduced a bushfire awareness information session for media personnel, to ensure safe reporting while on the fireground.

The information session continues, with most of the South Australian media having undertaken this session from early November this year.

The aim of the session is to assist media in obtaining timely and precise information regarding bushfire incidents and to

ensure the safety of media crews while working on a fireground.

It's also to ensure media personnel receive adequate bushfire awareness and safety training prior to attending a bushfire type environment. The training is also a way to allow media onto the fireground in a controlled environment.

Following the completion of each session, media personnel are issued a card. This is to provide CFS volunteers with proof that the media person has

completed this fire ground information session and is therefore aware of their safety requirements and directions they must follow while on a fireground.

A copy of the new look card (2005/06) is pictured. Those media that do not show this card or are not wearing personal protective clothing are not permitted on the fire ground. CFS volunteers are encouraged to contact CFS Public Affairs if any issues arise from this process.

[MANAGING THE MEDIA]

By: Lisa Lalic, Manager, Public Affairs

>> Have you ever responded to an incident and suddenly had a camera in your face, or a journalist firing questions at you when you've barely had time to absorb what's happened? Has a media crew turned up and asked you for an interview but you've been terrified to speak to them in case you say something that may come back to haunt you? Well, you aren't alone. However there are ways to manage the media and even use them to your advantage to promote the work of CFS volunteers.

For some, the word 'media' may conjure some negative thoughts and even take you back to an incident or incidents, where they seemed to be a total nuisance. As the community is very interested in what emergency services do, so too is the media. They follow stories of disaster or tragedy and will often swarm almost immediately to get the best 'pictures' and 'grabs' for their stories. They will always look to find someone to talk to and will go to a person who has been involved as they will get the best stories from these sources. These could be victims, witnesses or emergency service personnel – like you!

At an incident, the media may sometimes seem impatient and pushy. However, all they want is 'pictures' and 'people'. They need to get this in a very short amount of time so that they are able to meet their deadlines. The deadlines for the different media – television, radio and print – vary, with radio having the tightest deadline. Radio news bulletins are aired every hour, on the hour. Television has a little more time, however they need to capture a huge amount of vision with different backgrounds, angles and activity so that it can be worked in with the script of the story. They might take one hour of vision for a 90 second story. Television media need to have all their vision and interviews back to the newsroom by mid afternoon so they have enough time to 'file' and 'package'

the story. Journalists will normally have more than one story to file, so time is really of the essence for them. Press will have more time than the broadcast media. Their deadlines are later in the evening, however press journalists may want more information from you as they have lots of space to fill.

Every time the media comes to you for information, you have an opportunity to promote the work of your CFS brigade or group. Use them to your advantage! The media are a very powerful tool and the way in which the 'world' views the CFS or the extent of incidents, is largely dependent on the information and images which the media can obtain and provide via radio, television, press or increasingly, the internet. The accuracy, content and style of information can impact on how the community perceives the CFS.

Media personnel who work with emergency services must behave responsibly at incident scenes. They should respond to safety advice, provided it is delivered in a non-confrontational and reasonable manner. Fostering good working relationships with the media can be beneficial for effectively managing the media at an incident.

To assist the CFS volunteers and staff in feeling more confident in talking to the media, here are some simple points to remember.

- Only report factual information relating to CFS's involvement

For example:

- Time and response of incident;
- Number of CFS personnel involved;
- The type of incident (bushfire, road crash, house fire);
- Potential threat to life or property;
- Provide concise responses. No more than 20 seconds;
- Relax;
- Know your facts;
- Speak in every day language, not jargon;
- Don't look at the camera – look at the journalist;
- Prepare for likely questions;
- Don't answer a question if you are unsure. Better to say you will get back to them;
- Don't say 'no comment';
- Don't use comments that could create panic.

An SOP (SOP 12.1) has been developed, which provide guidelines on talking to the media.

The CFS Public Affairs Unit has developed a media training package for CFS staff and volunteers. Several training sessions have already been held across the state with more being planned for the next few months.

If your brigade would like to participate in this training, please contact the team on 08 8463 4206 or email us at publicaffairs@cfs.org.au. If you have any questions or would like some media advice, contact the CFS Public Affairs Unit.





TRAINING NEWS

[FAREWELL TO THE CFS LEVEL 2 TRAINING

>> With the successful introduction of Basic Firefighter One (BFF1) in 2003, and after a review of our training we bid a fond farewell to the old CFS Level 2 course, and say welcome to Suppress Wildfire (PUAFIR303A)

In an environment of continuous improvement, the CFS training department continually strives to provide the highest level of training. With this in mind the CFS Level 2 course has become obsolete.

The development of the BFF1 course saw a number of modules, traditionally delivered in the CFS Level 2 training such as respond to road crash incorporated into the compulsory minimum level course.

Additionally a number of other modules are now outdated due to changes in legislation (i.e. Country Fires Act and Regulations module) or are seen to be stand-alone modules in the future.

The table below details the modular content of the old Level 2 course, and how it is planned to be updated and included within future CFS training.

Continuing our commitment to volunteer training we have commenced rolling out the nationally accredited Suppress Wildfire (PUAFIR303A) unit.

This unit will replace the Level 2 course as the second tier of basic CFS training.

Although the BFF1 course is compulsory for all CFS volunteers, the Suppress Wildfire unit is not at this stage. However it is a pre-

requisite unit to other nationally accredited training units such as Conduct Prescribed Burning.

The unit may however in the future be a requirement for progression to other service-level CFS training.

What does 'Suppress Wildfire' cover?

The Suppress Wildfire unit is a step up from the competencies covered in Prevent Injury and Respond to wildfire, and covers the following topics:

- Receiving and reporting details of bushfire
- Preparing to respond to bushfire (including Basic Map Reading)
- Proceeding to bushfire
- Bushfire Behaviour
- Hazard Reduction
- Fireground Safety
- Protect People
- Combat Bushfire
- Conduct mop up and patrol activities
- Recovering and maintaining equipment
- Work in a team.

Widespread research has been undertaken to ensure the material contained within the unit is relevant and accurate. Many other agencies have been involved in the development of this module including the Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC), other

Australian Rural Fire Services, as well as the United States Forestry Department. The unit has also been designed to meet particular outcomes from the Project Phoenix review.

The Suppress Wildfire unit focuses CFS firefighters from being 'reactive' to safety or fire behaviour related situations, to 'recognising' potential dangerous situations and proactively taking action before the situation occurs.

The unit also assumes competence in a number of fireground practices and knowledge areas covered in BFF1.

This ensures new skills can be applied and tested during four simulated bushfire drills contained in the unit. These simulated drills include grassfire attack methods, scrub/forest fire first arrival attack methods, dry firefighting and an appliance turnover situation.

Trainees who complete Suppress Wildfire will also be accredited with another nationally recognised unit: Work in a Team (PUATEA001A), which is assessed pre-course and during practical skill components of the host unit.

Pre-requisites to Suppress Wildfire: You must have successfully completed the

pre-requisite units of Prevent Injury (PUAFIR201A) and Respond to Wildfire (PUAFIR204A).

Delivery of the training

The Suppress Wildfire unit has been designed so that it can be delivered at both the State Training Centre or locally at brigade/group level.

The unit takes approximately 16 hours to complete with delivery options allowing training over two consecutive days (0830 – 1700 hours) or over six brigade training nights (approximately 1930 – 2130 hours each night).

Who can deliver the unit?

All trainer-assessors qualified to deliver the BFF1 course are able to deliver this training (if they wish to be involved), providing they meet the requirements for delivery of nationally accredited training.

However, other people can also be involved in the delivery of the Suppress Wildfire unit providing they have successfully completed the following units:

- Prevent Injury (PUAFIR201A)
- Respond to Wildfire (PUAFIR204A)
- Successful completion of Suppress Wildfire (PUAFIR303A)
- Work in a Team (PUATEA001)

Country Fires Act and Regulations

Fire Behaviour
Operational Analysis
Rural Firefighting
Hazard Reduction
Hydraulics

Pumps and Pumping

Map Reading

Hazardous Materials
Respond to a Road Crash

New unit to be written for *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* and included within Officer level training

Currently covered in BFF1 and will be expanded upon in Suppress Wildfire unit

New unit to be written for Officer level training

Currently covered in BFF1 and will be expanded upon in Suppress wildfire unit

Covered in Suppress wildfire unit

Included in new stand-alone unit to be written – Advanced Pumping Operations covering relay pumping, boosting etc

Currently covered in BFF1 and expanded on in the new unit to be written – Advanced Pumping Operations

Covered in Suppress wildfire unit and expanded upon in Navigate in Urban and Rural Environments unit

Currently covered in BFF1

Currently covered in BFF1

COURSE]

By: Corey Dunn, Senior Curriculum Development Officer

- Train Small Groups (BSZ404A)
- Plan Assessment (BSZ401A)
- Conduct Assessment (BSZ402A)
- Workplace Assessor
- Review Assessment (BSZ403A)
- Suppress Wildfire Trainer-Assessor Workshop
- Consultation and roll out of the Unit

Copies of the Suppress Wildfire learning materials have been distributed to nominated volunteer and staff personnel across all CFS

Regions for comment and feedback.

The feedback has been collected and analysed and I'd like to thank those of you who provided us with feedback.

The roll-out of the unit will occur across the state via Regional Training Officers.

Up-skilling of current Trainer-Assessors will occur as part of this roll out for those interested in delivering this unit.

More information will be provided as the roll out continues and will appear in future editions of *Volunteer* magazine.



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VOLUNTEER - TRAINING

TRAINING

[ADELAIDE UNI STUDENTS VISIT BRUKUNGA]

By: Brett Pollini, Project Manager, Compartment Fire Behaviour Training

On August 25, University of Adelaide lecturer Roger Marchant brought 40 final-year Mechanical Engineering students to the State Training Centre at Brukunga.

The aim of the visit was to assist the students to gain a better understanding of fire behaviour and radiant heat outside the controlled state of the classroom and laboratories.

Brenton Eden, Manager Training welcomed the visitors and gave a brief history of the training centre and its projects that are available to both CFS

personnel and industry alike. After an introductory tour the group made its way down to the hot fire training area of the centre.

Brett Pollini took the students through a number of practical experiments to demonstrate general fire behaviour characteristics.

This was done by the use of the pyrolysis kit, which quantifies that it is the fire gases that burn within a structure rather than the solid pieces of matter.

The gas fire simulator demonstrated the flammable ranges, ideal mixture, back

draught and fire gas explosions due to open and concealed ignition sources.

The flashover/back draught simulator demonstrated real time fire development within a compartment and showed the practical application of water to suppress combustion.

Greg Stone, State Training Officer then demonstrated the intensity of radiant heat by igniting the semi trailer gas prop and the bund prop on the hot fire pad. This was a worthwhile demonstration for all students, as the heat produced at this facility cannot be reproduced in a

laboratory on this scale.

The day was deemed a success for both the students and the lecturers and as a result a closer working relationship has been formed between the two organisations with visits from the university in the future guaranteed.



>> The students were shown some practical experiments



>> The pyrolysis kit helped the students understand how gases burn



>> The backdraught / flashover simulator



>> The radiant heat produced cannot be simulated in the lab



NOVEMBER FLOODS

By: Matt Bonser

>> Losses to crops is estimated at over \$40 million
Photo: Gary Macrae

As parts of metropolitan and outer Adelaide received more than 100mm of rain, a massive multi agency response was activated to assist the community as floodwaters started to rise.



>> Port Wakefield road was cut by water near Virginia
Photo: Gary Macrae



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VOLUNTEER - STATEWIDE

FEATURE [NOVEMBER FLOODS]

>> Water covered dozens of roads
Photo: Matt Bonser

The rain began to fall around 5pm on Monday, November 7, and continued throughout most of the night. CFS crews were initially alerted to problems around the Aldgate township around 10pm where 12 shops in the main street were flooded. Calls for assistance were also received from a number of properties in the Waterfall Gully area as water from nearby creeks inundated homes and cut road access. A number of people who could not escape the area due to road

closures spent the night in the restaurant at Waterfall Gully, before finally escaping the next day. As the deluge continued the Onkaparinga River broke its banks in the Verdun area. CFS volunteers sandbagged the service station and a number of homes, and monitored water levels through nearby towns. By the morning of November 8 the rain had begun to ease, however CFS and SES crews remained busy, responding to more than 500 incidents throughout the Mount Lofty Ranges and the

Adelaide metropolitan area. Although the immediate flood threat was diminishing, concerns were still held for areas downstream of the heavy rains. The SES is the lead agency for floods and severe weather. However the CFS State Coordination Centre was established at State Headquarters early on the Tuesday morning to assist the SES with the overall management of the broader situation. A 24-hour staffing roster was established ensuring support was always available both

in the State Headquarters and at the CFS Region 2 Headquarters where the Incident Management Team was based.

Mid-morning Tuesday saw a release of water from the now full Mount Bold Reservoir, which prompted a response by emergency crews to sandbag a number of houses and streets in the Old Noarlunga township as the water level was predicted to rise considerably. Great cooperation between both services as well as the local council saw the sandbagging completed before the level of the river rose. The water level finally peaked in the area in the late afternoon, with water levels fortunately stopping several metres short of the houses considered most at risk. As crews were stood down from Old Noarlunga, a further threat of flooding was identified in the area west of Gawler. Rising floodwaters had already cut many roads and damaged some houses around Gawler but the worst damage was

predicted downstream towards Virginia. A massive mobilisation of CFS and SES volunteers saw 250 crews move into the area, and by 11pm Tuesday night, five CFS strike teams were in place along the Gawler River to assist as water flowed from a breach in the banks near Baker Road. The State Emergency Operations Centre, based in Carrington Street, Adelaide, was opened with representatives from all emergency services as well as other government departments coming together to look at the overall situation. The floods at Virginia were declared a Major Incident under the *Emergency Management Act*. Meanwhile, volunteers continued to work throughout the night, often in waist deep water evacuating

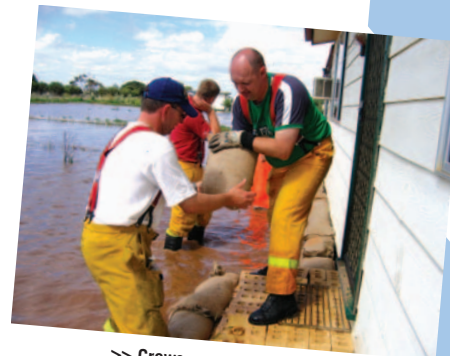
>> Laying sandbags can actually be fun... **Photo: Matt Bonser**



>> Sandbagging in Old Noarlunga
Photo: Matt Bonser



>> Digging out the railway line was made easier when a bulldozer arrived
Photo: ARTC



>> Crews sandbagged hundreds of houses in the Virginia area
Photo: Matt Bonser

>> Over 1000 hectares of land was covered by water - **Photo: Gary Macrae**



residents and sandbagging homes.

In the early hours of Wednesday morning, an unusual rescue took place in Stanton Street as a dog breeder needed assistance to move 30 animals, including several one-day-old puppies, as water impacted their property.

As well as the usual dangers associated with fast flowing water, emergency crews had to contend with a number of snakes that were on the move to higher ground. This created an extra dimension to the situation as crews worked long into the night.

Further strike teams were called for on Wednesday morning to replace crews that had worked throughout the night, with brigades from as far as Stirling North, Lameroo and Goolwa responding for the day shift.

A staging area was established at the

Adelaide International Raceway for all services. The raceway also served as an evacuation point for people whose homes had been damaged by water.

Aerial reconnaissance by CFS personnel aboard the Adelaide Bank Rescue Helicopter identified that the railway line nearby was acting as a levy bank and pushing water into the township of Virginia.

After considerable consultation a decision was made to remove a 40-metre section under the railway tracks to let the water move west away from the town. This proved very successful and saved hundreds of houses in Virginia from certain damage.

Emergency services then shifted their focus towards the Buckland Park area where around 20 houses were threatened by water.

Again CFS and SES crews worked side-by-side to sandbag houses and prevent further damage.

By Wednesday night the water level in the Virginia township had started to recede and the Buckland Park area had stabilised. As the emergency decreased, most CFS crews were stood down around mid-evening, whilst SES volunteers continued to monitor the area throughout the night and into Thursday and Friday.

In total, about 80 homes were impacted by floodwaters, with hundreds more saved by the good work of emergency crews. Early estimates put the damage bill at over \$80 million.

This event again highlighted the excellent level of cooperation amongst all emergency services, from the crews on the ground to the Incident Management Team based at Region 2 Headquarters in Gawler. All services worked exceptionally well to meet a common goal of protecting life and property.

>> CFS crews came from as far as Port Augusta to assist - **Photo: Matt Bonser**



REGIONAL ROUND-UP [BRIDGEWATER HOME BURNS]



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VOLUNTEER - STATEWIDE - REGION 1

Around 10:30am on September 1, volunteers from four brigades responded to a house fire on Old Mount Barker Road, Bridgewater.

When volunteers arrived, they found the

home ablaze, with flames billowing out of the windows and doors.

Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus undertook defensive firefighting activities to fight the flames as they were unable to enter the house due to the intensity of the fire.

The fire was brought under control in around 40 minutes, with thick smoke causing problems for firefighters.

The roof of the property partially collapsed, and with

the remainder of the structure at high risk of collapse, volunteers were forced to quell hot spots from the exterior of the home.

When firefighters went to access the backyard of the property, two rottweilers provided a friendly welcome.

Fortunately, the dogs were tied to the clothes-line, giving firefighters clear access to the rear of the property. The dogs were unharmed by



>> Multiple BA crews in operation
Photo: Amanda Thomason



>> Partial roof collapse
Photo: Amanda Thomason

the fire.

Fire cause investigators have determined the fire started in the front room of the house as a result of a bar heater

coming into contact with furnishings.

The residents were not at home at the time of the fire.

House destroyed after heater left on



>> The heater responsible for the fire is visible in the left of the photo
Photo: Matt Bonser

Fire destroyed a home at Moana in the southern suburbs on August 24.

The blaze broke out in the Phillips Street home shortly after 6pm after an electrical heater - which had been left switched on for almost 12 hours - was left too close to a bed.

The SA Country Fire Service took more than 20 calls from witnesses phoning in to report the fire.



>> Substantial damage was sustained to the house
Photo: Matt Bonser

About 25 CFS volunteer firefighters arrived at the house to find the structure in flames.

An area of the roof collapsed as firefighters arrived, forcing crews wearing breathing apparatus to

conduct a defensive attack from the outside of the house.

The fire was contained within an hour but firefighters spent several hours ensuring the blaze was fully extinguished.

A resident of the property was home at the time and was treated at the scene for minor smoke inhalation.

Damage to the property was in excess of \$220,000.

Volunteers from three brigades responded to a fire in an abandoned house on Stephen Street, Mount Barker, on August 16. The cause of the blaze was undetermined, with damage estimated at \$10,000.



>> The blaze destroyed the abandoned house.
Photos: Ashley Hosking and Pip McGowan

Sturt CFS Group commissions new generation of fire appliance

>> The old and the new Eden Pumpers



In June 2005, the Sturt CFS Group commissioned two new fire appliances - the Blackwood 2 4 CAFS and the Eden Hills Pumper.

The new Blackwood 2 4 CAFS features a modern Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS) - the first of its kind in South Australia - which uses more foam to suppress fires rather than water.

The pump is still driven by water but is assisted by compressed air to produce the foam, which in turn uses

less water.

A special commissioning ceremony took place on Sunday, June 26, with former Mitcham Hills Group Officer and Blackwood Captain, Ray Collins, handing the keys to the current Brigade Captain, David Sims.

The new appliance has been named "Joan" after Joan Moore who was a founding member of the Brigade in 1950.

The new truck, which took seven years to plan, replaces Blackwood's previous 911B

Mercedes 2 4 that came into service a week after the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires.

The presentation was held at the Blackwood CFS Station followed by a demonstration of the truck's capabilities.

On Sunday, July 31, CFS Chief Officer, Euan Ferguson, commissioned Eden Hills Brigade's new Pumper handing the keys to current Captain Neil Gloyn at the Eden Hills Station.

The new Eden Pumper replaces the former 'Eden 51' Ford Louisville, which began service in 1984, a year after the Ash Wednesday bushfires.

In its 21-year history with the Eden Hills CFS Brigade, the former Eden 51

attended more than 5,000 incidents including the 2005 Black Tuesday and 1994 Sydney bushfires, as well as major structure fires at the Port Stanvac Oil Refinery, Blackwood High School, Blackwood cold stores, and numerous other homes and businesses.

The new appliance - an Isuzu FTR900 chassis - is one of three currently in South Australia. It

carries 2,000 litres of water and has a rear-mounted pump capable of distributing 3,000 litres per minute at 1000kpa.

Euan Ferguson said he was encouraged to see the ongoing initiatives of the Sturt Group coming to the fore of firefighting in South Australia.

"This new generation of fire appliances will shape the future of firefighting to 2020 and beyond," said Euan.

>> The new Blackwood CAFS shows its capabilities



Lightning sparks house fire

Amidst copious calls for storm damage, the CFS received a report of a structure fire at Meadows.

Around midnight the family of the Bull Creek Road home heard a loud bang and quickly evacuated the house after realising that the roof of the house had been struck by lightning.

Fifty CFS volunteers from Meadows, Macclesfield, Echunga, Strathalbyn, Mount Barker, Littlehampton and Kangarilla brigades responded to the incident.

Winds gusting over



>> Lightning struck the roof of the Bull Creek house

Photo: Mount Barker Courier

95kmh, driving rain and hail, as well as difficult access for the nine appliances made conditions tough for the CFS crews.

Determined work by firefighters meant they were able to save around half of the timber and stone house from damage.

It was a busy night for the Meadows brigade and others in the area with many volunteers having assisted at other storm-related incidents that evening.

Damage is estimated at \$200,000.

HAZMAT operators flown to Kangaroo Island

A Police contacted the CFS shortly after 5pm on September 6 to seek assistance with a chemical spill on Kangaroo Island.

Local volunteers arrived to find a 20-litre drum containing the chemical Perfekthion, near Baudin Beach, on the eastern side of the Island.

CFS firefighters from two Kangaroo Island brigades attended initially however three specialist hazardous material (HAZMAT) crews from the State HAZMAT team were flown to the scene in

the Rescue 51 Helicopter around 7:30pm.

After receiving a briefing during the 18-minute journey across the water, the State HAZMAT team landed at the Penneshaw oval and were transported to the scene.

A HAZMAT operator in a splash suit then assisted the local crews to recover the drum and secure it for disposal. Decontamination and a hot debrief then took place before crews were back on the helicopter and heading home around 11pm.



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VOLUNTEER - STATEWIDE - REGION 1

[LYNDOCH HOTEL FIRE]

By: Shane Emms, First
Lieutenant, Lyndoch CFS

Shortly before 7.30am on September 18, the CFS received a report of a fire in the Lyndoch Hotel. When the first Lyndoch appliance arrived, smoke was visible from the roof (ridge line and gutters) predominately on the western side of the building. CFS volunteers donned breathing apparatus and arranged attack lines whilst

an entry point to the property was located.

Upon investigation, two members of the public were found to be attempting to extinguish the blaze using a garden hose through a broken window in a storage/laundry room.

The publican arrived to unlock the building just as crews were about to make a forcible entry.

The initial firefighting attack was in the storage/laundry room, however firefighters were forced to retreat as the seat of the fire was found to be in the roof space causing a significant amount of debris to fall into the storage room.

With additional breathing apparatus operators arriving from Lyndoch, Williamstown and Concordia, a ladder was pitched to the roof and volunteers transferred their efforts to fighting the fire from the roof. The extra

firefighters allowed

eight breathing apparatus personnel to rotate using three attack lines to fight the fire.

Gaining access through the roof was a challenge due to the age and pitch of the roof and the way the sheets had been fastened down over the years.

The fire was eventually contained to an area of around five by five metres in the main roof space, with one sheet iron opened on the opposite side to provide cross ventilation.

With the fire in the flat section of roof still burning slowly, four breathing apparatus operators worked on the flat roof lifting sheets and extinguishing, whilst another two operators went inside with ceiling hooks to pull down passage ceiling and access the fire from inside to extinguish it.

The fire started in the flat section of roof, and spread through the main roof structure. The heat from the blaze melted a skylight in the store/laundry room causing debris to fall onto a stack of chairs below.

The store/laundry room and passage leading off had extensive fire and smoke damage.

The fire was fully extinguished around 9.30am.

Fire Cause Investigators attended the scene and determined the blaze was caused by old wiring in the roof.

Although the damage bill was \$70,000, the figure could have been significantly higher if it wasn't for the solid work and cooperation of the 26 volunteers from three brigades who attended.

>> Smoke was visible from the roof on arrival - Photos: Luke Magann



>> Volunteers were forced to lift the roof to extinguish the fire



\$80,000 damage at Middle Beach

An electrical appliance sparked a fire in a shack at Middle Beach around 2am on June 13.

Volunteers from Two Wells and Virginia responded to the shack on the Esplanade to find it fully engulfed in flames.

The fire caused around \$80,000 to the shack and around \$10,000 to a neighbouring property.

The owner of the property contacted the CFS State Operations centre later in the day to express his thanks to the volunteers for the work they did to save the house next door.

"The professionalism and the way the crews conducted themselves was outstanding - particularly at that time of morning," he said.

"I couldn't have asked for a better bunch of people to turn up.

"They did their job so well and there was only minimal damage to next door's property - which I was really worried was going to go up as well.

"Thank you."

[LIGHTNING STRIKES HOME AT SALISBURY HEIGHTS]

The family was lucky to escape as the roof collapsed - Photo: Salisbury CFS <<

In the midst of torrential rain and wild winds on June 9, the CFS received a report of a house fire at Salisbury Heights.

Shortly after 6pm, three brigades and around 25 CFS volunteers responded to the Terama Court property.

When crews arrived, the house was well involved, with flames coming from the roof.

The occupants were just sitting down to eat dinner at the time of the blaze, which started when lightning struck the airconditioning unit on top of the home.

The family evacuated as the fire spread through the roof, with the ceiling partially collapsing minutes later.



Firefighters worked hard and contained the fire within 20 minutes of their arrival, however damage to the home from the blaze was in excess of \$200,000.

MFS personnel assisted at the scene.



[SHED AND MACHINERY DESTROYED]

Fire destroyed a shed and its contents at Virginia in the early hours of July 21.

Around 20 volunteers from three brigades attended the fire at the corner of Angle Vale and Old Port Wakefield Road shortly after 2:30am.

The 20m x 30m shed was fully ablaze when volunteers arrived, with firefighters

taking around 30 minutes to contain the fire.

Volunteers remained at the scene until just before 7am ensuring the fire was fully extinguished.

Damage to the shed, machinery and other tools contained in it was estimated at around \$50,000. The fire was caused by an electrical fault.

>> Damage to the shed and contents was estimated at \$50,000
Photo: Roger Trezona



Piggery blaze at Dublin

Fire caused around \$25,000 in structural damage and \$25,000 in lost stock at a piggery at Long Plains, near Dublin, on July 28.

The fire was reported to the CFS shortly before 8pm, having broken out in a 30m x 12m farrowing shed on the property just of Carslake Road.

More than 30 volunteer firefighters attended the fire

caused by an electrical wiring fault and brought it under control within 30 minutes of arrival.

Firefighters remained on the scene until around 3.30am the following morning to ensure the blaze was fully extinguished and to ensure the safety of the surviving pigs.

Paramedics treated several people at the scene for smoke inhalation.

REGIONAL ROUND-UP

[CAR AND B-DOUBLE COLLIDE]

A woman died on the night of July 20 following a collision between her car and a B-double semi-trailer on the Dukes Highway.

The crash occurred shortly after 6.30pm about 12 kilometres east of Tintinara.

Both the car and B-double semi-trailer were fully engulfed in flames

as CFS volunteer firefighters arrived.

It took more than half an hour for about 30 CFS volunteers from five brigades to bring the blaze under control and several hours to fully extinguish.

The semi-trailer was loaded with car parts, many of which exploded from the heat of the blaze.

The Dukes Highway

was closed for several hours causing significant delays, and saw semi-trailers and vehicles banked up over several kilometres.

CFS crews also assisted in providing traffic control and clearing the road of debris.

SA Police, Ambulance, and the State Emergency Service were also in attendance.



>> The charred wreckage of the B-double



>> The truck was well alight when firefighters arrived
Photo: The Murray Valley Standard



>> CFS crews get to work
Photo: The Murray Valley Standard

Fatal fire at Cowirra

The CFS was alerted to a structure fire at Cowirra, near Mannum, shortly before 10pm on September 1.

Volunteers from Mannum and Palmer brigades responded to the timber/galvanized iron constructed shack on Porter Street to find the structure well alight.

There was little firefighters could do to save the property, with flames and smoke billowing out of the ceiling and roof.

The occupant, a man believed to be in his late 20s, perished in the inferno that saw a



tarp covering a car around four metres from the structure melt onto the vehicle.

Investigators were unable to determine the cause of the fire that destroyed the shack, however it is not believed to be suspicious.

Damage was estimated at \$75,000.

>> It took firefighters an hour to extinguish the blaze
Photo: David Emes

Kerosene spill closes Sturt Highway

CFS volunteers responded to a hazardous materials (HAZMAT) spill on the Sturt Highway on June 20.

The spill occurred around one kilometre east of Blanchetown and led to the highway being closed for around six hours.

Reported to the CFS around 11.30am, when volunteers arrived they found a truck carrying kerosene had overturned.

An additional two brigades were responded due to the potentially hazardous material the vehicle was

carrying and to assist with traffic control.

Using a backhoe, crews removed the lift tray from the back of the pantech and volunteers wearing breathing apparatus and splash suits entered the vehicle. Careful work prevented all but 20 litres of the spilt kerosene from leaking out of the pantech onto the ground.

Around 20 CFS volunteers were involved at the incident along with volunteers from the State Emergency Service and SAPOL personnel.



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VOLUNTEER - STATEWIDE - REGION 3

Million dollar blaze at Murray Bridge

Fire tore through the Murray Bridge Recycling Factory on Thomas Street on the night of July 9.

When CFS volunteers arrived, shortly after 11pm, they found the factory ablaze and were confronted by a number of exploding gas cylinders.

Fuelled by stacks of cardboard, paper and magazines stored at

the depot, the inferno generated a tremendous amount of heat and posed a challenge for more than 35 firefighters who battled the blaze.

Due to the collapse of the roof and the intense heat being generated, firefighters from the CFS and MFS were forced to undertake a defensive attack on the fire in

the building.

With seven appliances and a bulk water carrier in action, it took quite some time to bring the fire under control, which continued to smoulder for many hours.

An excavator was used to overhaul the fire and completely extinguish the material inside.

Firefighters were able to save an area, of around two acres which stored pallets

and paper materials, from the fire.

Volunteers spent 14 hours at the factory and damage is estimated at around \$1.2 million.



>> Damage to the recycling factory was substantial - Photo: Murray Bridge CFS

Karoonda fire station back in one piece!

By: Russell Norman, Mallee Group Officer

Repairs to the Karoonda CFS Station have now been completed, with the brigade moving back into the warmth and comfort of their station having spent several months operating from the local council depot.

The CFS station was one of many buildings and homes in the town damaged when shortly after 8pm on a blustery June 10 a mini tornado tore a narrow path of

destruction through the town.

Mallee Group Officer, Russell Norman, was one member of the community who spent the night trying to work out just what had happened.

"There was no electricity throughout the entire town, and with the CFS station not having telephone lines, the rest of the town was trying to work out just what had occurred," said Russell.

"We were amazed to discover the extent of the damage; trees were down over roads and roofs had blown off about eight houses, with one roof still intact laying several hundred metres away from the house, right next to the train line."

The mini tornado damaged 18 homes and a number of community buildings, with the CFS station, football clubrooms and SA Ambulance station the worst hit of the

public buildings.

"When you turn out for an incident, half a CFS shed is not what you expect to find, and it certainly does not make life easy for the volunteers," said Russell.

"We couldn't get the doors to open to get the trucks out. In the end we had to literally break them down before we could start to assess the damage to the rest of the town."

"It was a wild night and the community is still recovering, but as is the case with many regional communities, we've all banded

together to support each other.

"We received a great deal of support from CFS volunteers in the Mallee Group and from other neighbouring brigades, as well as assistance from staff from Region 3.

"The SES were also really great, we all worked together to help clean up the town. SES volunteers from all over the state came and assisted the community in putting things back together.

"It's taken some time, but finally the station is back in one piece."



>> The tornado took part of the roof and wall as it travelled through the town



>> The station is now repaired and open for business



18 homes sustained damage



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VOLUNTEER - STATEWIDE - REGION 3

REGIONAL ROUND-UP [DUG OUT FIRE AT COOBER PEDY]

A lucky escape

Woomera CFS responded to a motor vehicle incident at Ironstone Lagoon on July 17.

A car towing a caravan had attempted to overtake a caravan around 60km south of Pimba in the state's far north before losing control and being 'sucked' into the trailer of the road train before crashing into a roadside guard-rail.

Despite being extremely shaken, the passengers escaped with minor injuries. The CFS attended to provide traffic control and fire cover.

The fire completely destroyed the property which was a mix of a dug out and timber/galvanised iron construction. Damage is estimated at \$24,000.

water tanker to fight the fire. A lack of water posed a challenge for volunteers, however the blaze was contained in around an hour.

The roof partially collapsed, as volunteers wearing breathing apparatus undertook defensive fire fighting.

The intense heat generated by the fire and the danger of further structural collapse prevented volunteers from entering the house.

CFS volunteers responded to a house fire in Coober Pedy on August 25. Reported to the CFS around 10.30pm, volunteers arrived to find around half of the dug out on Van Burgge Street involved in flames.

It is believed the fire started in the dining area before travelling quickly through the remainder of the house.

The CFS responded with three appliances, including a



Landing gear fails on light plane



A light plane coming into land at Port Augusta Airport reporting difficulties saw volunteers from Stirling North CFS along with Metropolitan Fire Service personnel respond to the airport around noon on August 1. With seven passengers on board, the situation posed a real danger. After

flying around for more than an hour to burn excess fuel, the plane attempted to land. Fortunately for those on board, the plane landed safely, albeit on its belly.

>> Volunteers provided fire cover
Photo: Pete Shalley

Vet clinic fire at Roxby Downs

Fire caused significant damage to a veterinary clinic and two other businesses at Roxby Downs on the night of Monday, October 10th.

Fire broke out in the property, which also included a photo processing shop, on Richardson Place just before 7.30pm.

About 15 firefighters arrived at the vet clinic to

find the structure well involved in flames and were able to contain the blaze within 30 minutes.

A number of small animals perished in the fire, which produced a significant amount of thick smoke, however around a dozen were saved.

Firefighters spent several hours ensuring the blaze was fully extinguished, and

secured the property for the arrival of Fire Cause Investigators.

The fire caused around \$800,000 worth of damage to the clinic, its contents and surrounding businesses, with the fire having started through an electrical fault.

Brett Atkins, Brigade Captain of Roxby Downs CFS congratulated the local

emergency services on their prompt and coordinated response to the emergency.

"Emergency services work very closely together in Roxby Downs, and we'd really like to thank the ESOs, SES, SA Ambulance Service and SA Police for their support tonight," said Brett.





>> Handing over of signed agreement between "Captain" Kelvin Johnson and Euan Ferguson
Photo: Nik Ludborz

Nepabunna Community Fire Team

Between August 15-17, several CFS and SAFECOM staff visited the Nepabunna indigenous community in the far north east of the state to look at the possibility of developing a CFS brigade.

Remotely located, the closest fire service to the Nepabunna community is the Leigh Creek Emergency Service more than 60km away. Depending on road conditions, the journey from Leigh Creek to Nepabunna can take up to two hours on the unsealed road.

At the meeting, senior Nepabunna leaders agreed to establish a 'Shared Responsibility Agreement' that states the CFS will provide ongoing emergency management

training and support to the Nepabunna community. The aim is to have an appropriately located, registered, fully equipped and operational CFS brigade by the end of June 2006.

Importantly, as part of Nepabunna's responsibility, it will provide an emergency response capability to other indigenous groups, pastoralists, tourists and business operators within its response area.

The primary objective of the 'Nepabunna Community Fire Team' is "to protect life, property and the environment in the Nepabunna area from fires and other emergencies".

Training has already begun with around 20 community members

having completed their Fire Extinguisher Module from Basic Firefighter One.

The next visit to the community is in early December where Nik Ludborz, Region 4 Prevention Officer, and Alan Gilchrist, Stirling North CFS, will train the team in the 'Respond to Wildfire Module One and Two.'



>> Kelvin Johnson learning to use a fire extinguisher



The members of Stirling North CFS welcomed the Minister for Emergency Services Carmel Zollo MLC to their station on October 24.

While the Minister was in town as part of the Community Cabinet program, the Brigade Captain, Bob Kirby, took the opportunity to ask the Minister to present certificates to a number of cadets who have recently

Stirling North awards

<< Stirling North Brigade members with their awards and certificates.

completed their Basic Firefighter One.

Cadets receiving the certificates included Stephanie Thomas, Reehan Thomas, Travis Johnson, James Forsythe, Danni-Lee Mathew, Mitchell Mathew, Tom McMahon and Hayley McCarthy.

The cadets were honoured to be presented with their certificates by the Minister.

Region 4 Commander, Mick Obst, also attended and presented service awards to a number of long serving members of the brigade:

- Alan McKerlie and Robert Strongman both received a 25-year

Clasp for National Medal and a 30-year service award.

- John Naisbitt, John Miller and Philip Scattini received 20-year service awards.

- Benny Donath received a 25-year Silver Long Service Award.

- Brendan Lynch was presented with a National Medal and a 15-year Bronze Long Service Award.

- Ray Screen received a 25-year Clasp for National Medal and a 25-year Silver Long Service Award.

- Tony Russ received his National Medal and a 15-year Bronze Long Service Award.





>> Firefighters attack the burning timber piles
Photos: Mt Gambier Group Communications Brigade

REGIONAL ROUND-UP [MT GAMBIER MILL FIRE]



>> CFS and MFS crews worked together throughout the day

A fire in a storage shed at Carter Holt Harvey's Mt Gambier plant has caused \$500,000 damage and kept firefighters busy for more than 12 hours.

Fire crews responded to the incident at 3.30am on May 24 in a shed measuring 60m x 20m at the rear of the facility.

When fire crews arrived, the building was

well alight.

Six appliances from the CFS and MFS were needed to stop the fire spreading to the mill, as well as other buildings containing flammable chemicals and nearby equipment.

Once the fire was contained, a forklift was used to spread the tall stacks of burning timber so they could be fully extinguished. Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus used 64mm hoses as well as the MFS Skyjet

to cool the smouldering timber.

Fire Cause Investigators from Adelaide were flown to the scene and found the blaze to have been deliberately lit in the western end of the building.

The incident highlighted the great working relationship our emergency services share in the south east, with crews for the CFS, MFS and SES working together for many hours.



>> CMFS Skyjet in use

Nangwarry house fire

A historic house at Nangwarry was destroyed by fire on August 1.

The occupants of the house had lit a fire in the fireplace and were retiring for the night when they noticed flames coming from around the mantelpiece.

Due to the timber frame construction of the house, the fire spread quickly through the building and was fully involved when the first CFS volunteers arrived.

A shortage of water

on the property required an increased response by the CFS, and seven brigades from two groups were required to assist with extinguishing the blaze.

Fire Cause Investigators from Adelaide attended the scene and found the fire to have been caused by a brick dislodging in the fireplace, that allowed fire to spread to the pine cladding around the chimney and then throughout the rest of the house.

With brigades in the Naracoorte Group responding to an increasing number of motor vehicle accidents, a 'respond to road accident day' was held for its rural brigades on August 14.

The main focus was to show the rural brigades in the group what their role would be at an MVA in their area.

Held at the Naracoorte Group base and arranged by Shane Smith, Naracoorte CFS and a State Road Accident Rescue

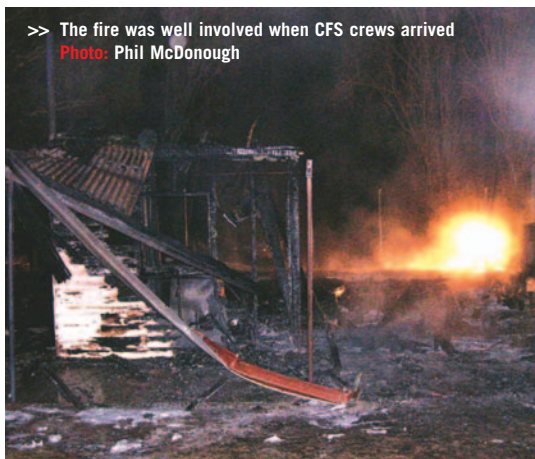
Training Officer (RARTO), the day saw volunteers from Kybybolite, Binnun and Lochaber undertake a refresher in 'Respond to Road Accident' from the Basic Firefighter One course.

SA Ambulance Service (SAAS) also participated with officers providing volunteers with a briefing on the role of SAAS at a road crash and an outline on what assistance they need from the CFS in such an incident.

The day ended with a practical session where many of the volunteers were able to, for the first time, use the road crash rescue equipment from the Naracoorte Rescue Unit to cut up a car.

The training day was a great success and a special thank you must go to Allan Marshall and Alan Hall for their help.

Naracoorte Group road crash rescue day



>> The fire was well involved when CFS crews arrived
Photo: Phil McDonough



>> Volunteers were given a lesson on basic stabilisation techniques
Photo: Bill Corcoran

>> For many it was the first time they had used the hydraulic rescue equipment
Photo: Bill Corcoran



REGIONAL ROUND-UP [NEW STATION FOR WOLSELEY CFS]

>> The new Wolseley fire station
Photo: Pip McGowan



>> Donald Carter, Euan Ferguson, James McLellan & Harold Wise - Photo: Ashley Hosking



Around 60 guests, including the Minister for Emergency Services Carmel Zollo, David Ridgeway MLC, CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson and Emergency Services Funds Manager Rex Matthews attended the opening of a new fire station at Wolseley on October 30.

It is Located 13 kilometres east of Bordertown, just off the Dukes Highway near the South Australian/Victorian border. The Wolseley brigade has a long history, and was established as the firefighting

association in 1942, the Wolsley EFS in 1964 and finally became the Wolseley CFS in 1979.

Since 1965, the fire station has been on a section of railways land, however the old station was in need of upgrading and it was decided to construct a new building nearby.

The 23 members of the brigade are excited and proud of the new home for their appliance.

Awards totalling 315 years service were also presented to a number of brigade members:

- Receiving a 10-year service award, Simon Ballinger, John

Jozeps and David Makin.

- Receiving a 15-year service award, Mark Ballinger, Steven Brown, Peter McLellan, Raymond Oehm, Robert Reschke and Grant Wise.

- 20-year veterans Geoffrey Butler, Jeffery Makin, William Mitchell and Brenton Tink were presented their awards, whilst John Ballinger and Donald Carter received 25-year silver awards.

- James McLellan was presented with his 30-year award and Harold Wise was recognised with a gold award for 35 years with the brigade.

New Kingston Emergency Services station

The official opening of the new Kingston

Emergency Services facility took place on Sunday, July 10, with around 100 guests attending the opening.

Special guests for the day included the Minister for Emergency Services Carmel Zollo, CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson and SES CO/SAFECOM CEO David Place.

The Kingston CFS brigade and SES unit have been co-located since the early 1990s, however the two organisations out-grew their previous premises in James Street.

The new building has lots of space, with room for three vehicles for both services, as well as a large meeting room and communication facilities.

The facility also

provides a new group control centre for the Lacepede CFS Group, and will enable a large incident in the area to be managed more effectively.

After the ceremony, service awards were presented by Euan Ferguson to the following Kingston CFS members: David Moreland for 10 years, Russell Mackenzie for 20 years and Kenneth Taylor, Robert Ratcliff and Lesley Smith for 25 years.

Euan then handed over to the Minister for Emergency Services to present further awards: Victor Clarke for 50

years service, as well as Kenneth Taylor and Lesley Smiths' National Medal clasps.

>> More than 100 guests attended the opening
Photos: Ashley Hosking



>> The Kingston Emergency Services Facility



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VOLUNTEER - STATEWIDE - REGION 5

REGIONAL ROUND-UP [PORT LINCOLN AIRPORT EXERCISE]

By: Tristan Baldock



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VOLUNTEER - STATEWIDE - REGION 6

The role of the CFS has changed considerably since the inception of its parent organisation, the Emergency Fire Service, many years ago. The nature of incidents that volunteers now attend is diverse and requires a high level of training to be fully prepared. Plane accidents are something that many never consider, but unfortunately it is a very real possibility given many brigades service local aerodromes, and most rural areas experience high agricultural air traffic. Given this, Operation Bingle 10 was carried out at Port Lincoln Airport on September 12 this year, involving all emergency services, including SAPOL, CFS (Port Lincoln and Nth Shields), MFS, SES, St Johns, Port Lincoln

Hospital, District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula and Family and Community Services. The objective of this Crisis Management Operational Training exercise was to expose personnel to this situation and practice response and deployment of necessary resources as determined by the situation and other operational commitments. The exercise specifically tested the emergency services ability to carry out scene securing and preservation, and multi-service communications and coordination. The exercise involved one regional aircraft inbound from Adelaide with 10 people on board. During the final turn onto the runway the aircraft suffered

engine trouble, causing the aircraft to undershoot and make contact with the ground, causing the starboard landing gear to break away. Moments later the starboard wing dislodged from the fuselage and the aircraft travelled on its side for 75m, stopping just short of the runway. All persons were trapped in the aircraft, with one fatality and the rest suffering from various serious injuries. The dislodged wing caught fire creating a dangerous hazard for the victims, and an unstable scene for emergency services. A command post was established upon arrival at a safe distance from the scene, with SAPOL assuming absolute control of the incident, and CFS, MFS and



>> Crews search the wreckage of the aircraft for casualties
Photo: Tristan Baldock

SES officers advising at that point. The CFS assumed the role of Officer In Charge at the front line, coordinating multi-service cooperation. The CFS provided immediate fire protection and fuel containment using foam, while CFS and MFS personnel equipped with breathing apparatus worked with Ambulance staff to extract the victims one by one from the wreckage. SES and CFS crews assisted in transferring the casualties to the medical staging area where St John Ambulance personnel classified and treated the victims. CFS and SES personnel continued to assist St John Ambulance volunteers in casualty management until the victims were transported from the

scene to the Port Lincoln Hospital. Once the final casualties had been removed from the medical staging area, the scene was secured for crash investigation. The total time from arrival at incident to task complete took about one hour, with the impressive cooperation and exceptional coordination of the multi-services ensuring a speedy and thorough performance at all levels of the incident. The exercise was considered a success, with all participants gaining valuable experience in the aspects surrounding aircraft incidents, as well as becoming familiar with working together with other emergency service agencies.



>> Treating patients at the crash scene

REGIONAL ROUND-UP [GREENPATCH CFS TRAINING DAY]

On Sunday, October 16, members of Greenpatch CFS participated in a full day training session to refresh their skills and be fully prepared for the fire season.

The morning session involved 12 firefighters updating their current skills and learning how to operate new equipment.

This new equipment includes a Garmen 76

GPS, a Kestrel weather meter and Akron branches.

The training covered basic GPS operation (how to give grid references and marking waypoints), the operation of the Kestrel weather meters (including what data is required in SITREPS) and a GRN refresher.

The brigade also took the opportunity to work through burn over drills, the

operation of the Akron branches and reviewed the Dead Man Zone and Surviving the Summer videos. Ray, Lindsay and John from the SPAM team ran a session in the afternoon with the brigade and

their families.

Greenpatch CFS members have spent the winter attending other training courses, including, Australasian Interagency Information Management System (AIIMS), Sector Command, GPS

Operation and also attended an operational update.

The brigade is proud of its high levels of training and was awarded its second consecutive Chief Officer's Training Award this year.



>> A lucky escape for the occupant of this vehicle
Photo: Kieran O'Rourke



>> CFS and SES crews worked to free the trapped person
Photo: Port Lincoln CFS

[PORT LINCOLN MVA]

The Lincoln Highway has kept CFS and SES volunteers busy recently.

In the first incident, Country Fire Service volunteers from the Port Lincoln and Greenpatch brigades responded to a vehicle accident shortly after midnight on September 5.

Upon arrival crews found one person trapped under a vehicle and a tree on top of it.

Volunteers from both

services worked well together throughout the next 30 minutes to extricate the occupant from the vehicle and remove the tree from the car. The patient was then transported to the Port Lincoln hospital whilst crews cleared the scene and provided traffic control.

On September 30, CFS and SES crews responded to another vehicle accident on the Flinders Highway, this time 20km north west of Port Lincoln in

the Big Swamp area.

In this incident, crews found a vehicle that had left the road and rolled, landing on its roof. Two people escaped the car with minor injuries however one person remain trapped in the vehicle.

Crews again used hydraulic rescue equipment to extricate the trapped person through the back window.

Police, Ambulance and SAMFS crews also assisted at the incident.

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VOLUNTEER - STATEWIDE - REGION 6

Cadet Leaders **leading** the way

By: Julie Francis, SAFECOM Youth Programs Officer

Courses were delivered regionally at Kimba, in the Kimba Hotel, on July 23-25, 2004, at Woodhouse on October 15-17, 2004, at Port Hughes in the Port Hughes Accommodation Centre on November 19-21, 2004, and at Woodhouse on July 8-10, 2005.

A total of 118 Cadet Leaders participated in the programs.

The aim of the course was to provide training principally in developing a program over a year/term/night, creative thinking, brainstorming, how groups work, how young people think, risk assessment, leadership and team building,

behaviour management, child protection and goal-setting.

The courses were developed based on two aspects; learning by doing, and working in small groups. This allowed the leaders to foster the exchange of ideas and experiences between themselves. Smaller numbers also made it easier for all members of the group to become involved and contribute to the group.

The program provided a mix of both indoor and outdoor activities, as well as passive and active sessions. This provided a good way to demonstrate the variety of activities that

could be incorporated into a program back in the brigade.

Scouts Australia (SA Branch) Rover Training Team were contracted to provide this training.

Course content was development based mainly on the national criteria for basic and advance training course for Scout Leaders and adapted to fit in with CFS/SES requirements; we thank them for greatly for their significant contribution.

Handouts were provided by the trainers on programming and games, including a list of basic items that could be included in a games bag; this could be brought out at any time and used. In addition, a number of books were provided to all the trainees giving ideas for programmes and activities valued at \$100.

At the end of each session, the Cadet

Leaders were asked to complete an evaluation of the session and most comments were very positive and encouraging for the trainers.

Suggestions for future courses to be run over a single day to focus on and develop particular sessions and skills were strongly supported.

Shortly after each course the participants were all provided with a CD containing a copy of the sessions, powerpoint presentations, handouts, a transcript of each group's programs and other information which was generated during the course, as well as a copy of photos taken over the weekend.

These courses have highlighted the fact that Cadet Leaders are becoming a strong united team and working together to develop the Cadets who will be the firefighters and leaders of the future for the CFS and SES.

>> Cadet Leaders from CFS and SES had the following to say...

"an absolute asset to understand and implement Cadet programs"

"good networking over the weekend"

"information easy to understand and practical"

"mind shift change"

"learnt to incorporate core skills and have fun"

"great organisation skills to take back to Brigade and Unit"



>> Smiles all around at the Cadet Leaders training program



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VOLUNTEER - CADET CORNER

Light Group field day & cadet camp

By: Michael Alderslade (Cadet Co-ordinator Sheaoak Log CFS)

Field day

Freeling, Sheaoak Log and Roseworthy cadets held a field day on Sunday, September 4, at the Freeling Station. The day began with the cadets doing a hose exercise at Schuster's Farm.

When they returned to the station the SA Ambulance crew from Hamley Bridge (Heather and Louise) gave them a tour through their vehicle. Most of the cadets were lucky enough to become patients for some of the demonstrations.

After lunch, Heather and Louise, with the help of cadets and seniors demonstrated a truck rescue. All the cadets found this exercise very interesting and informative (including the seniors and parents that were there).

Cadet camp

Cadets from Freeling, Sheaoak Log, Roseworthy and Two Wells attended a camp at Seeone Hills at Piccadilly, on the weekend of October 21-23.

On the Saturday, the cadets walked 3km to

the Woodhouse Activity Centre where 'Woody's Challenge Hill' awaited the cadets and cadet leaders at Woodhouse.

On return to the campsite, they then enjoyed a night by the bonfire, eating marshmallows and baking potatoes. Everyone slept very well.

On Sunday, the cadets went to the CFS State Training Centre at Brukunga.

Brenton Eden, CFS Manager Training, explained to the cadets that the Training Centre is used by CFS volunteers and staff for training and

also by SA Ambulance and MFS crews.

They then enjoyed a tour where they were shown through the accommodation areas, training rooms, BA training areas, storage areas and dining room.

The cadets were given a demonstration of a gas fire on the hot pads. They were then lucky enough to watch some CFS volunteers put through Compartment Fire Behaviour training before having a magnificent lunch.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

By: Adele Tapscott, Orroroo CFS

Undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Awards through CFS cadets has allowed

me to become more actively involved in the community and further develop my confidence and commitment.

Having just completed my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards, I am now inspired to continue and complete my silver and gold levels.

The Bronze award involved undertaking community service or developing skills in four different areas. These areas included a skill, a service, an adventurous journey and a physical recreation.

My service was elderly aged care, my skill was computing (doing the Orroroo Football Budget), I went on a camp to Spear Creek for my adventurous journey and I played and coached netball for my physical recreation.



To be... a squirrel, beaver or goose?



By: Julie Francis, SAFECOM Youth Programs Officer

Our young cadets have been mesmerised by the great story-telling of Bob Kearney, CFS Volunteer Training Consultant, who spoke with them about the various aspects of leadership, including Gung Ho, Listening to Lead, Dealing with Bullies and What is a Leader.

Cadets also participated in teamwork and leadership activities run

by Bob to develop their understanding of the practical aspects.

Throughout the past 12 months, Bob has travelled around the state to the regions to deliver this one-day training for the Cadet Membership of both CFS and SES, with over 60 cadets attending.

I would like to thank him for his time and effort to support our cadets in their development.



[THE BLUFF IS NO BLUFF]

By: Pump Davey, Kimba CFS

A location not even identified by an 'X' on the map was the place to be on the weekend of October 21-23 if you wanted to make new friends, be a part of new teams and acquire experiences that will stay with you for a lifetime.

Yes, this weekend was full of highlights. So where does one start to tell the story of the events that unfolded at the Waddikee Campsite 2005 - which was no more than a single building known as the Waddikee Football Club Rooms in the corner paddock with only a green oval which is used in winter for football and summer for cricket!

Kimba CFS Brigade was the host and camp organisers for the 71

sleds were reeled in by wooden look-alike fishing rods. There were many events culminating in the grand final with Koadey Collard from CFS Ceduna being our champion jockey. Congratulations!

On Saturday morning, the cadets were placed into eight teams with each member coming from a different CFS brigade. They were given a coloured baseball cap for team identification and then it was off to 'The Bluff'.

The weather forecast lived up to expectations, with clear skies and a warm day providing perfect climbing conditions to face the challenges that lay ahead.

Four walking routes were marked out with coloured ribbons for the cadets to follow,

with another team halfway and also participated in new challenges. The Bluff was certainly a great way to develop team spirits and cooperation to ensure that no one got lost in the scrub.

Horizon Edge could be seen from the top of The Bluff and also in the Waddikee Football Club Rooms at night. How is this so, you ask? Horizon Edge is the name of a local band made up of young country lads who put together some

did not dampen our spirits as teams set out to participate in "Stretcher Sadness", "Tunnel", "Crazy Throwing" and "Big Feet" activities.

Throughout the weekend, teams could buy and sell clues for the activities and challenges.

They were also awarded for good teamwork and fined for anything the cadet leaders could think of and get away with! The winner of the weekend who had the most money was the navy blue team. Congratulations!

The cadet leaders challenged the cadets to a game of tug of war, however it is still being debated who won and whether the leaders cheated by using a 4WD as their anchorman!

A big thank you to all of the cadet leaders who worked brilliantly over the weekend and provided support for the camp.

The cadets showed their appreciation by giving a round of 'three cheers' to the leaders and myself for our contribution in organising a successful weekend that was greatly appreciated. In closing, if you weren't at Waddikee - where were you, because we had a ball!



>> Competition between the cadets and the leaders was strong in the tug of war

>> A fun filled weekend was had by all



cadets from 11 brigades from Regions 4 and 6. (CFS Region 6 - CFS Kimba, CFS Ceduna, CFS Cowell and CFS Port Lincoln. CFS Region 4 - CFS Andamooka, CFS Woomera, CFS Orroroo, CFS Burra, CFS Mt Byran, CFS Whyte Yarcowie, CFS Yongala.)

We held our own Spring Carnival Races with the Pornamikinnie Cup. Wooden horses on

with teams starting at both the top and bottom. As they set out they were to meet the other team halfway with challenges to complete. After this encounter they continued in the direction they set out on, and lunch was waiting for each group at the top and bottom of The Bluff.

In the afternoon, teams followed a different route and met

great sets of music to entertain us all.

A special thank you must go to our catering team, Tanya Nottle and Donna Pengelley, for not only providing egg and bacon muffins for breakfast on Sunday morning, but also for the meals they provided throughout the whole weekend; everyone went home kilos heavier!

Sunday brought wind and rain, however this

INTERSCHUTZ 2005

By: Arthur Tindall, Manager
Infrastructure and Logistics

Interschutz is broadly recognised as the premier international expo for fire and rescue related resources.

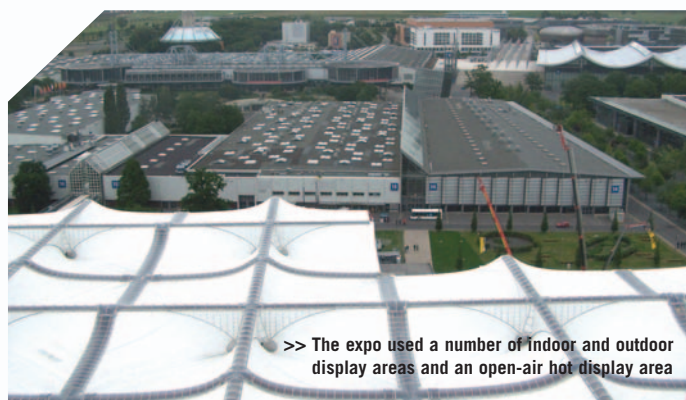
Held every five years, the 2005 exhibition took place between June 6-11 in Hanover, Germany, and drew 1,385 exhibitors and 140,000 delegates from around the world. Around 50 delegates travelled from Australia to Hanover. South Australia was well represented with Commander Chris Smith, SAMFS, Mike Pearce, SAFECOM Manager Procurement, Dale Thompson, Fire and Rescue Australia, Trevor Wing, Darley Pumps Australia and Arthur Tindall, CFS Manager Infrastructure and Logistics, attending. The expo showcased a huge range of new products, equipment and live demonstrations over an area around four times the size of the Royal Adelaide Showgrounds.

but rather those of an evolutionary nature. The evolutionary developments have focused on making best use of the available space within the vehicle to meet the ever-increasing requirement to carry additional equipment, an issue that is extremely relevant to the CFS.

However one item to note is that many of these European appliances had heavy gear stowed in positions that required climbing and awkward lifts to access it. These standards would not be in line with the OHSW standards that we work within in South Australia.

Some very clever appliances of a smaller design were on show. The design of these units is influenced by flexibility, manoeuvrability, cost, and licensing requirements.

The collection of smaller equipment ranges from utility based units (1 tonne +) through to medium trucks. These units are based on commercial vans or commercial cab chassis fitted with fabricated bodies of aluminium or plastic. Often stand alone pumps such as the Rosenbauer Fox are fitted on roll-out trays to facilitate quick changeover



>> The expo used a number of indoor and outdoor display areas and an open-air hot display area

>> An outdoor display of fire appliances



Appliances

The vast majority of vehicles on display were urban type appliances. It was evident that there were no significant developments in design,



>> A light 4X4 appliance



>> A light urban style appliance



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VOLUNTEER - EQUIPMENT & TECHNOLOGY



>> A training module



>> Crew cab rural appliance



>> A rural appliance bound for South Africa



>> Cobra cutting technology



>> A modular pump



>> An articulated light appliance showing demountable pump at rear



>> Examples of a Modular pump with electronic controls

should this become necessary for maintenance purposes.

A large range of 4x4 cab chassis were on display, however most of them are unavailable in Australia.

The European designs for rural appliances vary significantly from what we produce in Australia.

Firefighting systems

A number of products were on show that focused on alternative approaches to firefighting. In most cases the intent was to minimise and conserve the use of water. Invariably this entailed the use of either medium to high pressure misting, water atomisation technologies, Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS) or conventional foam systems.

Two examples of this alternate technology were the Ifex and Cobra systems.

Cobra Impulse technology relies on the discharge of an extinguishing agent at high velocity to the seat of a fire. Air resistance acting on the water stream breaks the droplets down to around 100 micron, thus increasing the effective surface area of the medium to dissipate the heat.

The Cobra cold cut system has its roots in industrial cutting technology. The system utilises high-pressure water and an abrasive agent to cut through building materials such as masonry, glass and metal.

Once through the structure the abrasive is shut off and the water spray remains to cool the building prior to more conventional firefighting attack.

Multi-use modular transport systems

This year's show indicated a maturing of the modular transport concept for emergency response vehicles

with systems ranging in size from around 3.5 tonne GVM to 20 tonne+ GVM on display.

This concept allows modules (also known as PODS) to be unloaded from the vehicle and placed on the ground with ease.



The majority of vehicles on display used a hook-lift roll-off system for deployment.

Modules can be designed to accommodate any function that will fit into the equivalent of a 6m shipping container and this could include a module for base camp storage, transportation and office or even a bulk water carrier.

Pumps

The majority of pump development was focused on packaging the pump, operating modes and auxiliary systems into a simple and convenient to use package. The increasing use of electronics was also evident.

It was also interesting to see that a large number of recognised pump manufacturers now have CAFS as either an add-on or integrated package option.



In Europe, almost all vehicles incorporate rear-mount pumps.

Hydraulic rescue equipment



Both Holmatro and Lukas, the brands predominantly used by the CFS, displayed new developments in their products.

Holmatro has developed an enhancement to its product range called 'Core Technology'. This involves running the high-pressure line inside the outer return line.

This new arrangement improves safety due to the double shielding of the pressure line. It also improves manual handling and enables tool change over at the tools without returning to the power unit to operate a dump valve.

Lukas displayed new and improved battery operated products and a prototype spreader with Kevlar arms that reduced the weight of the product considerably.

Conclusion

The breadth of exhibitors at Interschutz demands that only an awareness of products can be gained during the show. However it does provide us with the opportunity to consider and identify alternate equipment or processes and their relevance to the CFS.

One area that will now be considered and perused by the CFS following the exhibition is the concept of a hook-lift multi-use vehicle for deployment of our chemical, biological and radiological cache, base camp and as a bulk water carrier.

Our continuing attendance at Interschutz and other such exhibitions will ensure we remain aware of relevant developments in fire and emergency service equipment and technologies.





EQUIPMENT NEWS

[LEIGH CREEK NRG FIRE SERVICE NOW ONLINE WITH CFS AND THE SA-GRN]

By: Gary Bau, CFS Communications Coordinator

On September 15 and 16, two CFS representatives travelled to Leigh Creek in the state's arid north to provide training to the Leigh Creek NRG Fire Service on the SA-GRN and the ALERTS system.

The Leigh Creek Fire Service traditionally used the ERS7 response system, but following a request by Telstra that they replace their system, and with the support of Region 4, the Fire Service has come onto the SA-GRN Network and adopted the ALERTS system.

The ALERTS system is a

proven solution for telephone response calls and is significantly more affordable than the other options offered to them.

Adoption of the ALERTS system caused a ripple effect through the brigade as they found they needed GRN pagers to respond their 12 firefighters and GRN radios as their current radio system was failing.

To assist and help develop stronger relations between the CFS and the Leigh Creek Fire Service, Alan Gilchrist, CFS Flinders Group Communications Officer, and Gary Bau, CFS



Communications Coordinator, travelled to Leigh Creek to train the brigade in GRN voice, GRN pagers and the ALERTS system.

The brigade warmly welcomed the duo and Captain Terry Fuchs provided every assistance and

expressed his appreciation for the training, documentation and support.

Leigh Creek Fire Services is now well and truly part of the CFS response mechanism and now using the State's communications system – SA-GRN.

NEWS AND UPDATES

[SACAD PROJECT UPDATE]

By: Gary Bau, CFS Communications Coordinator

The consultation process with volunteers and staff regarding the transition to SACAD has continued with presentations to the Strategic Leadership Group, State Volunteer Management Committee, VFBA, State Telecommunications committee and most Regional Operations Committees.

The key information relating to the project at this stage is outlined below.

The State Government has determined there will be three SACAD centres.

These centres are already established at the SA Police Communications Centre, SA Ambulance Communications Centre and the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) Communications Centre, located in Wakefield Street, which will become the SAFECOM

Communications Centre.

The SAFECOM centre will provide call receipt and despatch (CRD) via SACAD for CFS, MFS and the State Emergency Service.

CFS CRD will be handled at the SAFECOM Communications Centre, with the exact model of call taking and dispatch still to be agreed.

The Alerts system will be retained both during the transition and beyond.

The CFS State Operations Call Centre will be retained to undertake resource tracking and to support staff and volunteers with operations and information.

The CFS will promote and use the one national emergency response number 000.

All 000 calls will be answered centrally and

brigades paged for responses.

The CFS is currently negotiating a Service Level Agreement with the MFS before transitions will take place.

Brigade and group response plans will be documented and submitted via regional offices.

SACAD will come into operation for the emergency services within SAFECOM from 2007.

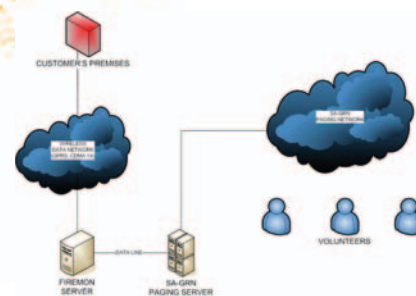
The SACAD project will mean further change in the way the CFS handles its call and incident response.

However for the first time, it will ensure all response plans are documented and fully transparent, with a strong focus on capturing local knowledge to assist in the CRD process.

It will also ensure best practice standards are maintained, with each

SACAD centre having the caller line identity (CLI) feature, providing visibility of the caller's details and ensuring the planned response is transparent.

GENERAL NEWS [FIXED ALARM REPLACEMENT PROJECT]



>> A high level block diagram of the system

The CFS has commenced a project to progressively replace all fixed premises alarms throughout the service.

This project brings many benefits, with one of the most important benefits being the predicted reduction in the amount of volunteer time spent in the regular testing and maintenance of fire alarm panels in fire stations.

Other benefits include the removal of aging and unserviceable fire alarm panels in stations, and the elimination of the dependency on local copper cable which is prone to failure.

The project will also ensure that our approach to fixed alarm monitoring conforms to Australian Standards, and provides the necessary management reporting tools to meet the standards.

Following an analysis of available systems, the CFS elected to implement the FireMon Product provided by Romteck (Australia). This system is in

widespread use in fire services throughout Australia.

Advances in technology have allowed the CFS to opt for an implementation that replaces the existing fixed Telstra lines between the customer's premises and the local CFS fire station with a wireless transmission system.

HOW DOES THE SYSTEM WORK?

Equipment located at the customer's premises (CPE) monitors the fire alarm equipment – much the same as the current system, but in this instance the CPE is not connected to the local fire station.

Instead, the CPE communicates with a central FireMon server located in Adelaide via a wireless data network.

The wireless data network is based on the mobile data services available on the GSM and CDMA mobile telephone networks (referred to as GPRS and 1X respectively).

When an alarm condition or any abnormal condition (such as isolate, test) is detected

by the CPE, it communicates this information to the FireMon server via the wireless data network.

In the event that the wireless data network is unavailable, the information is sent via a dial-up connection using the public switched telephone network from the customer's premises.

The FireMon server is programmed with a set of business rules that determines the action to be taken in response to the alarm condition received.

In the event of a confirmed fire alarm, the FireMon server communicates with the SA-GRN paging server to send a pre-programmed response message and respond the appropriate CFS resource(s).

The pre-programmed paging message is also displayed in the CFS State Operations Centre which then assumes responsibility for monitoring the response to the alarm.

The pre-programmed paging messages can be set up to suit local requirements, allowing for different

messages and recipients depending on time of day, and a full description of the alarm and details of the location.

The FireMon system also monitors conditions such as CPE units set in test mode and produces a response to alert the appropriate CFS officers if the CPE remains in this mode for an excessive time.

TIMING

The project has commenced with 20 fixed alarms currently being installed to trial the system.

Following a successful trial, all remaining fixed alarms throughout the CFS will be progressively migrated to the FireMon system with a targeted completion in June 2006.

CONSULTATION

Groups will be contacted progressively to confirm details of the location of fixed premises alarms in their area of responsibility and to agree the content and recipients of paging messages.

For any information related to fixed alarm monitoring, please contact the following:

MAX MCALISTER

Senior Built Environment Officer
Built Environment Fire Safety Unit
Phone: (08) 8204 3653
Mobile: 0427 977 090

MARK O'CALLAGHAN

FireMon Project Rollout Officer
Prevention Services
Phone: (08) 8463 4128
Mobile: 0428 102 812

FACES IN THE CROWD

62  VOLUNTEER FACES IN THE CROWD



[SPEAKING WITH ANTHONY WHITE]

Anthony White joined the CFS as a cadet in 1982 and until recently held the rank of Captain with Lincoln brigade. That has now been relinquished as Anthony has taken on the role of Deputy Three with the Lower Eyre Peninsula Group until elections take place in February.

Living in Cleve at the time, Anthony joined the local brigade as a cadet to gain experience and to learn about firefighting.

"I'd found an interest in CFS, it was one way I could give something back to the community. I also really enjoyed the competitions. We

had a strong team in Cleve and that meant we were usually competitive," said Anthony.

"It's a great training ground for young people to learn firefighting skills and have fun at the same time."

Anthony would like to see a return to regional based CFS competitions.

"It would be great to re-introduce competitions into each region. Our cadets thoroughly enjoyed the last event at Callington, but it was a really long weekend for everyone involved," said Anthony.

"Being involved in the cadet

training is very rewarding, watching them come from knowing nothing about the CFS to becoming a competent firefighter is fantastic.

"It can be frustrating when they finish school and move elsewhere to look for work, but it's worth it knowing that the skills they have learned will stay with them for life."

COMMITTED TO CFS

Away from CFS, Anthony runs a successful fire protection company in Port Lincoln.

He is married to Karina who later joined the CFS as a member after deciding "if you can't beat them, join them".

"I met my wife at Port Lincoln in 1989. I was the Brigade Captain at the time and she could see how much time I was spending at CFS; she thought it would be a fun way for us to spend more time together so she joined the brigade as well," he said.

"It's not a bad recruiting technique I guess.

"Receiving the National Medal in 2003 and being granted CFS Life Membership earlier this year was a huge honour.

"I really didn't expect those awards but it does make you very proud when you are recognised in that way."

TRAINING AS A PASSION

Anthony is also passionate about training, spending many hours instructing on courses in the Eyre Peninsula.

"I started instructing in 1989 and was until recently a qualified Breathing Apparatus (BA) and Hazmat instructor," he said.

"There is a real buzz when you see someone put on a BA set for the first time and then become a competent operator."

"Instructing also gives you the opportunity to meet people and have a lot of fun. I have developed some strong friendships after meeting

people on a training course.

"So many good times are had once a course finishes for the day and people relax around the camp fire and let their hair down."

ON THE EYRE PENINSULA BUSHFIRES

Anthony believes that the January 11 fires

strengthened the resolve and commitment of the members of the Lincoln brigade.

"The Black Tuesday fire was a real eye-opener to many people in the community over here, most people thought something like that would never happen on the Eyre Peninsula," said Anthony.

"It has been encouraging to see people are now undertaking prevention work around their properties to ensure they are ready for this fire danger season."

"The January fires have definitely brought the brigade closer together.

"We spend a lot of time getting the members together regularly to discuss any issues as they arise.

"The support shown by all of our brigade personnel as well as other sections of the CFS has been fantastic."

ON A NEW STATION

"My current CFS goal is to see the brigade move into a

new station," he said.

"We moved into temporary accommodation around 25 years ago, and we're yet to find a permanent home."

"We understand something might be happening soon and when it does the celebration will be huge and everyone will be invited.

"CFS is my hobby, I try not to get bogged down in it all but sometimes it can consume your life a bit.

"When you stop enjoying it is when you know it's time to give it away, but I'm still enjoying it!"



[SPEAKING WITH WAYNE THORLEY]

Wayne Thorley is a busy person, between running a dairy farm at Jervois, and filling the roles of Swanport Group, Deputy Group Officer VFBA, Vice President and VFBA representative on the SAFECOM Board, he doesn't have a lot of spare time.

He did manage to spare a few minutes with us though to share his thoughts on the CFS.

ON JOINING THE CFS

Moving up through the CFS ranks, Wayne has held many positions at brigade and group level, including two years as Jervois CFS Brigade Captain, and stints as Swanport Deputy Group Officer and Group Administration and Equipment Officer.

"I joined the Jervois brigade in November 1983. After the Ash Wednesday bushfires I felt I needed to do something and joining the local brigade was my way of assisting the community," Wayne said.

"We have a good mix of brigades in the Swanport Group, they are all enthusiastic and positive towards training and responding to incidents, and

we pride ourselves on always being able to quickly supply a strike team or task force when asked.

"Our group responds to a high number of vehicle accidents on the highway and I take my hat off to brigades like Tailem Bend and Murray Bridge that have to deal with the trauma of these incidents so regularly. It is something that the community takes for granted."

ON FRIENDSHIPS AND AWARD RECOGNITION

Wayne values the life-long friendships he has formed over awards and citations.

"I like to keep a low profile when it comes to receiving awards, but I recently received the National Medal," he said.

"Receiving awards are great, but I'm happier with a thanks and a pat on the back after a good outcome at a job rather than awards and medals.

"What I most value from the CFS are the long term friendships and camaraderie that's built up when you're out at an incident or just working at the station.

"Those real friendships help

with the ability to lead people through challenging situations.

"Being able to make a real difference, especially when you've done your best is worth more than anything else.

"I've never held back from doing things and with the support of those around you it is possible to achieve a lot in this organisation. This support, and the friendships, really help to build your confidence and this makes you a better person outside the CFS as well."

ON FALLING IN A HOLE

Wayne says he's always 'extra cautious' now when he responds to flooding incidents.

"We had some flooding around Murray Bridge a few years ago, and I thought I was stepping into a puddle, but next thing I knew the water was over my head," he said.

"I'd actually dropped into a six-metre drain and the guys still give me a hard time about that one."

ON BEING THE VFBA VICE PRESIDENT

"Serving as the VFBA Vice President for the past four years has been a great experience," he said.





"I now have a much greater understanding of the organisation and it has given me the opportunity to influence the direction of the service, particularly in the way we support volunteers. "People should view the VFBA as a way to have an influence on the CFS, as that is exactly what the association is designed to do.

"We are here to represent volunteers and raise their concerns, be objective and innovative, and assist the CFS in providing a better service.

"In the long term I think the VFBA will continue to grow stronger.

"We need to carry on providing leadership and advice on a range of issues, as well as working with the CFS in making decisions for the benefit of both the

volunteers and the CFS as an organisation."

SAFECOM

Wayne explains that as a member of the SAFECOM Board he is excited by the new challenges ahead of him.

"I see SAFECOM as a very important part in the process of governance for the whole emergency services sector," he said.

"We are looking to assist the agencies in setting a direction and moving forward in a positive way.

"I can already see the relationships between the different agencies building into a more cohesive position. This can only be positive for the community and agencies, and will also lead to efficiencies and make things more cost effective.

"This is not something that

I'd do forever, but I've got the opportunity to make a difference and that's not something you can allow to pass by. "

ON MANAGING CFS INCIDENTS WELL

Wayne has high praise for the volunteers who spend countless hours responding to emergencies.

"It astounds me that a volunteer service can respond to more than 8,000 emergency incidents in a year," said Wayne.

"We do it with good equipment, in a very efficient manner and we should be proud of the great service we provide.

"Our training facility at Brukunga is world class, and other services now recognise CFS as a leader in this field. We just need to ensure that

volunteers in rural areas get the same opportunities to keep their skills up as those in busier brigades.

"People are getting busier and busier, and we need to find the right balance between providing an efficient volunteer fire service and keeping our members happy and wanting to come back."



[**SPEAKING** WITH NOELINE HUNT]

As a life member of the Dalkeith brigade, Noeline Hunt is a Third Lieutenant and has held the role of Lieutenant for the past 12 years.

Whilst relishing her role, Noeline enjoys concentrating her efforts on training younger members.

Noeline originally joined the Smithfield CFS Brigade, which in 1994 merged with the Evanston Gardens Brigade to form what is known as the Dalkeith Brigade.

As an avid football fan, Noeline has held season tickets for the Adelaide Crows for the past 13 years and enjoys going to their games and spending time with family and friends.

ON JOINING THE CFS IN THE 1980s:

"When I joined the CFS in

the 1980s, firefighting was still a male domain and female volunteers were on the auxiliary list cutting up sandwiches and cleaning the stations," she said.

"I was very lucky to have the support and encouragement of Ken Clarke, former Captain of Smithfield CFS brigade. Ken was a key instigator in encouraging me to move beyond an indoor role and getting involved on the end of the hose.

"Over the years it's been a real challenge to see both male and females move away from the mentality that it's only men who can fight fires."

ON SUPPORT FROM HER EMPLOYERS

"I work full-time for Woolworth's and they've always been fully supportive of

my role in the CFS," she said.

"It's been great and has allowed me to contribute more to the CFS than others who do not receive the support from their employers that I do. I really enjoy helping the community, and Woolworths' support assists me with doing this.

"Woolworths has been so supportive when I've gone on strike teams and interstate deployments, so much so that when I went to NSW to fight the fires in 1994, they continued to pay my wages.

"This has been integral in allowing my continued commitment to the CFS."

CHANGES IN THE CFS OVER THE YEARS

"I believe the CFS has come a long way since I've been a member," she said.

"These changes have not

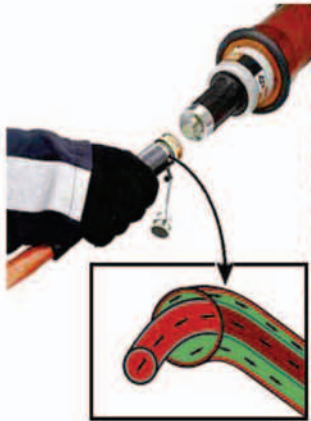
just been in promoting the role of females as active firefighters but in the equipment we use and wear, and how we operate.

"We've got more advanced response plans, better personal protective equipment, but at the same time some of the younger members aren't getting the on-ground experience that they would have 10-15 years ago, so training becomes very important."

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PHAMOUS PHOTOS

KEEP THOSE CAMERAS SNAPPING!

Send your photos into *Volunteer* and help everyone reminisce, laugh and show the CFS at its best.

You could win a mystery prize to the value of \$50 by entering the *Volunteer* photo competition.

>> When we called for water, we didn't mean that much! - Photo: Matt Bonser



>> Soaking up the heat after a busy day - Photo: Anonymous

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.

>> At a training night Morphet Vale cadets tested the effect of a dry chemical fire extinguisher on a fuel fire
Photo: Jarred Atkinson, Morphet Vale CFS



>> A future firefighter – at four years old Jack tries Dad's old CFS uniform for size
Photo: Sam Mumford, Parndana CFS



SA COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE STATE HEADQUARTERS

Level 7, 60 Waymouth Street, Adelaide
GPO Box 2468, Adelaide SA 5001
T: 08 8463 4200
F: 08 8463 4234
E: cfshq@cfs.org.au
W: www.cfs.org.au
CFS Bushfire Information Hotline: 1300 362 361

REGIONAL OFFICES

REGION 1

Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island
75 Gawler Street, Mount Barker SA 5251
T: 08 8391 1866
E: cfsr1@cfs.org.au

REGION 2

Mount Lofty Ranges, Yorke Peninsula
and Lower North
8 Redbanks Road, Willaston SA 5118
T: 08 8522 6088
E: cfsr2@cfs.org.au

REGION 3

Murraylands and Riverland
Corner of Second Street and Seventh Street
Murray Bridge SA 5253
T: 08 8532 6800
E: cfsr3@cfs.org.au

REGION 4

Flinders, Mid North and Pastoral areas
3 Main Street, Port Augusta SA 5700
T: 08 8642 2399
E: cfsr4@cfs.org.au

REGION 5

South East
46 Smith Street, Naracoorte SA 5271
T: 08 8762 2311
E: cfsr5@cfs.org.au

REGION 6

Eyre Peninsula and West Coast
Level 1, Jobomi House
48 Liverpool Street, Port Lincoln SA 5606
T: 08 8682 4266
E: cfsr6@cfs.org.au

STATE TRAINING CENTRE (BRUKUNGA)

6 Pyrites Road, Brukunga SA 5252
T: 08 8398 9900
E: cfstrain@cfs.org.au

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADES ASSOCIATION

17 Wirriga Street, Regency Park SA 5010
T: 08 8244 6500
F: 08 8244 6400
E: admin@savfba.org.au
W: www.savfba.org.au

CONTACT DETAILS

OBITUARY

FRED KERR

Fred Kerr, who in many ways is considered the founding father of the present SA Country Fire Service, passed away on October 9, 2005.

Through his vision, commitment and diligence, Fred built a great organisation, rising through the ranks from a firefighter, to the youngest ever station officer, eventually being asked to develop the Emergency Fire Service (EFS).

Under Fred's administration, the EFS grew from 87 brigades and 600 volunteers to 460 brigades and 11,000 volunteers.

He once commented that "the most gratifying part" in the build up of the organisation was the response of the country people as volunteers in

the service.

"I have found that people who volunteer for such services are a class by themselves," said Fred.

"They take pride in their work and their equipment, and response to duty with seemingly little effort."

In an interview conducted as he retired after 30 years with the CFS, he commented, "the CFS had grown into a worthwhile organisation for the state, one which never in my most extravagant dreams did I imagine 30 years ago".

Amongst many awards and commendations, Fred was made a member of the order of Australia in 1980 and a life member of the CFS.

The CFS pays tribute to Fred and his efforts in making the CFS what it is today.



66

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