

**VOLUNTEER**



Government  
of South Australia





# WELCOME TO VOLUNTEER MAGAZINE

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Front cover image taken by Pip McGowan, Basket Range CFS conducting a burn off at Forest Range.

**Managing Editor:** Krista St John Tel 08 8463 4214 **Editors:** Melanie Hunter and Heidi Geytenbeek Tel 08 8463 4206 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](mailto: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: 16 April 2007.** *Volunteer* is published by Boylen Publishing. Comments and opinions expressed in *Volunteer* do not necessarily represent the views of the CFS. *Volunteer* is free to all CFS volunteers.

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## **CHIEF OFFICER EVAN FERGUSON**

**T**he ongoing drought and effects of climate change are having a significant impact on CFS. In the short term, CFS will be looking at ways to do our job with less water.

Examples of new measures under discussion include:

- Provision of more 'quick attack' vehicles for forest firefighting.
- Enhancing our capacity for 'dry' firefighting with bulldozers and hand tools, and
- Developing policies for the replenishment of water taken for firefighting from farm dams in drought declared areas.

The drought, combined with a growing mining boom in the north and west of the State, are also changing the number of volunteers who are available for CFS.

You will shortly hear of a discussion paper to make changes to our recruitment and membership categories. Indeed, you may have already heard or read of these plans in the media.

There is little doubt that, in the not too distant future, CFS will face a significant shortfall of volunteers in parts of the State.

The discussion paper proposes ways to get new volunteers 'on the back of a truck' sooner, and to introduce new categories of membership for farmers and for people who just want to fight bushfires. I look forward to your feedback on these proposed directions.

It is appropriate that I comment on 'protection of volunteers' — an issue that comes up regularly in my visits around the State.

The *Fire and Emergency Services Act* provides probably the best legal protection for CFS members (both paid and volunteer) in the land. Section 127 provides for protection from criminal and civil liability for CFS personnel for their actions (or omissions) during CFS activities.

Further, it is worthwhile noting that Section 60 of the Act clearly gives the Chief Officer overall responsibility for CFS operations.

In relation to legal representation, the policy of the Government is to ensure that CFS members are afforded appropriate legal advice at no cost to themselves (when legal representation is required after an incident).

During the course of the Wangary Fire Coronial Inquest, all CFS personnel have been afforded personal legal representation at no cost to themselves. Volunteers should be confident that in South Australia, CFS and other emergency service personnel have the best legal protection and support that is available.

As we near the end of a serious fire season, we seem to have escaped the devastation that has occurred in other States. This is not good luck. The hard work and selfless commitment of our volunteers, staff and personnel from other agencies, such as SAFECOM, DEH, Forestry SA, SAMFS and SES, has been the decisive factor in ensuring a safer community in South Australia.

To each and every one of you:

**Thank you! Keep up the great work!**





## **[ MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES Hon. Carmel Zollo**

**I**'ve just spent my second Christmas as Minister for Emergency Services and one of my Christmas wishes was for a safe fire season.

As we are all well aware, it has been touted as one of the worst seasons we've seen in some time and conditions have indeed put many of you to the test right across the State.

This season we're frequently hearing the words 'climate change' and 'global warming' – things that do have a significant impact on bushfire conditions and the strategies needed to fight fires.

On 15 October 2006, as it became clear a lack of rain was about to turn South Australia into a tinderbox, we took the unprecedented step of bringing the fire season forward, right round the State.

This meant an earlier start of four to six weeks and also an earlier start to aerial firefighting.

The police have also placed a large number of resources into the areas most at risk, because sadly, too many fires are the work of arsonists.

We also made it clear that the spirit of co-operation needs to extend to other members of the community as well.

The State Government is committed to supporting the Emergency Services as they build on their strategic responses and we want to make sure the community is 'on board'.

At the beginning of December 2006, the Premier and I launched a new media campaign, which focuses on encouraging property owners to have a bushfire plan and educates them on some of the continuing myths.

The message is getting through to many, as we saw at Mt Bold, but there are still an alarming number of people who aren't doing the right thing in preparing their properties and having a plan in place.

The work that's done to prepare homes can make a big difference in the event of a disaster.

It's vital that you have this support

from the rest of the community.

The Government has also provided funding for the expansion of the CFS's community education and bushfire awareness programs and part-time community education officers.

They are going a long way to keep the lines of communication and co-operation open – leading to a greater level of community safety through increased understanding and adoption of bushfire safety and practices.

I never cease to be impressed by the work you do. You can be called on at all hours, to deal with life threatening conditions and your unwavering dedication and selflessness is an example to all South Australians.

As a continuing reminder of how devastating bushfires can be, the Coronial Inquest into the tragic Wangary bushfire has also made this a difficult year.

My thoughts are with those who have provided evidence.

On a lighter note, we marked the first anniversary since establishment of the SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM) in October.

Real and tangible changes will continue to be made to the administrative and strategic arrangements that govern the emergency services sector – and the aim of those changes is to have benefits that flow through to you at the 'front line' – you have a volunteer base that is second to none and this Government is committed to supporting it.

In the Government's 2006-07 Budget, I was pleased to advise that a number of initiatives have been approved for the emergency services sector.

Many people are not aware that the Emergency Services Levy from the general public only funds approximately half of the costs of providing emergency services. As Minister my role in the budget process is therefore essential to

ensure that priorities identified by the sector are recognised

Recognising your efforts is also important to me and in November last year I was pleased to once again present the SA Emergency Services and Ministerial Commendations.

My congratulations again go to CFS medal recipients, Yvette Lee Dowling and Rex Hall – as well as the recipients of commendations, Brenton Eden, Edward Wehrmann, Trevor Rodda and Bryan Trigg.

It's estimated that in South Australia, four out of ten people undertake some kind of voluntary service or work – and this ranks as the highest rate of volunteer participation in Australia.

From an impressive CFS pool it's great to see that each year there is no shortage of names to add to the list of those honoured through these medals and commendations.

In the past year I have also enjoyed travelling around regional South Australia, visiting brigades and units and meeting staff and volunteers who dedicate their time to protecting their communities.

I was delighted to open a fully refurbished two-bay fire station for the CFS Tanunda Brigade last November, and wish members all the best for their 50th anniversary celebrations this year.

The opening of this station continues the progress being made by this Government in developing emergency service facilities. Currently, an average of eight new or refurbished stations are being brought on line each year. Since coming to Government we have opened 28 new CFS stations with a further five new stations due to be completed over the coming months

I look forward to more openings and visits in 2007; so that I can thank more of you personally for your efforts and commitment. In the meantime, I wish everyone a safe and rewarding year.



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VOLUNTEER - WELCOMES





## **[ SAVFBA PRESIDENT KEN SCHUTZ AFSM**

**W**e all say that life just keeps getting busier and busier; well the same goes for the VFBA.

The VFBA is now more recognised throughout the state and is called upon by an increasing number of CFS volunteers and staff to help out where possible to rectify a situation or to mediate between two parties. It is good that the VFBA can assist with this and allows us to be seen as an association that gets results.

This however has put a strain on the financial situation of the association, especially since we have not been able to secure an increase in the grant from CFS other than CPI increase.

The current raffle funds, that we use to prop up our expenditure, will run out by 2007/08 if we continue to go along as we are.

Earlier in the year the Executive felt that we needed to employ a Project Officer on a part time basis to, among other things, bring in extra funds to the Association through grant applications and sponsorship.

We were hoping to be able to fund this position with an increase to our funds from CFS for the first year to get ourselves started, however this was not forthcoming.

The Executive have therefore approved spending some of the remaining raffle money to fund a project officer on a part-time basis (1.5-2 days/week for the remainder of the financial year), to secure extra funding for the Association and also to finance this position into the following financial year.

This was ratified during the AGM on 22 October 2006 and I am now happy to announce that the SAVFBA has secured the services of Brenton Ragless as our part-time Project Officer.

Brenton earlier held the position of Media Liaison Officer with the CFS and I believe he will prove to be a valuable member of the VFBA team and welcome him aboard.

While we are thinking about the demands on the Association there will most likely be an even bigger

increase on the VFBA services as the state moves into the fire season.

Most of South Australia is currently experiencing drought conditions, which will undoubtedly have an affect on our volunteers.

The income of more than 90 percent of our volunteers is in one way or the other linked to the rural sector, either directly or just slightly indirectly.

When people have a lowering of their income, certain activities will be put aside if it costs them in anyway, and volunteering for CFS may unfortunately be one of these activities.

The remaining 10 percent who are not as closely related to the rural sector will still feel some effects of the drought in a lesser form.

The dry weather conditions we have experienced will likely contribute to this fire season being a bad one.

Although the fuel loads in many places are not as heavy when compared to other years they are extremely dry and much of the state is ready to burn much earlier than we would usually see.

This year, the fire danger season was brought forward across all of the fire ban districts and we have already experienced several days of total fire bans and some significant fires. It's looking like our volunteers may be in for a very busy season this year; - let's hope not.

The VFBA will have to be ready to support our volunteers in their endeavours to cope with a range of issues including brigades not having enough numbers for callouts, increasing calls for remuneration of expenses, issues arising from attending incidents and possibly an increase of conflict resolution.

Unfortunately we aren't in a situation to be able to offer financial assistance to many of these issues, but we can help volunteers work through issues as we have done with the Wangary Fire Inquest and other issues over the past years.

At the recent AGM, elections where held of officer bearers and the same people were returned. The positions continue with myself as President,

Wayne Thorley as Vice President, and Glen Wilson (Kangaroo Island), Ian Gorden (Pastoral) and Rex Hall (South East) as Executive Members.

I would like to extend my deep appreciation for all the efforts put in by the Executive; their support has been a major factor in my decision to stand again for the position of President of the Association.

Also my thanks must go to the Management for their support, we will see a couple of new faces on the Management this year due to the old guard moving on and new ones taking over.

Thanks must also go to Bill Prideaux for his many years of service to the VFBA. In all his time on the management committee and executive committee, Bill only missed one meeting, that is true dedication.

It takes many people to keep an Association such as the VFBA running well and rising in stature, so to every one who has played any part in this at all I sincerely thank you.

Wendy, the Executive and the Management have been dynamic this year and my sincere thanks must go to them.

As a CFS volunteer, coming home safe after every callout is the most important thing you can do.

### **Editor's note:**

The Manager of Strategic Services was asked to comment on Ken's article:

The CFS supports the VFBA by providing funding for its programs each financial year.

Unfortunately, in consideration of the climatic situation resulting in a very early start to this years fire danger season, and a strong likelihood of an extended, active season, this year's CFS budget will likely be placed under significant stress.

Consequently, the CFS has tried to meet its obligations to the VFBA in providing sufficient funding to meet its annual commitment, plus the CPI index, whilst ensuring that the CFS budget is able to meet the potential costs of this extraordinary season.





# WELCOME

## TO THE FEBRUARY EDITION OF VOLUNTEER MAGAZINE

[ KRISTA ST JOHN  
[ MELANIE HUNTER  
[ HEIDI GEYTENBEEK

In this edition we've enclosed a CFS wall planner for you. We hope you find the planner useful either at the station or at home or work over the next 12 months.

This edition also contains a range of stories including a very interesting report on a Bushfire CRC research project into water tanks and how they perform during a bushfire situation. Also included are articles on fire weather forecasts, OHS&W issues, and the safety features on the current model CFS appliance.

It also includes a detailed article on how to manage a successful changeover on the fireground.

While we're on the subject of changes, the last few months have not only been an extremely busy time for CFS Public Affairs, but also a time of change.

Lisa Lalic and Brenton Ragless who held the roles of Manager Public Affairs and Media Liaison Officer (Production) respectively both moved on to other challenges in October 2006.

Lisa has taken on the role of Manager, Communication Programs with SA Police and Brenton is working with the Defence Science Technology Organisation (DSTO) and the SAFVBA. We wish them the best with their ventures.

Within the CFS Public Affairs team, Krista St John has taken on the role of Acting Manager Public Affairs and Heidi Geytenbeek and Melanie Hunter are currently acting in the Media Liaison Officer positions.

The Public Affairs team will experience more changes in the coming months. A SAFECOM project, focusing on the consolidation of CFS Public Affairs in with the Corporate Communications areas of SES and MFS is currently underway. The consolidation project will see the sharing of resources in this area

across all four agencies.

The redevelopment of the CFS website is progressing and a significant amount of work has been undertaken. It is hoped that this website will be released in a few weeks. Jo Sydor has been working on this project as a temporary project officer and has done a fabulous job.

Although it may not be evident to website users, one of the big changes with the new website is the introduction of a Content Management System (CMS). With the existing site, only SAFECOM IT staff with specialised website skills can edit the bulk of the website (with the exception of media releases and fire bans). The introduction of a CMS, will allow functional areas and regional offices greater flexibility to update their own pages and to uplift information to the site.

A number of staff, particularly in regional areas are yet to undertake training in the use of the CMS, however progress in this area is being made.

The website also features a 'current incidents' area, which gives the viewer an indication of what incidents CFS is attending. This is similar to the information provided by the Country Fire Authority (CFA) on their website. The information is designed to provide basic details about an incident including; the location, date and time of call, and incident type. It also allows for a direct link to any Bushfire Information or Bushfire Warning Messages issued for that incident.

The information is pushed directly from CRIIMSON to the web. Although this part of the website will provide an indication of CFS

activity, any descriptive information on incidents still needs to be entered in manually by the CFS Public Affairs team as media releases or community information web updates.

Another feature of the new website is a 'volunteers only' area. This section can be accessed through using your surname as the username and CFS member ID as the password.

Volunteers who access this area will find a range of information including Standard Operating Procedures, Chief Officers Standing Orders, Operational Updates and a range of other information that may be useful. This area is still a work in progress, and if you have any suggestions for additions to this part of the website, please contact us.

CFS Public Affairs has again worked very closely with the Prevention Services team to develop a community awareness campaign. This summer, the campaign focuses on the need to develop a Bushfire Action Plan.

To assist people with this, a Guide to developing a bushfire action plan has been developed and inserted into major regional papers. Radio, Print and TV advertising assisted in raising awareness and encouraged people to obtain the guide. The guide is also available from local councils, CFS Regional Officers and through the CFS Bushfire Information Hotline.

The next edition of Volunteer is planned for May and will feature a comprehensive fire season wrap up and a myriad of other stories. If you have an article to contribute, particularly for the Statewide and Cadets area feel free to submit it to us.

Until then, cheers and smiles

**Krista, Heidi and Mel**  
[publicaffairs@cfs.org.au](mailto:publicaffairs@cfs.org.au)



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VOLUNTEER - WELCOMES



## NEWS & UPDATES

# VOLUNTEER SUMMIT

## PROGRESS REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN TO DATE TO PURSUE RECOMMENDATIONS

By: Mick Ayre, CFS Manager Strategic Services

CFS is continuing to progress work on the consideration of each recommendation from the Volunteer Summit held in July.

In line with the commitment made by the CFS Chief Officer to consider each of the recommendations, the primary recommendations have been reviewed and the CFS is looking at how supported recommendations can be incorporated into future CFS Strategic Plans and business.

The Chief Officer has in principle supported the majority of the recommendations and his comments and a preliminary plan of action in response to these recommendations was disseminated to the Volunteer

Summit participants.

Many of the supported recommendations from the Summit were consistent with recommendations arising from both the Government's independent review by Mr Bob Smith of the CFS handling of the Wangary fire and the Project Phoenix report commissioned by the CFS.

There are also parallels with comments made over time by the members of the Volunteer Consultative Committee which further support the need for change in many areas of CFS business and strategic planning.

It is anticipated that the current Coroner's Inquest into the Wangary



Participants at Volunteer Summit 2006.  
Photo: Pip McGowan

fire will be completed in early 2007 and any recommendations made by the Coroner will also require detailed consideration by the Chief Officer and appropriate actions determined.

Some of these recommendations may be consistent with those of the Independent review, the Project Phoenix reviews and the

recommendations from the Summit and action and progress will occur in tandem.

A detailed progress report will be prepared by the Manager, Strategic Services in early 2007, and will be disseminated to all volunteers through various mechanisms, including posting on the CFS website.

## NEWS & UPDATES

# [ BUSHFIRE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION REVIEW IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA ]

By: Mick Ayre, CFS Manager Strategic Services

Following the fire at Wangary on 11 January 2005, a number of reviews were commissioned looking at fire management, prevention and mitigation.

Recommendations from two of these reviews, in addition to the recommendations from Project Phoenix and the Dr Bob Smith report, made mention of the need for a review of bushfire prevention and mitigation arrangements, with a particular focus on the relationship between CFS and local government in delivering these arrangements.

Since that time, CFS has undertaken some preliminary planning for the establishment of a review process, and Terms of Reference have been drafted and recently approved by the Minister for Emergency Services.

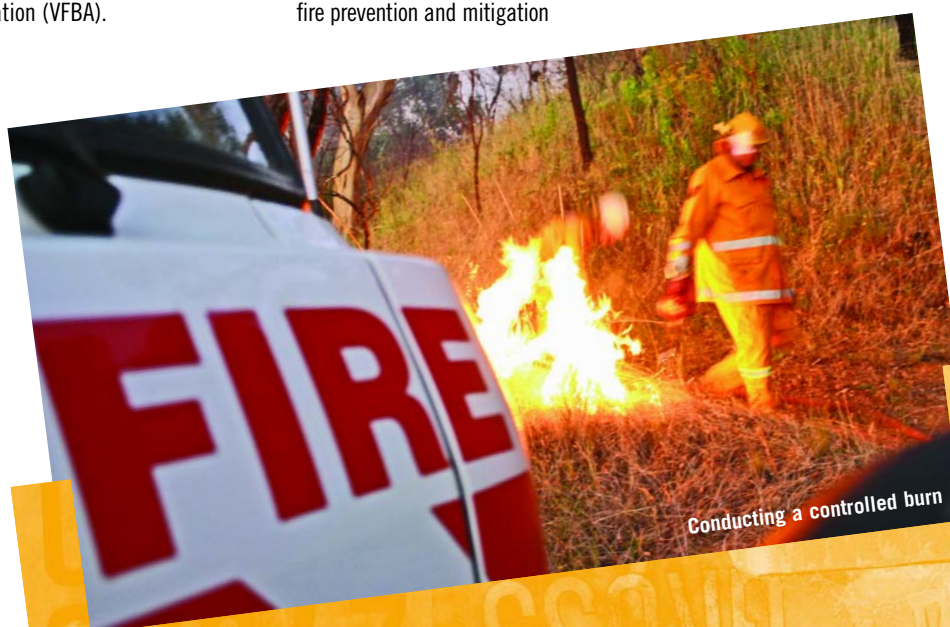
A component of the review involved the establishment of a reference group involving nominees of State Government Ministers and agencies

who have a vested responsibility for some form of bushfire response, prevention or mitigation role, the Local Government Association, Forestry Owners Conference, and the SA Volunteers Fire Brigades Association (VFBA).

This reference group will consult widely and will make specific recommendations to the Minister, which will result in legislative review and other actions by Government.

The anticipated outcome will be a fire prevention and mitigation

framework reflecting best practice, which engages and involves those with a stake in community safety, with the objective of reducing the cost of loss of valuable community assets and improved community safety.



Conducting a controlled burn





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# MEET THE CFS ASSISTANT CHIEF ROB SANDFORD

From a boy at Tea Tree Gully, to his appointment to the rank of Assistant Chief Officer, it's been a journey for Rob Sandford.

## How long have you been involved with the CFS?

I joined the CFS in March 1982 as a volunteer at Tea Tree Gully CFS and as a paid employee in 1991.

My first paid CFS role was in the CFS State Operations Centre and then I spent some time as a Regional Officer in Regions 1 and 2, before moving down to Naracoorte in 2000 as the Regional Commander.

I spent five years down there in that role before moving back to Adelaide and taking on the role of Manager Operations Planning or 'MOP'.

## As a young lad, what made you get involved in the CFS?

It's something that has also always been part of my family; there's been a Sandford at Tea Tree Gully since the late 1950's.

My dad Gordon was involved in establishing the brigade and three of my brothers and my mum were also involved, so it was just something I wanted to do.

My family strongly believed in helping the community and getting involved with the CFS was one way we could assist.

## What was life before CFS like?

Quiet, well as quiet as it can be growing up in a house with four brothers, three sisters and the CFS siren just down the road!

When I left school I became a butcher and kept with that for 12 years. Even after brandishing those sharp knives day in day out for that time, I never once required sutures.

For eight of the 12 years I managed a butcher shop at Tea Tree Gully before deciding a change of scenery was in need and I started work as a truck driver, delivering house timber for BJ Walters.

## You're currently the Manager Operations Planning for CFS.

Sure am, as MOP I'm responsible for the overall operations policy and procedures and operational doctrine for the CFS, such as Operations Management Guidelines, Chief Officers Standing Orders/Standard Operating Procedures, Government Fire Agencies Liaison Committee and associated publications.

My role has a large focus on operational preparedness and making sure our people have the information they need to deliver a high level of service.

## And the Rank 'Assistant Chief Officer' – what does that involve?

I received the rank of 'Assistant Chief Officer' in May 2006. It allows me to undertake higher level operational activities and gives me a greater opportunity to assist the Chief Officer in his day-to-day activities.

## Are you involved in any committees on behalf of the CFS?

The Manager Operations Planning chairs the Government Agencies Fire Liaison Committee, represents CFS on the AFAC Rural/Land Management Operations Committee and is proxy representative for the State Response Advisory Group and the Emergency Services operations Coordination Committee.

## What's your favourite aspect of the CFS?

The people (volunteers and staff) and their dedication to the community.

## What are your thoughts on what the future holds for the CFS?

In the 25 years I have been with the CFS, I have seen constant change.

Change is necessary and I believe the changes have been for the better; including new training, new equipment, changes in communications and in process. The most important change however has been the change in attitude to Safety First, Come Home Safe.

>> Rob Sandford  
Assistant Chief Officer





It's guaranteed that there will be more changes in the future, particular as we seek to continually improve firefighter safety and as new technology and practices emerge.

#### What's your greatest CFS moment?

I'm proud of the role I had as Support Force Commander in the 2001/2002 response to Sydney. CFS had 300 people travel to NSW to assist with those fires.

This was a huge commitment from our volunteers and really demonstrates the dedication of the service to assisting the wider Australian community in their time of need.

#### What's your passion and why?

It would have to be firefighter safety, recognising that what our people do is very dangerous and firefighter safety is paramount. We want our people to go home to their friends and family safe.

#### Those who know you, know you've always got a good story to tell... Do you have one you're prepared to put into print?

Thanks... I think that's a compliment?

Just before I left the staff at Naracoorte, I received a phone call one night from a volunteer requesting my attendance at an incident.

Apparently my 'special skills' were needed and the volunteer gave me vague details of the incident and just before he hung up, asked me to bring my butchers knives and pouch. It turns out a stock truck had over-turned and they thought they might be able to make use of my skills from my previous life as a butcher.

What a sense of humour.

#### If you could be anywhere in the world, where would you be and why?

I'd be in outback Australia enjoying the country with friends and family.

#### Beer, bundy, bourbon or a glass of red wine?

I have been known to have a medicinal drink every now and then, always in moderation of course!

#### Chinese food, Indian or a good old fashioned steak?

I thought steak was the only food group!

#### Rumour has it you make a great sponge cake... What's your secret?

It's my Mum's recipe; she's a great cake maker and passed on her baking secrets to me several years ago.

I'll share one with you as long as you don't tell everyone. If you're making a sponge cake you need to ensure you beat the eggs and sugar until they are light and fluffy, and then beat them a bit more. It really helps to make the sponge cake nice and light.

#### What's your favourite TV show?

I'd have to say I don't watch a huge amount of TV. However I am partial to watching the cricket, go the Aussies!

#### If there's something about the CFS you could change what would it be?

I wouldn't necessarily change the CFS but I'd love to change the community's complacency about bushfires. So many people do not realise till the last minute that they live in a high risk area.

If we can change this perception and ensure that everyone in a high risk area has a bushfire action plan, undertakes prevention work around their properties and is equipped to protect their homes it would make fighting bushfires so much easier for all.

#### If you were Prime Minister for the day what would you do?

Make every Friday a public holiday.

#### What five words do you think your friends and colleagues would use to describe you?

Available, loyal, definitely not very tactful, prepared to listen, helps when asked, and good at delegating!

#### What would you like to say to the volunteers reading this?

It's a great honour to work for the CFS to support volunteers who provide such a tremendous service to the community. Keep up the great work; the SA community is a safer place thanks to your efforts.

BRIEF HISTORY	
1978	Apprentice Butcher
1982	Joined Tea Tree Gully CFS (still a member)
	Greens keeper
1982	Manager – Butcher shop
1983	CFS Fire tower operator / Operations Centre Officer
1991	Regional Officer CFS Region 2
1994	Regional Officer CFS Region 1
1998	Regional Commander CFS Region 5
2000	Manager Operations Planning CFS HQ
2005	Appointed CFS Assistant Chief Officer
2006	

✓ CFS Chief Officer's Standing Orders & Standard Operating Procedures (COSO SOP) and CFS Operations Management Guidelines (OMG); two projects managed by Rob Sandford.



# RAINWATER TANKS

## PUT TO THE TEST...

Residential and commercial water tanks have been exposed to the extremes to test their performance in a Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre (Bushfire CRC) and CSIRO research project.

The research was conducted at the bushfire simulator at the New South Wales Rural Fire Service experimental research facility at Mogo on the south coast of New South Wales.

The project tested what effect a typical Australian bushfire would have on both steel and plastic water tanks.

Project Leader Justin Leonard said the primary objective of the research was to test if tanks were an effective water supply for firefighting purposes for both the landowner and firefighters if they arrived.

"The research wasn't an exhaustive

test of all tanks, but focused on the most popular tanks on the market and received support from Bluescope Water," Justin said.

"Each tank was put through tests, increasing levels of exposure and the first exposure was an ember attack with no radiation, with leaf debris build-up around the base of the tank," he said

"The second level was leaf debris plus radiation exposure and the third level was an ember attack, radiation plus flame contact."

The results of this research will be used by the Bushfire CRC and CSIRO to influence how building codes and planning guides are developed, particularly around bushfire risk areas, to help provide advice to property owners on the level of risk to their homes and businesses and to

assist in the development of education programs for local communities.

Table 1 outlines the levels of exposure that each tank product was exposed to and the result of the exposure.

### Research results:

Anecdotal evidence already existed to suggest that due to its non-combustibility, steel water tanks offered greater protection to property in the event of a bushfire compared to alternative materials.

In summary, steel tanks and steel tanks with bladders were effective in holding water throughout all exposures.

Plastic tanks are effective in that they self extinguish after radiation levels drop provided as long as they are separated from forest fuels, are not placed together as they can radiate off each other if ignition occurs and as long as no

combustible objects are placed near the tank, eg rubbish, timber fence.

Additionally, the research found that plastic tanks are effective as long as they are not placed near a combustible facade of a structure, such as decking or weatherboard and are not surrounded by high levels of leaf or vegetation build up.

Justin Leonard, Project Leader, noted, "if there is no source of initial radiation, flame or localised small flame attack then plastic tanks are likely to be ok."

"An automatic water spray over plastic tanks is recommended," Justin said.

The findings indicate plastic tanks require a clearance zone of around 30 metres, free of excess leaf build up, combustible material or other plastic tanks.



^ Steel tanks were effective in holding water throughout all the levels of exposure.

Photos: Bushfire CRC

^ The plastic tanks collapsed when exposed to continuous flame immersion for a period of 30 minutes.

LEVEL OF EXPOSURE	BLUESCOPE WATER WATERPOINT® STEEL CONSTRUCTION (CONVENTIONAL)	PIONEER WATER TANKS GALAXY STEEL CONSTRUCTION WITH AQUALINER®	POLYETHYLENE CONSTRUCTION
<b>1. LITTER IGNITED</b> Leaf Litter placed typically around the base of the tank and ignited to investigate and observe the influence of small amounts of leaf deposition during the fire event.	No structural damage or water loss recorded	No structural damage or water loss recorded	Small ignition of tank around base, combustion of polyethylene to a depth of 20mm in one localized area. Indication of possible risk when fuel accumulation is higher. No loss of water recorded.
<b>2. LITTER IGNITED + PRE-RADIATION</b> Typical of an advancing bushfire occurring on a fire danger day of FDI* 40 but with sufficient clearing to avoid direct flame contact with the tank.	No structural damage or water loss recorded.	No structural damage or water loss recorded.	Tank melted & deformed to level of water, some leaks from bottom of tank detected, front surface involved in flaming combustion. Findings indicate plastic tanks require clearance zone of around 30 metres, free of excess leaf build up, combustible material or other plastic tanks.
<b>3. SIMULATION OF STRUCTURAL FIRE</b> Full continuous flame immersion for a period of 30 minutes. Designed to simulate a worst-case structural fire.	Scorching of the tank, no structural damage. Small leaks recorded at a rate of less than 2 litres per minute only recorded after a 30-minute flame immersion.	Small loss of water over the top of the liner, tank maintains its structural integrity in 30-minute flame immersion.	Tank split and collapsed, emptying itself and melting down. Complete failure of the tank observed.

**Table 1: Results of the various levels of exposure to each tank**

Note: Ember attacks can occur before, during or after the main fire event. Hence, this structural impact can create risks for the occupants in a number of different ways. \* FDI - Fire Danger Index



# SCHOOL OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING EXHIBIT

## AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

By: Daniel Moore, Student, School of Mechanical Engineering, University of Adelaide

In early 2006, the Country Fire Service (CFS) and Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) approached the School of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Adelaide seeking expressions of interest from students to undertake research relating to Compartment Fire Behaviour Training (CFBT).

The approach was made due to the need to accurately measure and model compartment fire; a requirement from an occupational health and safety perspective.

Two final year students, Daniel Moore and Patrick Chan, supervised by Dr Graham Nathan, accepted the invitation and undertook research at the compartment fire behaviour facility at Brukunga.

In October 2006 a final report

detailing their activities and findings was presented and showcased at the School of Mechanical Engineering project exhibition, where the exhibit attracted a significant amount of interest.

Previous studies have attempted to model fire development and spread and measure elements of compartment fires but with limited success.

The 2006 study investigated background material on compartment fires and reviewed relevant material specifically relating to the Brukunga facility.

The project aims and methodology were established focusing on the measurement of conditions and involved a preliminary computer analysis.



^ Daniel Moore and Patrick Chan at the University of Adelaide, School of Mechanical Engineering project exhibition.

Monitoring equipment was installed at a range of positions throughout test compartment 'B', and measurements were taken on 15 occasions during various simulations, providing a rich and unique source of data for the students.

The data was then analysed using a computer based Fire Dynamics Simulator (FDS) and Smokeview software package.

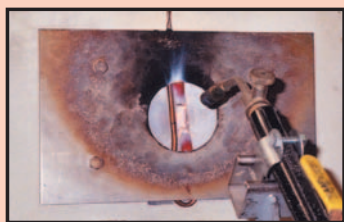
The results of the project provided

data on the temperature, radiation intensity and heat release rate of three types of CFBT simulations. The calibration of the computer model, allowed for the identification of reasonable trends in these areas.

The project will be continued in 2007 to enhance the model's ability to represent all aspects of CFBT and the data produced through this initial study provides a valuable foundation for future investigation.



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# CHANGES TO THE CFS PERMIT POLICY

By: Leigh Miller, CFS Manager Prevention Services

**F**ires escaping from permit burns are a major problem in rural South Australia.

For the last six years, CFS has responded to on average 132 out of control permit burns each year. This puts out of control permit burns as the third most common cause of bushfire.

In an attempt to reduce this problem, CFS has introduced tighter regulation of the permit issuing process through the introduction of an authorised officer training package and a policy on the issuing of permits.

Local government raised a number of concerns about liability associated with this process. As a result the CFS, in consultation with the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Crown Solicitor's Office, has reviewed the Permit Policy to resolve the liability issues.

As a result of this review, there have been two major changes to the policy.

The first is the inclusion of a statement regarding liability to ensure it is clear to councils that Section 127 of the Fire and Emergency Services Act, 2005 offers

protection to Authorised Officers for issuing permits.

The other change has been the rework of Section 9, Hazard and Property Assessment to reflect the requirement for Authorised Officers to 'assess' applications.

Following consultation with member councils, the LGA has endorsed the revised Permit Policy for distribution.

Although the LGA cannot enforce adoption of it by councils, it has written a circular to the Chief Executives of each council

recommending the adoption of the policy.

CFS has commenced the delivery of the training package to existing Authorised Officers and expects that any existing officers who wish to continue in the role to have undertaken this training by the end of the current Financial Year.

All new nominations for the role are required to complete the training before they are authorised by CFS.

**For further information: Visit the CFS website at [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)**

## NEWS & UPDATES

# INTRODUCING THE CFS STATE OPERATIONS SUPPORT BRIGADE

**T**he CFS State Operations Support Brigade was established under the Fire and Emergency Services Act (2005) on 6 October 2006.

Formed to assist CFS State Headquarters during incidents,

which require the use of the State Coordination Centre, the brigade will comprise a mix of staff and the general public from within the Adelaide metropolitan area.

Before the new brigade could be

established, the pre-existing CFS Headquarters Reserve Brigade had to be de-registered and minor amendments made to the standard CFS constitution.

The brigade is fully functional

with Mick Ayre elected as Captain and Marilyn Hughes elected as Administrative Co-ordinator.

Other office holders will be elected in due course, following the completion of member registration police checks.

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## Structure Helmet Bag: ◆

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## NEWS & UPDATES

# DEH RESOURCE TRAILERS

By: Shane Wiseman, Senior Fire Management Officer, Department for Environment and Heritage

The DEH resource trailers provide >> greater operational flexibility.

The Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) has purchased and equipped four resource trailers, which were designed and built in Victoria by the Country Fire Authority (CFA).

Each trailer is equipped with in excess of one kilometre of lay flat 38mm and 25mm canvas hose in a figure eight configuration, a staging pump, a collar dam, a transfer pump, hose winders, adaptors, hand tools and other assorted fire suppression equipment.

This resource will increase the ability for direct attack in heavier fuels should conditions permit, or

rapidly access difficult and remote fires that may occur as a result of lightning strikes or spot fires occurring outside control lines.

They will also enable greater operational flexibility at prescribed burns where difficult access or terrain restricts construction of control lines.

It is envisaged the trailers will be responded and crewed similar to an appliance and will utilise a larger appliance for water supply and pumping supported by the crew from that appliance.

The trailers are located in the South East, Mount Lofty Ranges, Kangaroo Island and in the Flinders Ranges.



## NEWS & UPDATES

# HCO TRAINING

By: Adaire Palmer, A/Manager, Volunteer Management Branch

Harassment Contact Officer (HCO) training was undertaken by a mix of staff and volunteers from the Country Fire Service (CFS), State Emergency Service (SES) and South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM) on 28 and 29 October 2006.

In a first for the sector, the SAFECOM Volunteer Management Branch (VMB) facilitated the combined training, where a total of 19 people - including six CFS volunteers, four SES volunteers and nine staff - became accredited Harassment Contact Officers.

In addition to these new participants, there are now 36 Harassment Contact Officers across the services.

DQ Facilitation delivered a structured and fun workshop that enabled trainees to learn and network in a positive, upbeat environment.

The course covered a number of key areas, including defining the role of the HCO, an overview of relevant legislation, definitions for discrimination, and provided participants with a sound understanding of what constitutes sexual harassment and bullying.

Participants also developed an

understanding of grievance handling principles, the key components of the SAFECOM Sector's complaint handling procedures, and learnt the finer details of effective listening.

They also had the opportunity to observe and critique a HCO interview.

A HCO has two important roles. They take referrals and deliver a

one-on-one service (usually via telephone), which means supporting individuals in emergency services by assisting through exploring options for action; and they also act as educator, ambassador and champion for the Working In Harmony Program at the local level.

HCO's are not the 'fun police', nor

do they investigate complaints, they are there primarily as a source of information and support for emergency services personnel who may be experiencing difficulties in their working environments.

Confidential referrals to a HCO are available seven days a week on 1300 364 587.



^ Welcome to the new HCOs.



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VOLUNTEER - NEWS & UPDATES

# FIRE WEATHER FORECASTS

By: Duncan Tippins, Senior Meteorologist, Severe Weather, Bureau of Meteorology

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) is an Executive Agency of the Federal Department for Environment and Heritage.

The South Australian Office of the Bureau of Meteorology provides an array of weather services to the South Australian Country Fire Service (CFS).

The Bureau has one forecasting office at Kent Town in Adelaide, four Meteorological Information Offices (MIO's) located at Ceduna, Woomera, Mount Gambier and at Adelaide Airport. They also utilise information provided by more than 50 Automatic Weather stations and a number of cooperative observers across the state.

The information provided to the CFS originates from a team of three specialised meteorologists, from the Severe Weather Section.

This team works on a seven-day roster during the fire season to ensure an adequate level of service is provided to not just the CFS but other agencies with a direct interest in fire danger.

## What they provide

The Bureau provides a range of routine weather forecasts to the CFS twice per day, including the Statewide Fire Weather Forecast, Flinders and Mount Lofty Ranges Forestry Forecast, and the Lower South East Forestry Forecast.

These products provide a forecast of elements such as the maximum temperature, relative humidity, wind, lightning and rain.

These elements are used to forecast the fire danger for the following day and help the CFS to decide where to impose Total Fire Bans.

Once fire bans have been decided,

the Bureau issues the Total Fire Ban Advice on behalf of the CFS.

When there is an expectation of very high to extreme fire danger combined with the passage of a front, the Bureau also provides a 'Wind Change Map' every three hours to give guidance on the likely arrival time of a wind change over SA.

In the event of bushfires, prescribed burns or HAZMAT incidents, the Bureau provides detailed weather information on demand.

This weather information is provided to the CFS via the '12-hour Going Fire Forecast' and the '4-day Going Fire Forecast'.

## How the bureau forecasts

The weather forecaster has a vast amount of weather information available to them to analyse the state of the atmosphere.

This ranges from satellites orbiting overhead, to weather observing stations on the land, drifting buoys in the ocean, and radar tracking balloons scanning the skies for rain.

Once the forecaster has developed an understanding of the atmosphere's current state, they can begin to predict what the weather will do in the future.

The forecaster then uses tools such as numerical weather prediction (models of the atmosphere calculated using some of the world's largest supercomputers), local knowledge, experience and climatology to develop a forecast of the weather.

## How accurate are the forecasts

In the 2005-2006 fire season the

Bureau of Meteorology was able to predict nearly two thirds of the extreme fire danger that was observed in South Australia.

In addition, only one in four total fire bans recommended by the Bureau was not verified as extreme fire danger.

The accuracy of maximum temperature forecasting is around two degrees, while the dew point accuracy (measure of moisture) is about three point five degrees and for wind speed about eight km/h.

This track record shows that the Bureau is accurate at forecasting fire weather danger, but the team are always looking for ways to improve.

## Portable Automatic Weather Stations

Before the 2005-2006 fire season the CFS, with help from South Australian Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH), purchased four Portable Automatic Weather Stations (PAWS).

These instruments have many advantages including a high degree of portability, relative ease of use and satellite communication.

They have enabled the provision of

weather information at locations very close to fires, which greatly assists the forecaster in providing more accurate going fire forecasts

However, receiving weather observations from the fireground is vital for the forecaster, not only to prepare a going fire forecast, but also to monitor the actual forecast for accuracy.

By providing frequent weather observations to the Bureau either via the PAWS or manual readings from Kestrel units, the Bureau will be able to provide a more accurate forecasting service to the CFS, which in turn will enable the CFS to perform its functions optimally.

Please familiarise yourself with the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 9.2 regarding the deployment of the PAWS units.

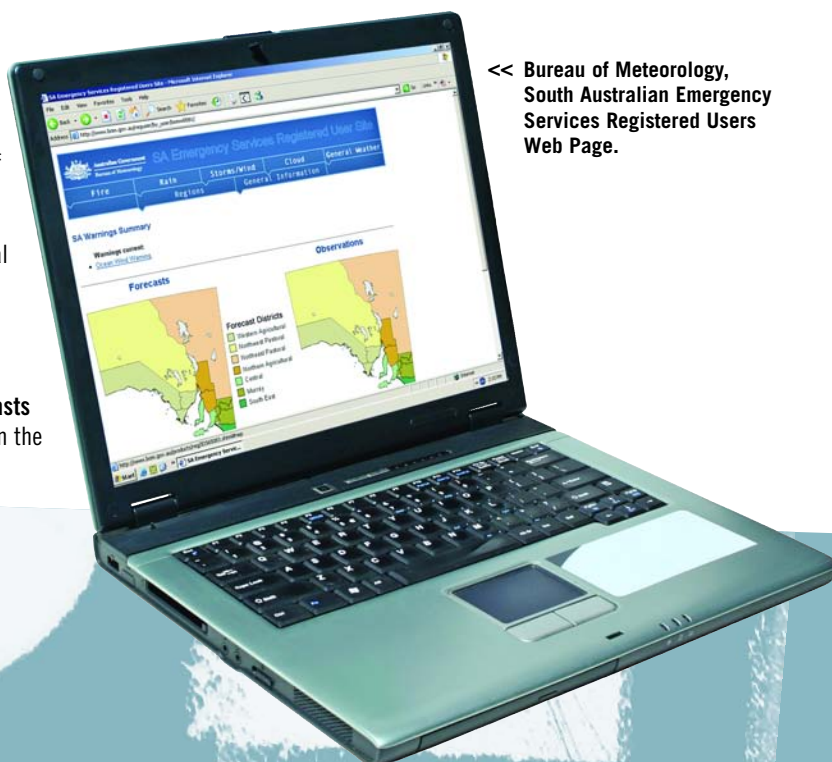
## Where to Find Forecasts?

The Bureau's forecasts are available on the South Australian Emergency Services Registered Users Web Page at:

[www.bom.gov.au/reguser](http://www.bom.gov.au/reguser)

Username: bomw0081

Password: h49intED

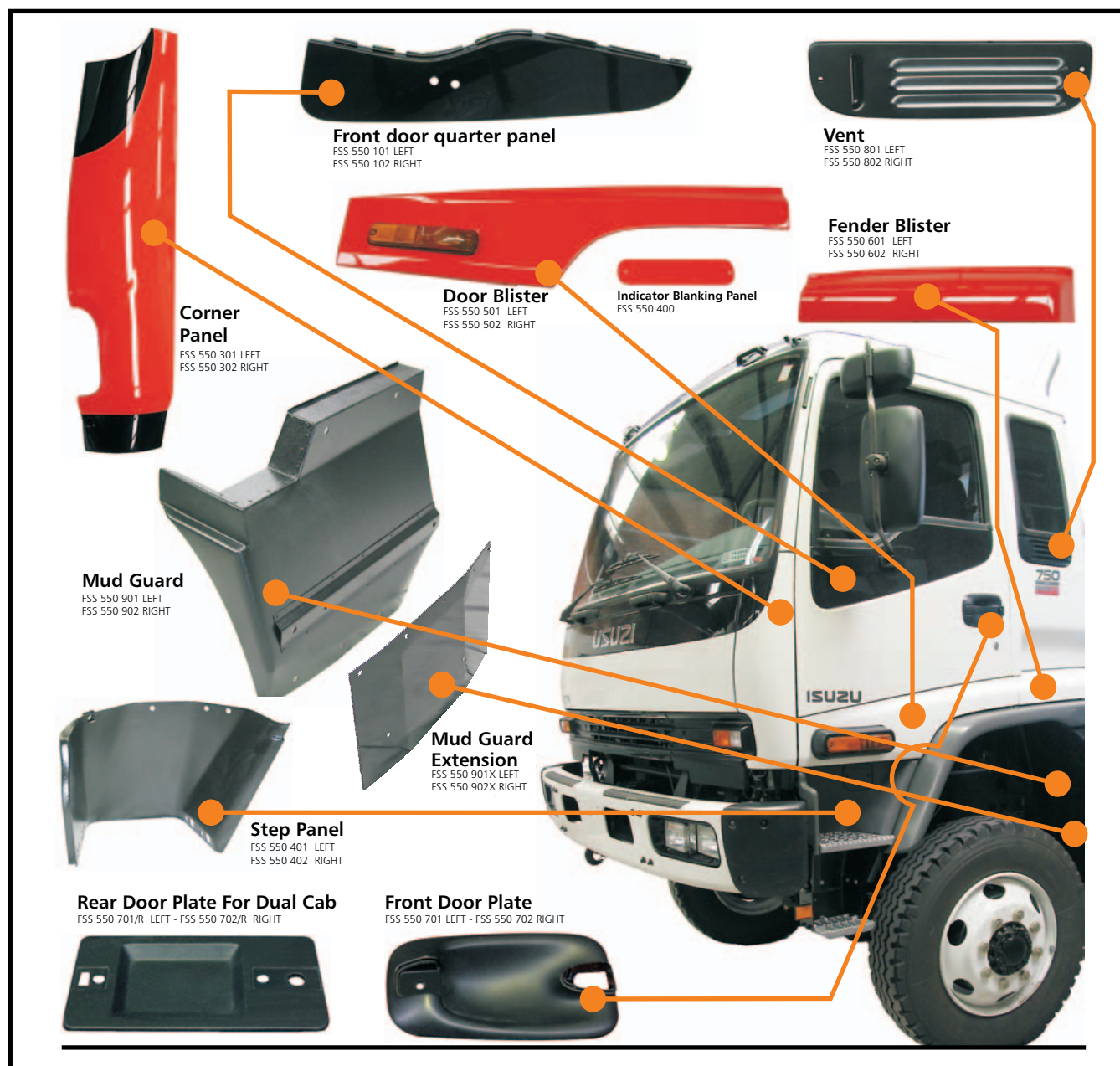


<< Bureau of Meteorology, South Australian Emergency Services Registered Users Web Page.



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# TRUDY WHELAN

## RECEIVES AWARD FOR SPAM CONTRIBUTIONS

**T**rudy Whelan, SAFECOM Rehabilitation/Welfare Consultant, was presented an award for outstanding contributions to the field of Critical Incident Stress Management at the national conference of the Australian Critical Incident Stress Foundation of Australia in August 2006,

Trudy has been the coordinator of the SPAM Team since 1989 and since then has managed more than 1 000 critical incident debriefings.

Additionally, Trudy was a founding member of a Critical Incident Stress

Management team for emergency services in South Australia and in 2004 played an integral role in developing the nationally accredited Certificate III in Peer Support.

The work of Trudy Whelan and the SPAM Team was further recognised by the Chief Officer who presented them with a Certificate of Appreciation for 'Best Focus in SAFECOM on CFS Relationships 2006' in recognition of the teams outstanding support of CFS people, particularly those who have been affected by the 2005 Wangary Bushfire.



^ Trudy Whelan with her award for outstanding contributions to the field of Critical Incident Stress Management.

## NEWS & UPDATES

# EASTERN EYRE CFS GROUP AND TUCKEY CFS

**T**he Cleve and District CFS Group, has changed its name and is now known as the Eastern Eyre CFS Group.

According to CFS Group Officer Bryan Trigg, the 'Cleve and Districts' name did not accurately reflect the description of the area, as the group covers both the district councils of Franklin Harbour and Cleve.

"We have been talking about a name change for up to six years but could not settle on a suitable name to reflect our area," Bryan said.

"We are in the Eastern Eyre fire ban district so it seemed a logical choice, plus it is the name of our football league."

The Eastern Eyre group base will continue to be at Cleve, and will still

be referred to as the Cleve base.

The CFS Chief Officer approved the name change after it was passed at group level.

The group also welcomes a new brigade, 'Tuckey', which is located between Rudall and Lock.

The Tuckey Brigade already has close to 24 volunteers, with Jason Burton (formerly of Rudall CFS) as Brigade Captain.

The brigade currently has a temporary 34 appliance (pictured), and in mid 2007 will receive a refurbished 34 appliance.

In November Tuckey CFS attended their first fire as a brigade at the Verran Hill Hincks Wilderness Park. The brigade provided day and night crews for three days; a job well done for their first time out.



>> Pictured with the new Tuckey CFS truck are Bryan Trigg (Eastern Eyre Group Officer), Nathan Phasey, Michael Dennis, Rodney Morrow and Jason Burton (Tuckey Captain).  
Photo: Supplied by Eyre Peninsula Tribune.



# AIR OPS FIELD DAYS

By: David Cant, CFS Manager Aviation

In the lead up to the fire danger season, some regions held an Air Operations Field Day to give those involved in making decisions regarding aircraft (Group Officers, Deputy Group Officers, Brigade Officers or Senior Incident Management Team personnel) an increased understanding of aerial operations and how they are managed.

More than 150 people attended the sessions held at Jamestown (Region 4), Pallamena (Region 3) and Mount Gambier (Region 5). Region 2 & 6 sessions were postponed due to extreme fire danger on the scheduled day.

The field days had three main elements, all focused on increasing awareness on the use and safe application of aircraft by CFS and on the integration of on-ground and aerial firefighting for

maximum effectiveness.

The first part of the day was a classroom activity focusing on the State Air Operations Plan and aircraft tactics. This session allowed attendees to gain a greater understanding of the strategies behind aerial firefighting, how to request aircraft, the deployment progress, communications with aircraft and the tactics used when aircraft arrive at the fireground and integrate with the Incident Management Team.

The next session focused on safety around aircraft, aircraft familiarisation and ground support activities associated with fire bombing. This allowed attendees to gain a good understanding of aircraft safety and of the capabilities and configurations of the CFS aerial water bombing fleet. Facilitators also



▲ Bomber 582 at Bundaleer Forest - Jamestown Field Day, 22 October 2006.

spent time on the logistics involved and ground support required for aerial fire bombing.

The day ended with a field assessment of fire bombing effectiveness whereby the use of retardants and other suppressants was discussed. The aircraft undertook a number of drops, with the facilitators providing a running commentary of the situation and variance between drops. This

allowed participants to gain a thorough understanding of what they should be assessing in terms of bombing effectiveness, and communicating this to the air operations team.

Thank you to each region, the air operations staff and volunteers and the regional air support brigades for their assistance in this project.

For more information contact David Cant, Manager Aviation on 8463 4200.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA AIRCRAFT BOMBING FLEET 2006/7

Response Zones	Aircraft Type and capacity	Tactical call sign	Contractor	Nominated Operational Base (NOB)	Start Date	Likely Finish Date
Mount Lofty Ranges	Agusta A119 RW – 1200 litres	Helitack 533	Heli Air	Adelaide	1 December 2006	31 March 2007
		Helitack 534				
	Airtractor AT802 FW – 3200 litres	Bomber 581	AMR	Woodside	1 November 2006	31 March 2007
		Bomber 582				
	Bell 212 RW – 1400 litres	Helitak 531	Kestrel Aviation	Brukunga	29 December 2006	1 March 2007
Lower SouthEast	Airtractor AT802 FW – 3200 litres	Bomber 583	AMR	Mt Gambier	15 December 2006	8 March 2007
	Airtractor AT602 FW – 2500 litres	Bomber 564				
	Airtractor AT502 FW – 2000 litres	Bomber 558	AMR	Mt Gambier		
	Turbine Thrush FW – 1900 litres	Bomber 545		Naracoorte		
Lower Eyre Peninsula	Airtractor AT502 FW – 2000 litres	Bomber 556	AMR	Port Lincoln (North Shields)	1 November 2006	15 March 2007
		Bomber 559				
Secondary Response Zone Mid-North, Flinders Ranges, Southern Fleurieu, KI	Airtractor AT802 FW – 3200 litres	Bomber 580	AMR	Woodside	15 December 2006	8 March 2007
	Airtractor AT602 FW – 2500 litres	Bomber 563				
National Aircraft	Erickson Airplane S64E RW-7500 litres	Helitak 746	Helicorp	Nominated Operational Base is Canberra. National Shared Resource available through NAFC. Response coordinated by the NAFC Aerial Suppression Operations Group.		
ABRHS	Agusta Bell 412 RW – 1000 litres bucket	Rescue 51	Australian Helicopters	Adelaide	Limited availability for fire bombing. One bucket shared between 3 machines	
	BK117 RW – 1000 litres bucket	Rescue 52				
	EC130 RW – 1000 litres bucket	Rescue 53				

Note: The NOB locations are where aircraft will be available during the normal contract period. Due to maintenance, service, forecast fire danger or other factors, aircraft can be moved to alternate NOBs or other locations.

FW – Fixed wing Aircraft; RW – Rotary Wing Helicopter; AMR – Australian Maritime Resources; ABRHS – Adelaide Bank Rescue Helicopter Service; NOB – Nominated Operational Base; NAFC – National Aerial Firefighting Centre.

# WHEN THEY JOIN HOYLETON CFS THEY STAY.

By: Bluey Devine, Operations Planning Officer R3

A combined 345 years of service was celebrated with 15 volunteers from Hoyleton CFS receiving their long service awards for 35, 25 and 15 years service.

Owen Chapman, Reg Chapman, Kevin Jericho, Terry Nuemann and Leith Reinke were presented with 35 year service awards.

Geoff Bishop and Dean Williams were presented with 25 year service awards.

While Grant Anderson, David Chapman, Chris Chapman, Davis Newton, Grant Reinke, Ashley Robinson and Tony Ryan were presented with 15 year service awards.

During the evening the brigade took the opportunity to farewell two of its

long serving members, Kevin and Chris Jericho who are leaving the district.

Kevin had been a long serving and dedicated member of the Hoyleton Brigade with 38 years service.

During this time Kevin held a Deputy Group Officer position for three years and was the Administrative Officer for 19 years.

CFS Regional Officer Bluey Devine presented Kevin with Life Membership of the CFS and President Reg Chapman presented both Kevin and Chris an engraved clock as a memento of their many years of loyal service.

The dinner was held at the Hoyleton Hotel on Saturday 7 October.



^ Award Recipients

## BORDERTOWN HOSPITAL EXERCISE

By: Bill Corcoran, Naracoorte CFS

A joint exercise was held between SA Country Fire Service (CFS) volunteers and SA Ambulance Service (SAAS) volunteers at Bordertown Hospital.

The exercise held on 2 November was designed to test the internal response capabilities of staff and emergency services.

Just after 7pm the hospital fire alarm was sounded and trained hospital fire wardens had to implement hospital procedures to combat the situation.

Once the fire location was found by hospital staff the area was evacuated, while CFS crews responded to the hospital.

The location of the fire was found to be in the x-ray room and one

person was confirmed to be trapped, this was then relayed to Bordertown CFS upon arrival.

Crew wearing breathing apparatus entered the building with a charged hose line. Once at the location of the fire they quickly found the casualty and discovered a second casualty nearby.

The casualties were taken to SAAS volunteers for treatment.

Following the exercise a quick debrief was held, and a representative from complete fire was on hand to provide valuable feedback to all who participated

In all everyone agreed that it was a very good night, with these training exercises providing an opportunity to conduct pre planning or assessment of procedures.



^ Crews practice evacuating patients  
>> Photo: Bill Corcoran



## WOOL SHED DESTROYED AT HYNAM

Volunteers from the SA Country Fire Service (CFS) responded to a structure fire at Hynam near Naracoorte on 25 October.

Three brigades responded to the property on Hynam Cave Road

just after 4:20pm and found the 60metre X 20metre wool shed well alight.

The corrugated iron shed had collapsed prior to the arrival of firefighters who using a defensive

attack were able to contain the blaze in around 10 minutes.

A number of volunteers remained on scene for some time as the remnants of the shed continued to smoulder.

The structure was once used

as a shearing shed but more recently served as a holding shed for sheep awaiting shearing.

Damage to the building and old equipment contained inside is estimated at \$150 000.



# HEAD OF THE BIGHT FIRE

✓ Easterly wind change  
Photo: Mark & Rhonda Hewitson

By: Simon Vogel, Operations Planning Officer R6

A fire at the Head of the Bight burnt approximately 20 000 hectares after being reported to CFS on Monday 23 October.

The fire started on the roadside approximately two kilometres west of the entrance to the whale watching centre and burnt in a southwesterly direction towards the sea.

As a precaution the whale watching centre was closed even though the fire did not pose a direct threat to the facility.

The fire was in an extremely remote area and the closest CFS appliances were the Far West 3 4 located at Nundroo and the Penong 3 4, located 140 and 220 kilometres away respectively.

A grader was used to put a break around the fire and firefighters from Ceduna and Smoky Bay CFS undertook a 22 kilometre back burn along the National Highway utilising

favourable conditions. These volunteers undertook a 700 kilometre round trip to assist.

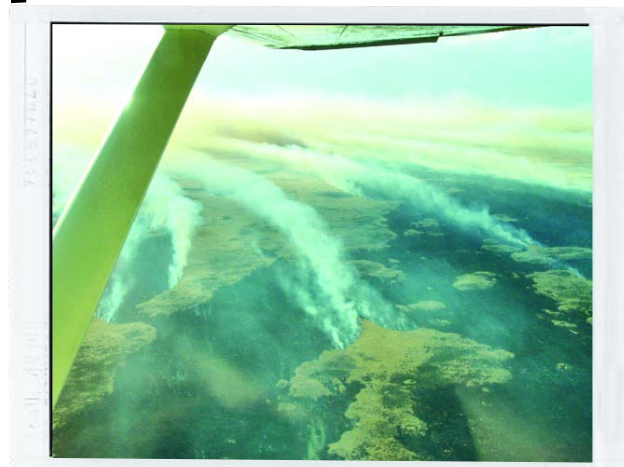
Deep wombat holes and 100 metre cliffs form part of the areas landscape and posed a hazard for firefighters.

Ceduna Group Officer Mark Hewitson flew to the fireground and utilising the SES vehicle, garaged at Nullarbor Roadhouse.

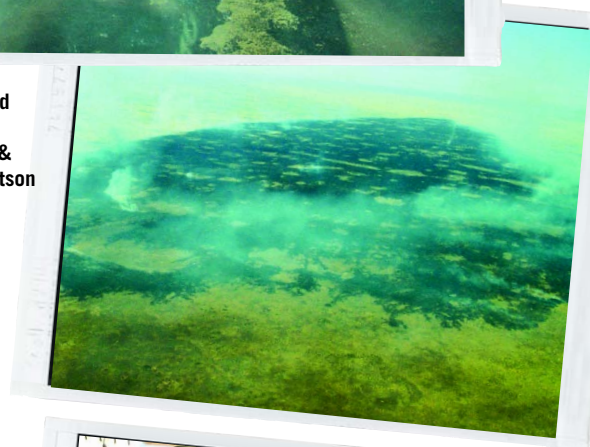
Mark made a second flight to the fireground on the Tuesday with Regional Officer Simon Vogel to make a further assessment of the fire.

Firefighters were able to contain the fire within two days. It was a well organised incident response considering the distance that needed to be travelled to get to the fire.

The cause of the fire remains undetermined.



>> Fire ground from above  
Photo: Mark & Rhonda Hewitson



## ID SYSTEM FOR PRIVATE FIRE VEHICLES

By: Tristan Baldock, Port Lincoln CFS

The Lower Eyre Group of the SA Country Fire Service have introduced a new vehicle identification system for private firefighting appliances that operate on the fireground this fire season.

The system, which has been tested on Lower Eyre and other areas in the past, involves the marking of private vehicles with magnetic ID numbers that attach to the door of a vehicle when they are on the fireground.

The numbers are registered with CFS, and act as a call sign for that vehicle, allowing for smooth

communication and for easy identification of the vehicle.

In addition to the magnetic ID numbers, the private units must also be fitted with a UHF radio operating on channel 20 when on the fireground, and an amber rotating light that meets Australian standards.

Ross Pope, Captain of Wanilla CFS and volunteer for more than 30 years, believes that it is a good system, encouraging farmers in the area to get behind it, trial it and provide feedback on the system.

"I think most people in the CFS

>> System in use  
Photo: Tristan Baldock



realise the important role that private appliances play on the fireground," Mr Pope said.

"However, it is of vital importance that these appliances are identifiable to CFS and have regular

communication with them, to ensure safety on the fireground," he said.

For more information, farmers are encouraged to contact their local CFS captain, or the Lower Eyre Promotions Officer on 0429 671 100.

## HOUSE FIRE - DARKE PEAK

On Tuesday 19 September, SA Country Fire Service (CFS) volunteers responded to a house fire at Darke Peak on the Eastern Eyre Peninsula.

When firefighters arrived at the MacGowen Road home they found a pan of cooking oil had been left unattended on a stove starting the fire in the kitchen.

Neighbours quickly used a small firefighting pump to extinguish the

fire, however the fire caused major damage to the kitchen and the ceiling cavity above the stove.

One occupant sustained minor injuries as he tried to extinguish the fire by breaking a window in the kitchen to spray water on the fire.

More than 15 CFS volunteers responded to the fire, with SA Ambulance and SA Police also in attendance.

Damage is estimated at \$50 000.

>> Result of the fire started by unattended cooking oil  
Photo: Simon Vogel





# FIRE SEASON ARRIVES ON WEST COAST

By: Tristan Baldock, Port Lincoln CFS

**T**hunderstorm activity on Friday 9 November delivered a massive 13 000 lightning strikes across the state, starting a number of fires across the Eyre Peninsula.

CFS firefighters from Lincoln, Green Patch, North Shields, Coffins Bay and Wanilla and Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) responded to a blaze at Big Swamp around 11am. The fire was burning in inaccessible native vegetation approximately 10 kilometres west of Port Lincoln.

Firefighters could not access the fire for the first few hours due to the fire being in difficult terrain.

Heavy earth moving machinery was brought in to create access tracks through the mallee and sheet limestone.

Once closer to the seat of the fire, dozers, patrol graders and appliances began to cut an earth break around the perimeter of the fire.

Firefighting operations were guided from the air from the outset, with the Adelaide Bank Rescue Helicopter 53 taking over from local volunteer Kevin Warren mid afternoon.

Later in the evening a strike team from the Tumby Bay group assisted the Lower Eyre firefighters. Firefighters continued to monitor the fireground for hot spots and flare-ups for a further five days.

Another fire started on Saturday at Coffins Bay close to the coast near the southern end of Gunyah beach, burning around 18 hectares of tall mallee limestone country.

DEH aerial observation aircraft and earth moving equipment were also used to establish control lines around the fire.

CFS and DEH firefighters continued to monitor the fire for several days.

On Sunday three more fires were attended to in the areas of Mount Hope, Edillilie and Convention Beach.

>> Smoke from Big swamp fire



▲ Crews prepare to fight the fire.

Each of these fires were quickly contained, burning only small areas.

In total about 80 personal from CFS, DEH, SA Water, City Council of

Port Lincoln and private contractors were involved with the fires and were assisted by two CFS water bombing aircraft.

## PORT LINCOLN / BOSTON FIRE

By: Simon Vogel, Operations Planning Officer R6

**T**he fire season hadn't even started when Port Lincoln received a preview of what may be in store this summer.

Sparks from an angle grinder started a fire on Wednesday 11 October burning approximately 23 hectares at Boston to the east of Port Lincoln.

Unfavorable weather conditions, with temperatures in the 30's and a strong northerly wind pushed the fire on a narrow front through the rural fringe area bordering Port Lincoln into the densely populated area of Rustlers Gully.

At the height of the fire 28 appliances from CFS and MFS

attended with four aircraft assisting firefighters on the ground.

The cooperation between CFS and SAMFS was outstanding with crews concentrating on individual house protection in the southern sector.

An Incident Management Team was set up at Lincoln Base with Lower Eyre Peninsula, Tumby Bay Group and Port Lincoln SAMFS fully committed.

One house was partially damaged, but CFS and MFS crews were able to save homes and property worth close to \$1M due to their hard work and determination in difficult circumstances.

A job well done by all involved.

>> Fire behind properties near Port Lincoln



## NEW PUMPING TRAILER FOR LOCAL CFS

By: Tristan Baldock, Port Lincoln CFS

**W**anilla CFS are the proud custodians of a new trailer designed to assist with firefighting operations in their community.

The 7 X 5 trailer is fitted with a high volume transfer pump and associated equipment. The trailer was made possible by numerous and significant donations from CFS brigades from around the state, following the Black Tuesday fires.

The pumping trailer will be housed at Wanilla CFS, for use by the Lower Eyre CFS Group as a mobile pump for drawing water

from dams, tanks and other sources, assisting CFS appliances with combating fires in the area.

Wanilla CFS Captain Ross Pope said, 'the support from CFS brigades across the state following the fires was remarkable, and we feel that this trailer is a sensible way of spending those donations to protect the community.'

"The trailer and its components were purchased from local businesses that offered their support, and we offer our sincere thanks to those businesses and individuals," Ross said.

Pumping trailer and accessories  
Photo:Tristan Baldock >>



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VOLUNTEER - STATEWIDE - REGION 6





# CFS STATE CADET COMMITTEE

**By:** Jo-Anna Kenney, Youth Programs Officer, SAFECOM

The Country Fire Service (CFS) cadet program fosters an environment of learning, teamwork and community participation where cadets can develop practical skills and knowledge about the fire service and leadership.

One outcome of the program is to promote a growth in confidence, self-esteem and individuality in those involved.

The CFS State Cadet Committee was established four years ago and is a mix of CFS volunteers and staff who provide advice to the CFS on how the cadet program can be enhanced and strengthened.

It is recognised that the cadet movement is an important part of the CFS. The committee is focused on further boosting the profile of this within CFS and the community.

## **The CFS State Cadet Committee aims to:**

- Provide information, feedback and recommendations to CFS management and the Chief Officer's Advisory Council
- Share information between regional representatives
- Provide a state wide consultative approach to cadets in the service.

## **The responsibilities of the committee are to:**

- Raise issues regarding cadets
- Discuss any cadet issues raised by brigades and groups
- Advise on the future direction for cadets in the CFS
- Be involved in the decision making process regarding policies, standard operating procedures and training for cadets
- Develop policies and procedures
- Support the CFS aims and objectives.

The committee members for the financial year 2006/07 include: Dan Newson (Chairperson, Naracoorte CFS), Regional Volunteer Representatives, Kym Hueppauff (Region 1, Currency Creek CFS), Peter Jarman (Region 2, Roseworthy CFS), Monican Verran (Region 3, Tailem Bend CFS), Geoffrey Buyn (Region 4,

Mount Bryan CFS), Jennifer Newlyn (Region 5, Mount Gambier), David Bryant (Region 6, Port Lincoln), CFS Management Representative Chris Martin, (Region 3 Regional Commander) and Executive Officer Jo-Anna Kenney (SAFECOM Youth Programs Officer).

## **Some achievements of the committee include:**

- The development of the CFS Cadet Guidelines (which are currently under review)
- Obtaining funds for the cadets at group and brigade level
- Production of the CFS cadet handbook
- Development of policies for camps and cadet activities
- Provision of advice to the CFS regarding the development of the SAFECOM Child Protection policy
- Assisting with the CFS competitions program for cadets (the committee would like to thank Sara Pulford for the great assistance with planning the cadet program at the competitions).

The committee works closely with the CFS and the SA Volunteer Fire Brigades Association (SAVFBA) and is grateful for the assistance of the SAVFBA in the provision of funding to assist with cadet activities.

The next committee meeting will be combined with the SES State Cadet Committee to discuss common policies and guidelines.





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# ADDED SAFETY FEATURES ON NEW APPLIANCES

By: Sandy Paterson, Manager  
Vehicles & Equipment

## EQUIPMENT NEWS

As reported earlier in *Volunteer* magazine, page 25, CFS received an award in the category of 'Best Solution to an Identified Workplace Health and Safety Issue', for the safety features being fitted to the current build of 3 4 and 3 4 P type appliances.

Following are more of the 'technical' details of the changes made in this 3 4 and 3 4 P type appliance.

### Cab spray system

The cabin spray system has been designed to provide a constant film of water on all glassed areas of the cabin in the event of a burn over.

Independent testing has confirmed that a film of water will greatly reduce the cabins internal temperatures from well over 100°C

to below 60°C and will reduce the chance of glass failure.

The system has deliberately been kept simple in both design and operation.

Provided the pump is running and developing pressure, the cabin spray system will operate when the manually operated valve is turned on in the cabin. This valve can be accessed by anyone in the drivers or rear passenger seat.

The system has a pressure reducer to maintain appropriate line pressure to the nozzles to provide a low pressure water deluge rather than a high pressure spray.

Tests have shown that high pressure sprays increase the risk of developing fine droplets of water that are more affected by wind than

a low pressure deluge with larger and heavier water flow.

The total system water flow when operating is approximately 100 litres per minute.

With 20 per cent of a 3 000 litre water tank, (i.e. 600 litres), the system will provide water coverage for the appliance for about six minutes, or longer if there is more water in the tank.

### In Cab Breathing System

This system has been developed in conjunction with Scott Sabre, a world-leading manufacturer of compressed air breathing apparatus and is now being marketed to the mining and security industries as well as fire services.

The system was designed to

improve the level of comfort and confidence of appliance occupants during a burnover.

During a burnover, gasses may develop inside the vehicle cabin. Independent testing shows that while these gasses are not lethal, they may be barely tolerable for those in the cabin.

The system is designed to use the standard CFS CABA cylinder, ensuring the relative ease of recommissioning the system after testing, training or operational use.

The in cab breathing system is simple to operate, reliable, effective and not affected by facial hair (beards) as it utilises a hood, rather than a face mask or mouthpiece.

By simply opening the CABA cylinder valve, the system will

▽ Cab spray system



△ Crew deck fire curtain  
External view



△ In cab breathing system



△ Crew deck  
fire curtain  
Internal View



✓ Cabin blinds – External view



✓ Cabin blinds – Internal view



activate and breathing air will flow to all hoods simultaneously.

Two hoods are accessible by those seated in the front and four hoods accessible to those seated in the back of the appliance cabin.

Air will flow at a constant rate and pressure giving breathable air to six occupants for at least five minutes.

#### Cabin Blinds

The roll down blinds inside the appliance cabin are designed to reflect radiant heat.

Made from a relatively lightweight material, the blinds will provide limited protection from flame impingement.

Independent testing has shown this type of material will also help to greatly reduce the temperature inside the cabin in the event of a burnover.

The blinds are easy and quick to deploy by releasing Velcro straps, however in some instances manual assistance may be required to completely unroll the blinds to ensure they effectively reach the bottom of all windows.

Should a burnover occur, the blinds can be rapidly removed once the firefront has passed, allowing crew to exit the cabin, to extinguish fires on and around the appliance and drive to a safe area.

#### Crew Deck Fire Curtain

The use of a fire curtain to protect firefighters on the rear of the appliance has evolved from the original concept of a drop down curtain used on CFS appliances since the early eighties.

It now operates as an awning over those who may be working from the crew deck at the front of the appliance tray, providing a high level of protection from flame impingement and radiant heat for firefighters.

The curtain can be quickly and simply engaged by firefighters if they are caught on the crew deck. The awning frame is released by opening two catches which allow the awning frame to swing down creating a fireproof cover over the firefighters.

This protection is further increased with the inclusion of an additional three curtains that roll down from the frame to floor level.

While the curtain material has been subjected to testing to demonstrate it can withstand significant heat loads, there will still

be a degree of heat transmitted through the material and under extreme conditions the under side of the material will get hot to touch.

The design of the awning provides an air gap between firefighters and the awning material to further protect the occupants from burns as the surface temperature of the awning increases.

It must be recognised that during a burnover event the conditions in the vehicle cab and on the crew deck will, at best, be extremely uncomfortable for what will seem like a very long time.

The only way to ensure the safety of firefighters is to avoid being trapped in a burnover situation.

Be aware of potential Dead Man Zones, watchout and continually assess the potential risks of the area you are working in.



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# CFS BUILDING PROJECTS

By: David Lynch, CFS/SES Project Manager

The SA Country Fire Service (CFS) continues to review and improve the development of generic-design floor plans and elevations for its fire stations and group control centres.

This focus on continual improvement is designed to meet the changing operational needs and specific requirements for the following categories of fire stations:

- One appliance bay brigade station.
- Two appliance bay brigade station.
- Two or three appliance bay brigade and Group Control Centre.
- Three appliance bay brigade and Type 3 Group Control Centre.

During 2005/06 CFS committed funding for 17 building projects.

The building projects at Clare, Inman Valley, Callington, Jamestown, Melrose, Coober Pedy, Parndana, Kongonny, Glencoe West, Strathalbyn and Tanunda have been completed.

Work has commenced at Hallett, Cummins, Andamooka, Roseworthy, Booleroo and Aldgate.

## GENERIC DESIGNS

In most instances, new CFS stations and group control centres have a generic floor plan.

### Three Bay Brigade and Type 3 Group Control Centre

This style can be found at Jamestown, Strathalbyn, Clare (co-located with SES), Kingston (co-located with SES), Andamooka (co-located with SES) and Hallett (co-located with SES).

Page 47 shows some plans and photos of these new CFS stations and group control centres.

**Figure 1 - Typical generic floor plan for a three bay brigade and type 3 group control centres.**

**Figure 2 - 3D Model of three bay appliance building structure frame.**

**Photo 1 - Strathalbyn, Three bay brigade station and group control centre.**

**Photo 2 - Jamestown, Three bay brigade station and type 3 group control centre.**

**Photo 3 - Kingston, Three bay brigade, and group control centre collocated with SES.**

**Photo 4 - Clare, Three bay brigade and group control centre collocated with SES.**

### Two Bay Brigade Station and Two Bay Brigade and Group Centre

**Figure 3 - A typical generic design floor plan of a two bay brigade station, which can be found at Beachport and Wirrabara.**

**Figure 4 - A typical generic design floor plan of a two bay brigade and group centre, which can be found at Elliston and Melrose.**

**Figure 5 - 3D Model of two bay appliance building structure frame.**

**Photo 5 - Melrose, Two bay brigade station and group centre.**

## One-Bay Brigade Station

**Figure 6 - A typical generic design floor plan can be found at Alma, Woolshed/Wasleys Waterloo, Inman Valley and Southend.**

**Figure 7 - 3D Model of single bay appliance building structure frame.**

**Photo 6 - Callington, One bay brigade station**

**Photo 7 - Inman Valley, One bay brigade station**

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY – DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

'Energy design' principles are applied to the location of all new CFS buildings, where possible, subject to the proposed land configuration.

Non air-conditioned building spaces are generally located on the western side of buildings to shelter the air-conditioned areas.

Building areas generally have a high level of thermal insulation in the walls and roof elements to enhance operating efficiency of air conditioning systems.

An isolation switch is installed, to turn off all unnecessary power when leaving the station, which is connected to an external warning light.

## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE

Legal requirements of the Occupational, Health, Safety and Welfare Regulations and the general principles of approved codes and practices will be applied to all new CFS fire stations during the architectural and engineering design processes.

## BUILDING CODE OF AUSTRALIA

The generic design process for CFS fire stations embraces the technical provisions and legal requirements for the design and construction of the buildings and other structures.

The design process applies standards of structural sufficiency, safety, health and amenity for the benefit of CFS volunteers and in compliance with the Building Code of Australia.

## SPECIAL FEATURES

During the development and design phase of the individual building projects, the following special features were included:

- Emergency lighting system installed to enable incident management to continue in the event of power outage.
- Generator input to provide auxiliary power supply when mains power is not available.
- Warning device to alert occupants that mains power is available whilst operating with generator.
- Siren pole designed to enable safe and simple lowering of siren pole with siren attached to facilitate service and repairs of siren.
- Appliance bay area has considered ongoing changes to the appliance design that impact on the size of appliances
- Appliance bay floors are constructed with drain and trash rack to disperse water that leaks or is spilled from appliance water tanks.
- Application of epoxy non-slip finish to appliance bay concrete slabs.
- Sealing of buildings to prevent entry of birds, vermin and dust.

- Installation of split system air conditioning to offices, operations/meeting and communications room.
  - Provision for radio antenna cables, and call out equipment cabling enclosed within covered ladder rack.
  - Interface of security system with the FSI to alert CFS personnel.
  - Installation of digital locks to PA doors as a means to increase security.
  - Installation of 'ampli-mesh' security screens to all external windows and panel doors.
  - Installation of an electronic security system that can be accessed by telephone to analyse and identify faults and re-configure.
  - Installation of additional telephone cabling to the operations area should additional services be required at short notice (Group Control Centres).
  - Installation of water supply and waste system for future washing machine.
  - Group Control Centres pre-wired to facilitate overhead projectors.
  - CCTV to monitor security to appliance bays.
  - Concrete kerbs and gutters with sealed car park areas.
- The above list of 'special features' has been included to enhance and improve the operational use of the buildings and general protection of a long-term investment by CFS.

## INTERNAL FINISHES

Several standard finishes include: plaster board wall linings, painted wall and ceiling finishes, fluoro lighting with diffuser, emergency lighting, smoke alarms and kitchen server hatch. (Photo 8).

Photo 9 displays the kitchen design and finishes, which include an electric or gas stove, an electric or gas HWS, microwave shelf, hand basin and paper towel dispenser.

## APPLIANCE BAY BUILDINGS

CFS has developed a generic design for the appliance bay buildings in accordance with the Building Code of Australia and the Post Disaster Recovery Code.

The appliance bays are constructed using a steel Portal Frame system with metal wall and roof cladding (Photo 10).

Other internal features of appliance bays include: concrete floor with 'non-slip' epoxy coating, internal 'flying' down pipes, secure PA doors, battery charger shelf and a skylight system for natural lighting (Photo 11).

Some electric roller door features include, capacity to operate roller door manually, hanging power point connection and hanging 'fluoro' lighting system with diffuser (Photo 12).

Lastly the BA sink, made of double stainless steel with a splash back wall, includes taps and drain for washing machine and floor drain (Photo 13).

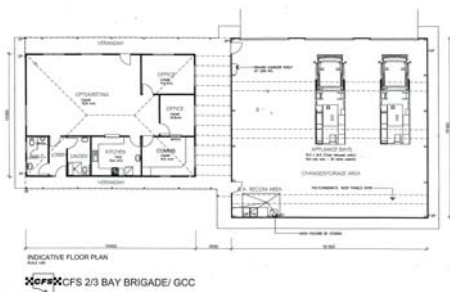


Figure 1

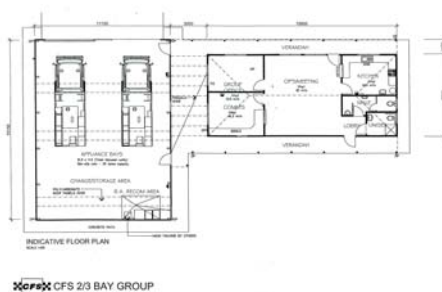


Figure 4



Photo 7

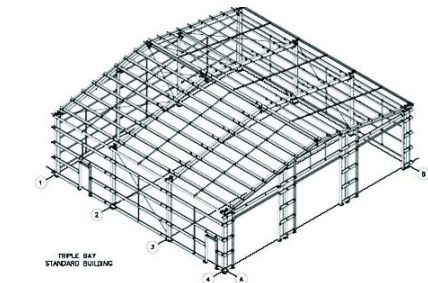


Figure 2

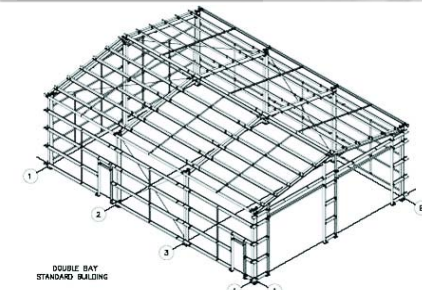


Figure 5



Photo 1



Photo 5



Photo 8



Photo 2

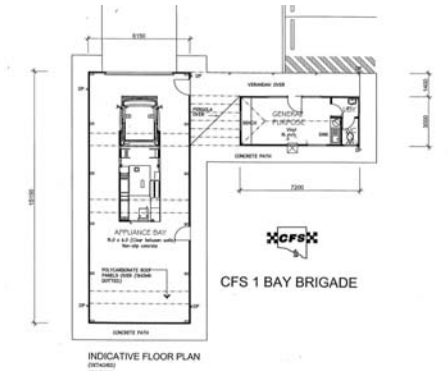


Figure 6



Photo 9



Photo 3



Photo 10



Photo 4

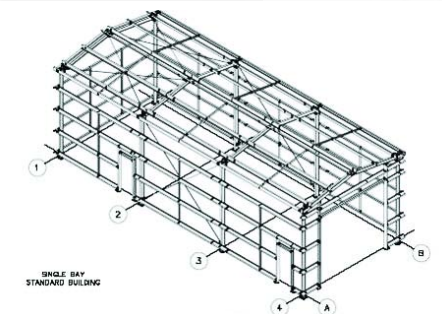


Figure 7



Photo 11

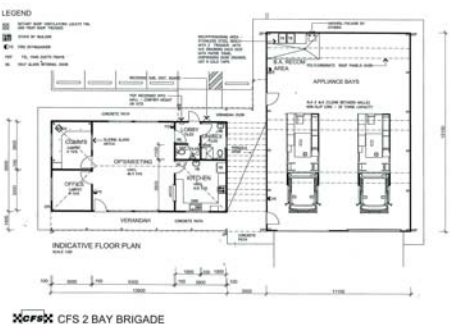


Figure 3



Photo 6



Photo 12



Photo 13





# VEHICLE LOGS FOR GROUP COMMAND VEHICLES

By: Wayne Byrne, CFS Project Officer Technical Services

EQUIPMENT NEWS

As more group command vehicles are being sourced from Fleet SA, under a leasing arrangement, nominated drivers are reminded to regularly complete the vehicle log sheet.

CFS owned command vehicles are being gradually replaced with vehicles from Fleet SA under a leasing arrangement.

One of the requirements of driving a Fleet SA vehicle is that the driver must complete a vehicle log sheet for every journey the vehicle makes.

Vehicle logs are a necessity that serves three main purposes.

Firstly, they are designed to reassure Fleet SA that CFS vehicles are being properly maintained, in regards to meeting scheduled service intervals and to facilitate timely replacement of vehicles.

Secondly, vehicle logs allow CFS to maintain a well appointed fleet of vehicles and keep the fleet management costs to a minimum.

And finally, in the event of a traffic

infringement, the appropriate driver of the vehicle at the time of infringement can be identified and issued with the infringement notice. Otherwise unnecessary paperwork needs to be completed to seek a statutory declaration from the person nominated as the predominant driver of the vehicle.

Completed log sheet(s) are required at the end of each month and are to be forwarded to CFS Project Officer Technical Services, Wayne Byrne.

When Fleet SA CFS vehicles reach their scheduled service period, contact needs to be made with Fleet SA for servicing approval and advice on an appropriate local service provider. Fleet SA can be contacted on 1800 800 649 (country) or 08 8226 4633 (metro).

For questions regarding the CFS command vehicle fleet, refer to the Fleet SA Driver Handbook located in the vehicle glove box, or if the matter is not covered in the handbook, contact Wayne Byrne at CFS HQ on 08 8463 4241.



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VOLUNTEER - EQUIPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE



## COMMUNICATIONS

# CFS CRD TRANSITION AND SACAD PROJECT

By: Gary Bau, CFS Communications Coordinator

The SA Country Fire Service (CFS) is continuing to provide information sessions on the Call, Receipt, Dispatch (CRD) transition and SA Computer Aided Dispatch (SACAD) project.

Sessions have been delivered to most groups in Region 1 and Region 2, and a number of other sessions have been held around the State at venues including Ceduna, Wudinna,

Cleve, Mount Gambier, Mannum, Truro and Melrose.

Region 1 and 2 will be the first regions across the State to transition, and further information sessions will be held in other regions in the future.

The sessions have been well received with an overall positive reaction from volunteers.

The next step for CFS in

preparation for the transition will be to work with brigades to commence mapping their response areas.

Once this initial map is developed, CFS will then conduct transition sessions to capture all information relating to brigade response areas.

These transition meetings will incorporate input from a CFS Group, rather than an individual brigade, but they will also include the brigades

that are adjacent to the group and CFS Regional Operational staff.

The sessions are designed to be as effortless as possible for brigades. There will be a number of templates the attendees will need to complete with a facilitator.

The first CFS Groups and Brigades to be transitioned will be those who are currently responded by MFS Communications Centre.



# COMPARTMENT FIRE BEHAVIOUR

By: Darren Chapman, State Training Officer

**C**ompartment firefighting (CFB) refers to the different strategies and tactics employed by firefighters to assert an element of control over potentially deteriorating fire conditions within buildings or other compartments.

Historically firefighters have focused their initial attack strategies on the visible fire (flames) and have neglected the hidden dangers of the unburnt fire gases (smoke layer).

During the 1980's Swedish Fire Engineers developed new techniques for dealing with hazards including flashovers, backdraft, smoke gas explosion and other forms of fire gas ignition.

These techniques defined the

principles of 3 D water fog applications into the overhead fire gas layer to suppress flaming combustion and inert unignited fire gases. These tactical venting options address both opening up and closing down (anti-ventilation) of a fire, as well as the traditional techniques of direct and indirect fire suppression.

CFS CFB training provides our volunteer firefighters with the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions as to appropriate combatant actions that may be employed at a structure using the combined principles of CFB and dynamic risk assessment techniques.

The principles of compartment firefighting form part of a larger strategic approach to structural

firefighting. As such the old saying of surround and drown still has its place within the total process.

## A word from Heidi Geytenbeek who recently attended a CFB course

WOW! What a fantastic course.

Having just completed my CFB training I would encourage all OBAOC operators to register and attend this course.

It gives you a whole new appreciation for structural firefighting techniques, ignition development, fire behaviour and team work.

At first it was extremely daunting, the thought of being in a container that was on fire was a lot to take in and I was more than a little nervous before my first burn.



## ▲ Compartment Fire Behaviour Training - Brukunga

Once the nerves had settled and I could take it all in I had a ball, learnt so much and had a wonderful time with everyone on the course. Give it a go, you wont regret it.



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VOLUNTEER - TRAINING

## REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW TRAINER-ASSESSORS WITHIN CFS

By: Lee Watson, CFS State Training Officer

**I**n 2005 a new national Training and Assessment Training Package was introduced.

As a result those seeking to become trainers and assessors now need to complete additional units of competency to gain the qualifications required to deliver and assess nationally accredited units and/or courses.

For some time CFS has been consulting with the South Australian Vocational Education Training Quality Branch to determine the requirements for all new CFS Trainer-Assessors

Listed below is a comparison of the former and now current requirements for all new Trainer-Assessors within CFS.

In addition to the standard academic requirements, all CFS Trainers and Assessors must also demonstrate vocational competencies (at least to the level of those being delivered and assessed), in accordance with the CFS Chief Officer's Training Policies and Procedures Manual.

These changes will impact those

who wish to become a new Trainer and Assessor, however there is presently no requirement current Trainer and Assessors with Train Small Group and Workplace Assessor competencies to update their qualifications.

For further information contact Lee Watson at the CFS State Training Centre on 08 8398 9900.

Former Requirements for all new Trainer-Assessors (pre Nov. '05)		Current Requirements for all new Trainer-Assessors (post Nov. '05)	
Trainer's Course	Assessor's Course	Trainer's Course	Assessor's Course
Train Small Group (BSZ404A)	Workplace Assessor incorporating units: Plan Assessment (BSZ401A); Conduct Assessment (BSZ402A); and Review Assessment (BSZ403A)	Provide Training Through Instruction and Demonstration of Work Skills (TAADEL301A)	Workplace Assessment incorporating units: Plan and Organise Assessment (TAAASS401A); Assess Competence (TAAASS402A); and Participate in Assessment Validation (TAAASS404A)

## SHARING OF TRAINING RECORDS

By: Lee Watson, CFS State Training Officer

**T**he SA Country Fire Service and SA Metropolitan Fire Service (SAMFS) have finalised an agreement between both agencies to share the training records for common volunteers/employees.

One of the aims of this initiative was to minimise the duplication of

training requirements for individuals associated with both agencies and to ensure that both agencies have up to date and relevant training records.

CFS volunteers who are also employees of SAMFS and would like their training records shared between both agencies, are

encouraged to complete a SAMFS Request to Access/Share Training Records form.

These forms are available from CFS Regional Training Officers or the SAMFS Training Department, Angle Park.

Once completed, forms are to be forwarded to the SAMFS

Training Department.

If you have any queries, please contact:

Lee Watson at the CFS State Training Centre on 8398 9900

Annette Turner Duggan at the SAMFS Training Department, Angle Park on 8243 6508.



# CABA MEDICAL CONTROVERSY

By: Judy Arthur, Manager Health, Safety and Welfare

The Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus (CABA) Medical Standards have generated significant discussion in recent times, with some volunteers undergoing accreditation or re-accreditation questioning particular standards and at times disputing their relevance.

The medical standards for CABA accreditation have been determined by the CFS Medical Advisor and are reviewed every few years, taking into account medical specialist advice, contemporary health information and operational requirements.

The two standards relating to CABA, which are currently generating discussion, are the absolute requirement for a Body Mass Index (BMI) less than 35, and the guidelines relating to asthma.

A respiratory physician is currently reviewing the asthma guidelines and information will be available shortly, following the completion of the review.

BMI is a measurement derived from body mass (weight) and stature (height) which is used to evaluate the normalcy of one's body weight.

It is recognised that as the BMI increases to above 27.8 for men and 27.3 for women, there is an associated increased incidence of high blood pressure, diabetes and coronary heart disease. The highest risk category is that of individuals whose BMI exceeds 40.

Firefighters with a BMI less than 35 are able to participate in CABA, despite the individual considered to be in the 'obese' category, providing the person meets other medical criteria.

These standards were developed with a focus on firefighter safety. In reality the allowance is quite generous considering the previously outlined health risks.

Our focus is on firefighter safety and wellbeing, a point which may be overlooked by some voicing concerns about not passing the BMI criteria.

In saying that, we are conscious that there are limitations to the use of BMI which include the failure of BMI to consider the proportional composition of the body. For example, if an individual has an excessive muscle mass in relation to their height, their BMI in some instances could lead to an incorrect interpretation of being overweight.

Firefighters who wear CABA are required to work in the areas of greatest risk, wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that has the highest level of protection, work in extreme temperature and undertake sustained physical activity whilst maintaining intense concentration.

The CFS OHS statistics give numerous examples of firefighters who have suffered heat stress and exhaustion during operations where CABA is required as well as bushfire firefighting.

## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY HYDROSTATIC CYLINDER TESTING STANDARDS CHANGE

By: Garth Hogarth, CFS State Training Officer

The Australian Standard relating to the cylinders used in Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus (CABA) has changed. Under Standards AS2337.3.2006 the period of hydro test of hooped cylinders (FRP's) and fully wrapped (Carbon Fibre) cylinders has been extended from three years to five years.

The change to these standards was effective from 11 October 2006.

Please ensure that this is communicated to brigade members who manage the cylinder maintenance program.

The maximum service life of a cylinder HAS NOT CHANGED and remains the same at 15 years.

The CFS has a duty of care to its firefighters, both legally and morally and is required to provide a safe working environment and system of work so far as is reasonably practicable.

This means that the CABA operations use safe systems of work and risk assessments are conducted with the identified control measures implemented. We need to ensure firefighters are physically able to perform the duties and have the proper equipment including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to do the job.

In addition to the obligations of the CFS, firefighters also have responsibilities to protect their own health and safety and the safety of others who may be affected by the actions or omissions at work.

Firefighters (who are considered employees under the Occupational Health and Safety Act) must use the equipment provided and follow reasonable instructions the employer

(CFS) gives on health and safety.

A study to compare firefighter PPE ensembles and the dissipation of metabolic induced heat was conducted by the NSW Fire Brigade in 2001.

The study found that the average core body temperature of the firefighters rose by 1.76°C, an average maximal cardiac frequency of 168 beats per minute was recorded and a work rate that corresponded to 85 percent of the age-predicted maximal cardiac frequency.

This work rate has implications for work related physiological strain and the physical fitness of the firefighters.

Needless to say, the CABA medical is conducted to ensure our front line firefighters are fit and physically able to do the job the CFS asks them to do.

When the Training Staff enforce these standards there should be cooperation and understanding, not complaint.

There are some occasions where there are borderline decisions to be made and a third opinion may be sought to clarify the matter.

We should see the medical standards from the viewpoint of ensuring the CABA Operator's safety and comply with them to ensure the firefighter's wellbeing.

**SAFETY FIRST. COME HOME SAFE.**

### References:

McArdle W.D., Katch F.I., Katch V.L. (1996) Exercise Physiology 4th Edition. Taylor N.A.S., Fogarty A. and Armstrong K. (2001) Metabolic Heat Storage in Thermal Protection Clothing: A comparison of fire fighter personal protection ensembles. NSW Fire Brigade. SA OHSW Act, 1986

## BMI IS CALCULATED USING THE FOLLOWING FORMULA:

**BMI = BODY MASS/KG ÷ STATURE/HEIGHT (IN METRES SQUARED)**

**EXAMPLES: 88KG ÷ 1.8522 = 25.7 BMI**

**100KG ÷ 1.8522 = 29.2 BMI**

**120KG ÷ 1.8522 = 35.06 BMI**

**120KG ÷ 1.9522 = 31.5 BMI**

The BMI index uses a number of categories, a 'normal' BMI is less than 25, 'overweight' is between 25 and 30 and 'obesity' is defined as a BMI in excess of 30.

# FATIGUE AND FIREFIGHTING

By: Mike Guilfoyle, OHS&W Officer

**F**ighting bushfires is a very physically and mentally demanding operation.

Strenuous work, extreme weather conditions, continuous decision making and long hours all contribute to fatigue.

Fatigue can have dangerous consequences, especially in situations when driving or operating equipment, such as chainsaws.

It is important to understand fatigue, and recognise the signs and ways to minimise fatigue.

## What is fatigue?

Fatigue, or tiredness leading to a reduction in function, is a result of inadequate time for your body to recover.

People may respond differently under the same circumstances because people respond differently to fatigue.

Fatigue is not just caused by lack of sleep or long working hours, it builds up over time with a number of factors contributing to it including:

- Consumption of alcohol and drugs
- Not eating enough or eating the wrong foods
- Not drinking enough water
- Not resting or recreating when possible
- Not enough or poor quality sleep
- Disrupted sleep patterns
- Lack of fitness.

## How do you recognise fatigue?

There are many warning signs of the onset of fatigue and it is important to watch for and recognise these signs not just in yourself but also in your fellow CFS volunteers.

Some common warning signs of fatigue include:

- Poor concentration/day dreaming
- Dizziness
- Eyes closing, head nodding
- Altered vision and heavy and/or sore eyes
- Yawning and/or strong desire to sleep
- Less positive moods, irritation, hostility and impaired perception
- Lack of interest and reduced motivation
- Memory loss
- Lack of speed and accuracy in continuous work
- Decreased ability to perform interpersonal tasks such as decision making, decisiveness, judgment, prioritisation, leadership and communication
- Thought process takes longer and becomes more difficult.

## How can you minimize fatigue?

### 1. Maximize opportunities to sleep

After a long day on the fireground, between five and eight hours sleep is recommended for your body to be replenished for the next day.

### 2. Rest when possible

Take rest breaks as often as

possible out on the fireground and in places that are safe and as cool and clean (air wise) as you can get.

### 3. Swap tasks with crew mates

Rotating tasks within a crew can make the work more interesting and does not tire out your muscles as quickly.

### 4. Maintain hydration

Drink water well before, during and after work on the fireground.

### 5. Eat well

Food provides fuel to power your muscles. Snack on high-energy foods throughout your shift to maintain energy and to combat fatigue. If you are going out onto the fireground, ensure you always eat breakfast.

### 6. Maintain fitness

Fit workers are able to cope with the demands of firefighting better than unfit workers. Maintaining your fitness level can help reduce the amount of work stress on the fireground.

### 7. Wind down from the day

Take any opportunities to wind down from the day's efforts. Chat to mates, call your family, do something you like to do.

### 8. Minimise alcohol consumption

The effects of alcohol do catch up with you. Alcohol and firefighting DO NOT mix. To a fatigued person, one alcoholic drink can have the effect of four or five.

## ALWAYS REMEMBER

It is very difficult for people to tell when they are fatigued and to notice that they are not working safely.

At a fire you are responsible for your actions. This is regardless of your role. Managing fatigue maybe the difference between the job getting done safely or people getting injured or killed.

Fatigue does not discriminate, everyone is susceptible.



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VOLUNTEER - OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY



# FACES IN THE CROWD

## FROM ASPIRATIONS TO LIVING A DREAM

By: Lyssa Liebelt, Nairne CFS

**James Clements, a firefighter with Nairne CFS has aspired to be a CFS volunteer since the time he could walk. Volunteer magazine spent time finding out more about this inspired firefighter.**

At the age of 11, James officially became a cadet member of Nairne CFS and spent most of his time training with the more senior members of the brigade.

"Being part of the brigade, helping out with maintenance, attending basic training and being part of the Woodhouse Cadet Camp was thrilling, I really enjoyed being involved," James said.

James's interest in the CFS commenced long before he joined as a cadet. James and his mother were regular visitors to the local CFS station and the SA Metropolitan Fire Station in Wakefield Street from the age of three.

His mother Jenny tells of his early love for anything fire service related saying "He enjoyed nothing more than to put on his mini CFS overalls, and play firefighters in the backyard. The shed was turned into the fire station with his bike and a pedal tractor as the trucks."

Fellow Nairne CFS member, Bronte Richter, commented about James impersonating the siren, "If the wind was blowing in the right direction, I would hear him from my place, if I didn't have a pager I would have assumed it was the real deal."

At the age of eight, James was allowed to visit the station on a more regular basis, whenever the Captain said it was convenient to come down.

At the age of nine and with the permission from the Royal Show Main Arena Manager, James was lucky enough to be on the Nairne appliance when it participated in the Royal Show Main Arena demonstration

James was so keen to be involved that whenever the siren or pagers sounded he would get his mum to race him down to the station just so he could see the fire trucks leaving

One of his mothers' fondest memories of James and his love for the fire service was when he was in

grade one at school. He had scored full marks from his teacher and as a special reward his mum let him choose one thing to buy – His choice was a Backdraft Video.

At the age of 13 James purchased his first scanner, to enable him to know when Nairne had a call out.

Anytime of the day or night, rain, hail or shine when Nairne was at a call out there would James be keeping watch over his beloved fire station

In January 2006 James completed his BFF1 training, which enabled him to become a firefighter in July when he turned 16.

"My first real call out was a fixed alarm and we were stop called, but it was still a great feeling to be able to go out on the truck instead of sitting at the shed" James said

"My second incident was a shed fire at Littlehampton. There was a lot more action at that job, and it was a good experience seeing everyone put their training into

practice. I was able to help with clean up, helped out the owners and did a few coffee runs," he said

James said his main aim in joining the CFS was to be able to help the community when they needed it most.

"I really enjoy being part of a tight knit team and have made some really close friends. Some of the more senior members took me under their wing when I was younger and that has added to enjoyment of my time at the brigade," James said.

"My school has also been very supportive of my CFS activities allowing me to take time off to attend incidents," he said.

James is hoping that his future lies as a career firefighter with the Metropolitan Fire Service, and is adamant that whatever happens he will continue as a CFS volunteer

But for now he is happy being a firefighter with Nairne CFS while he concentrates on finishing his studies.





# PHAMOUS PHOTOS



^ A cuddly friend rescued on Kangaroo Island. Photo: Peter Broadbent

## 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.



^ Firefighters attending a pallet fire at Tea Tree Gully. Photo: Matt Bonser



^ Waitpinga 2 4 assisting at Kangaroo Island. Photo: Alan Bence



^ Crews at the staging area on Kangaroo Island. Photo: Alan Bence



^ Upper Sturt CFS conducting gas prop training. Photo: James Mclean



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VOLUNTEER - PHAMOUS PHOTOS





# THANKYOU



⬆ The motor vehicle accident Birdwood CFS responded to on 20 May 2006 on the Adelaide to Mannum Road. **Photo:** Harry Bryant, Brigade Captain, Birdwood CFS

## Birdwood CFS and Ray Brownbill

**T**o John Hutchins,  
My sincere thanks for the professional and dedicated efforts of Birdwood CFS & Ray Brownbill regarding a motor vehicle accident on Saturday, 20 May 2006.

I was extremely short on the ground and these gentlemen provided assistance from first aid, scene preservation to rescue and removal of debris.

As always the professional manner in which they performed was to a high standard which this Group seems to aspire to.

Their efforts were a credit to themselves and the CFS in general.

Without them, my work would have been substantially more difficult.

Thank you.

**Chris Bastian**  
**B/Sgt, 1126/6**  
**Officer in Charge**  
**Gumeracha Police Station -48-**

## Efficient Volunteers

**I**wanted to write and express my gratitude to the CFS and the wonderful people who volunteered their time and equipment in fighting the fires in Clare last Tuesday, 5 December 2006.

I had the opportunity to observe the efficient way the CFS went about setting up a control centre at the Clare Showgrounds and was impressed at how quickly they had helicopters in the air and huge water tankers in place for re-filling the firefighting trucks.

The ground force set in place refreshments and administration areas plus St John was there for any medical emergencies. These same people were still in the Brick Pavilion at 11.30pm that night providing services for many tired district volunteers.

By 10am on Wednesday morning I was advised the last vehicles had left and I could lock up the buildings on the showgrounds. You would never have known they had been there, everything had been put away and the grounds were tidy.

How can you thank these people who give so much time and effort to save our homes and livelihoods

These CFS units came from so many districts and were still leaving Clare after midnight to return to their homes hours away.

Thank you seems such a small recognition for these dedicated people.

Well done CFS and volunteers.

**RHONDA KOZIOL**  
**Treasurer**  
**Clare A & H Society Inc**

(Northern Argus, 13 December 2006)

## Well Done CFS

**L**ightning was the cause of a scrub fire on our Malpas property last Sunday, 26 November 2006

The quick response from neighbours and Country Fire Service (CFS) members helped bring the fire under control by the following day

Scrub fires are often not very easy to control and this one had the potential to burn a significant area of native vegetation and threaten crops and farmland if left to continue burning.

The terrain was hilly and on loose sandy soil even 4 x 4 vehicles proved access was very difficult.

After working with the CFS volunteers to control the fire we were most impressed with the way the CFS handled the situation.

Their experience in handling scrub fires, the equipment they have access to, and the backup support they can call upon we thought was very good.

It was also very obvious that the fire crews are well trained, disciplined and very safety conscious.

However, the thing we were most impressed and grateful for was the preparedness of all the volunteers who gave up their time and energy to put in a big effort and bring the fire under control so it posed no further threat.

We say a big thank you from us to the CFS, neighbours and anyone else involved.

Many of these CFS volunteers have been involved with many more fires in recent times in our district.

Our community in general must be mindful of the great work these people do and not let their efforts go unrecognised.

**Andrew and Annette Cass**  
**Loxton**

(Loxton News, 13 December 2006)

## Well Done CFS

**W**ell done to the members of the Country Fire Service and Metropolitan Fire Service who assisted during the bushfire last Wednesday, 11 October 2006.

The help and advice received both during and immediately after the fire was greatly appreciated.

It is hard to explain the comfort given by being able to see those flashing blue and red lights during the terrible conditions of the fire and the night that followed.

To all those men and women involved - well done.

We also wish to thank the two men in the red truck and trailer who were a very welcome sight at a needy time.

**John Lecner & Maxine James**  
**Port Lincoln**

(Port Lincoln Times, 17 October 2006)

## Job Well Done

**A**ll the volunteers involved in the recent fire on the northern outskirts of Port Lincoln, on Wednesday 11 October 2006, deserve a significant thank you.

The CFS firefighters; the MFS firefighters; private farmer firefighters and all the support agencies such as the CFS incident management team, SES, St Johns, the Salvation Army, and others did a fantastic job and are deserved of a huge thank you.

The fact that the fire burnt through a populated area and resulted in very little property damage is a credit to all involved and resulted from the cooperation of all parties involved.

**BARRY HETHERINGTON**  
**Lower Eyre Peninsula**  
**CFS Group Officer**

(Port Lincoln Times, 24 October 2006)



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VOLUNTEER - THANKYOU'S

## 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  
F: 08 8391 1877  
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  
F: 08 8522 6404  
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  
F: 08 8532 6220  
E: cfsr3@cfs.org.au

#### REGION 4

Flinders, Mid North and Pastoral areas  
3 Main Street, Port Augusta SA 5700  
T: 08 8642 2399  
F: 08 8641 0176  
E: cfsr4@cfs.org.au

#### REGION 5

South East  
46 Smith Street, Naracoorte SA 5271  
T: 08 8762 2311  
F: 08 8762 1865  
E: cfsr5@cfs.org.au

#### REGION 6

Eyre Peninsula and West Coast  
Level 1, Jobomi House  
48 Liverpool Street, Port Lincoln SA 5606  
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F: 08 8682 6569  
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#### STATE TRAINING CENTRE (BRUKUNGA)

6 Pyrites Road, Brukunga SA 5252  
T: 08 8398 9900  
F: 08 8388 6997  
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

#### VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT BRANCH

1300 364 587

# CONTACT DETAILS

## VOLUNTEER [ OBITUARIES ]

### ALLAN STANLEY BURGEMEISTER OF NURIOTPA CFS

By: Tony Wege, Nuriootpa CFS

Allan Burgemeister passed away late October 2006 at the age of 64, having battled a severe blood disease for a number of years.

Allan was a very active and highly valued member of Nuriootpa CFS, after moving to the area from a farm near Cambrai and Sedan in the 1970s.

Allan was well respected for his highly developed sense of community duty, belief in hard work and fairness stemming from his strong Christian principles.

A volunteer for more than 30 years, Allan rarely missed weekly CFS training and soon became the 'Mr Fixit' for the equipment at Nuriootpa CFS and other nearby CFS brigades.

He was well known in the Barossa, Lower North and Murray Plains areas and was considered a 'master of micro engineering', a natural born mechanical problem solver.

Rarely did anything stop him, putting a hand to the detailed precision repairs of the internals of pumps on CFS appliances or rebuilding a smashed transfer case on a 3 4 from a mass of imported spare parts, whether it was repairing farmers hay balers and headers out in the paddock, or pulling down the differentials of tractors, or even repairing women's electronic sewing machines; Allan could do it.

For much of his time with Nuriootpa CFS, Allan was, fairly obviously, its Equipment Officer, keeping a watchful eye on the brigade's equipment. His ute was regularly seen parked out the back of the station long into the night, with all knowing that 'Burgy' was at it again. Whether it be repairing some piece of gear – perhaps a water leak due to a faulty seal, a poorly performing suction pump or simply a light globe that needed replacing – anything of any size that went wrong, Allan could and did fix it with an absolute minimum of fuss.

Allan was a highly experienced firefighter, attending hundreds of call outs of all forms with Nuriootpa CFS and in his latter years became a highly competent road crash rescue operator.

His innate sense of the mechanical would often see solutions to problems extricating people from car and truck wrecks that others might not see.

Allan was a life member of Nuriootpa CFS and the CFS. He held the National Medal as well as the International Year of the Volunteer Medal, having given a dedicated volunteer service to the community in which he lived here in the Barossa, Nuriootpa CFS and the CFS in general for many years.

We are all the poorer for his passing.

### JANET ROSEMARY BULLING

By: Lyn Worden, Administration Officer, Woolsheds/Wasleys CFS

In memory of Janet Rosemary Bulling who passed away suddenly on 17 April 2006.

Born 29 October 1939, Janet was a respected member of Woolsheds/Wasleys CFS for 26 years.

Janet was a past Administration and Communications Officer and also held the office of Lieutenant for a number of years.





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# INCIDENT MANAGEMENT UPDATE

By: Leanne Adams, CFS Incident Management Project Officer

## Courses in Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS)

Throughout 2006, AIIMS courses have continued to run, with 241 people receiving training in this vitally important system so far this year.

Of this, 137 were CFS members and 104 from other agencies, including the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH), the State Emergency Service (SES), SA Police, St John, SA Water, SANTOS, Department of Health and others.

The training has been well received and courses continue to be in high demand.

## AIIMS Team Resource Pool

The AIIMS Team Resource Pool is an extension of the two State Level 3 Incident Management Teams (IMT) that were established last fire danger season.

This season, CFS will be increasing its capacity, enabling each region to fill two Level 2 IMT's and the State an additional two Level 3 teams.

These teams will be a mix of volunteers and staff from CFS and other agencies, including DEH, ForestrySA, SAMFS, SES and others.

For individuals willing to be involved in incident management, regions will be looking at what roles they are suitable for and at what level.

To determine roles we will be talking to individuals, and supervisors, reviewing training, incident deployments and other relevant experience to determine the most suitable position(s).

This will help us build our

competency and confidence in specific areas and help Incident Controllers appoint appropriate people to positions.

We will not only be identifying suitable people for the four key functional areas of AIIMS (Control, Operations, Planning and Logistics) but also looking at the units and more specialist areas such as Media Liaison, Radio Operators, Community Information, Communications Planning, Finance, Safety and many others.

The CFS Human Resource database TAS is currently being updated to manage the administration of incident management personnel.

Once TAS has been updated, each Region will contact their incident management personnel.

## Catering Workshops

In September 2006, two catering workshops were held at Brukunga, with 90 participants.

Dr Jim Ralph, a TAFE SA lecturer, delivered an informative and entertaining Hygiene for Food Handlers course during the first half of the day. All participants will be issued with national accreditation for this course.

A number of presentations, including one from the Salvation Army Emergency Services (SAES), were conducted in the second part of the day.

The SAES brought their catering truck, a well-equipped vehicle that provides meals to firefighting personnel for large and ongoing incidents.

One area the SAES emphasised in their presentation, was that they do not give SPAM to personnel at

incidents and never have.

Given that the first few meals provided to crews needs to be made from long-life ingredients, the Salvation Army use tinned fish or tinned premium ham, which are considered to be of a higher quality and is certainly more expensive than SPAM.

We would like to thank John Dunkley and his team from SAES for the outstanding service they provide to the CFS.

Their ongoing support to CFS and other agencies during incidents and their commitment to continually improve their excellent service is greatly appreciated.

Another presentation focused on firefighter health; including a discussion on food and fluid intake, catering plans, logistical support and responsibilities for catering.

Some catering responsibilities include appliances to be self-sufficient for local incidents for up to four hours, and for strike teams to be self-sufficient for 12 hours.

Workshops can be held across each region, as long as there are at least 12 participants.

The training can be extended to any non-CFS volunteers who provide assistance with catering.

In addition to the workshops, CFS have provided each Group with information on managing catering in groups.

Some resources include; food hygiene information including a DVD from the Department of Health, a DVD on how to plan for catering in your brigade/group and a recipe book specifically designed to cater for emergency personnel with meals

that can be prepared quickly with limited resources.

## Logistics and Planning Workshops

Logistics and Planning Workshops were held on 28 and 29 October 2006.

Around 60 people attended each session, where we discussed the deployment process of incident management personnel and undertook a review of the Logistics and Planning functions, for this fire season.

Both workshops focused on communications within and outside the incident management team, planning for changeovers and putting enough people and the right people into incident management teams.

## Website

With the launch of the new CFS website fast approaching, keep a look out for the Incident Management section which will provide plenty of information and tools to help with incident management.

## Centre for Lessons Learned

'A Lesson is not learned until something is done'

A CFS Centre for Lessons Learned database has been created to collect and manage issues and lessons learned from incidents.

An information package about the Centre for Lessons Learned and its role, and a pro forma for recording information from debriefs that can then be used to manage issues, will be distributed shortly.

The aim of this new system is to track issues from incident debriefs to ensure they are followed up on and that the outcomes are communicated to relevant people.

Some of the Salvation Army ES team, from left; Audrey Johns (Team Leaders), Major Daryl Rawlings, Brian Johns (Team Leaders) and John Dunkley.





# MAKING CHANGEOVERS WORK

By: Leanne Adams, CFS Incident Management Project Officer

One of the most common criticisms to come out of incident debriefs is the poor management of changeovers.

Anyone who has experienced a poor changeover knows that they can lead to long shifts, long waits for welfare, time wasted, shorter rest periods and therefore fatigue, and poor morale.

If you are on the fireground at a larger incident, especially as a Sector or Division Commander, some points to consider in relation to changeovers are:

- Plan ahead and try to predict when you are going to need a relief crew, consider how long it's going to take to organise replacement crews and travel time. This usually takes a couple of hours depending on where crews will be coming from
- Identify critical issues for changeover and tell the Operations Officer/Incident Controller (IC)
- Liaise with the Operations Officer/IC to work out suitable times and locations for changeover
- Make sure changeover isn't planned to occur during critical operational periods

- Liaise with Operations Officer or IC about how changeover will occur, eg. by Divisions or Sectors as appropriate and in what order
- Ask how briefings with your replacements will occur
- Maintain sufficient amounts of machinery, vehicles and equipment to support fire line and safety needs
- Make sure safety isn't compromised during changeover
- Stick to the decided timelines
- Actively work on keeping the changeover process moving
- Keep communicating and reporting during changeover
- Keep the Operations Officer/IC informed about the progress of the changeover and any problems that arise.

A successful changeover relies on the involvement of the entire incident management team.

Consider the following:

- Appoint someone specifically to plan for and manage the changeover (eg a Changeover Manager in the Planning team)
- Plan and prepare for the changeover

- Ensure changeover planning includes consideration at all levels; Sector/Division/ Task Force/Strike Team/Single Resources; Section Units, Sub-Units and Single Resources.
- Meet to discuss how changeover is going to occur, this meeting should include the Changeover Manager, someone from Resources, Logistics and Operations (who should have obtained feedback from the fireground)
- Set timelines for things to occur, eg. when briefings happen, when appliances need to start coming off the fireground etc.
- Support the Staging Area Manager with enough personnel including people from the Resources Unit and Logistics
- Maintain close contact with the Staging Area Manager
- Liaise with Logistics and Planning regarding arrangements for Staging
- Consider lead-time, eg. travel time, briefing time
- It is preferable to changeover personnel in daylight hours, this help crews to become familiar

with the territory in the daylight and improves safety

- Briefings specific to each level are developed
- Crews changeover at a suitable safe location close to where they will be deployed
- Transport personnel in groups relating to their destination
- Feed incoming shift before changeover, and feed outgoing shift after changeover
- Avoid times critical to incident management.

Often we underestimate the amount of work required to effectively achieve a changeover.

It is important that we are all thinking ahead, pre-empting issues that might arise and problem solving.

Incident Controllers can help by specifically allocating the role of managing the changeover to an individual and by ensuring that individual has support (such as people to provide briefings, track resources and actually, effect the changeover.)



⚡ An example of a typical staging area.



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VOLUNTEER - NEWS &amp; UPDATES



# LIGHTS, SIREN, ACTION

The SA Country Fire Service (CFS) returned to the main arena of the Royal Adelaide Show in September 2006 to present its capability display '15 Minutes of Flame'.

MC and Presentation Director, Brenton Ragless, said CFS volunteers have a long-standing history at the Royal Show and were honored to once again make a return to the arena.

"We wanted to do something a

little different this year, and build on the best elements of last year's performance," Brenton said.

"We felt it was important to keep the historical element of last year's parade and this year we included a simulated structure fire in the presentation."

Around 150 CFS volunteers from right across South Australia were involved in the nightly display, responding to a series of 'live' emergencies. The

emergencies used a mix of real flame and spectacular pyrotechnics, however before CFS crews could leave the arena, there was one last situation that required a response.

As part of the presentation, an extremely nervous Kenny, (acting in the role of back up stunt rider for the freestyle motor cross team), obliterated the arena's temporary water closet prop. This ensured a

final spectacular emergency response from the CFS before the cavalcade of fire engines departed the arena under lights and sirens.

The passion, enthusiasm and dedication of the volunteers and staff was contagious, with several brigades having since received enquiries from members of the public who had seen the display, and were inspired to join their local brigade.



Car explosion at rehearsal.  
Photo: Pip McGowan

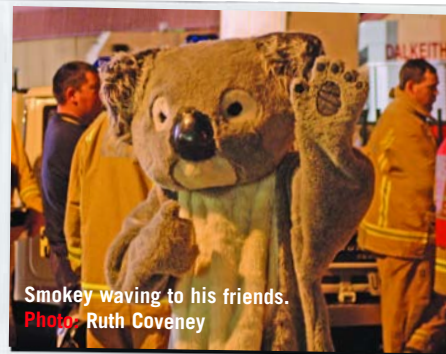
A CFS volunteer in the spotlight.  
Photo: Ashley Hosking



Kenny emerging from a 'structure fire'.  
Photo: Ashley Hosking



Smokey waving to his friends.  
Photo: Ruth Coveney



Responding to a car fire.  
Photo: Ashley Hosking



Extinguishing a hay bale fire using the monitor.  
Photo: Ashley Hosking



Performing a five man attack.  
Photo: Ashley Hosking





# MAPPING SUPPORT TEAM

By: Tim Groves, GIS Analyst, Department for Environment and Heritage

NEWS & UPDATES

The Mapping Support Team (MST) was established in 2003, through a collaborative arrangement between the Country Fire Service (CFS) and the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH).

The team was established to provide a mobile mapping support function to firefighting personnel at Incident Control Centres (ICC) during major incidents. The team is also called upon to provide mapping support to the CFS State Coordination Centre (SCC) and the State Emergency Centre (SEC).

The team is comprised of DEH staff who have skills and knowledge in the fields of GIS (Geographical Information Systems), image data and map production. During the 2006/07 fire season, the MST is comprised of 14 Adelaide based and five regionally based staff, who have

all volunteered their time on top of usual workloads.

On callouts to Incident Control Centres, MST personnel are typically deployed in teams of two and are equipped with a laptop, A3 printer, data projector, mobile phone and all required cabling and stationery. This enables the team to be largely self sufficient and capable of producing maps at ICC's anywhere in the state.

During a callout, the MST is supplied incident information (e.g. fire boundaries, hot spot locations, control lines locations) from the CFS from both field and aerial observations. This Information is provided as either GPS track files, verbal and written coordinates or sketched maps.

The MST is able to integrate this incident spatial information with other topographic, vegetation and image data to produce a range of

mapping products. These products include situation maps (showing current fire extent and suppression activities), Incident Action Plan (IAP) maps (showing features/tasks described in written IAP) and prediction maps (showing predicted fire fronts over time).

On occasions, the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) has captured thermal infra-red line scan images of the incident area for CFS (using the RFS line scan aircraft). These images have been processed by DEH's Image Data Section and supplied to the MST for use in their mapping products.

Maps produced by the MST can be supplied in hardcopy or digital format to operational / planning staff and can serve as a useful tool in developing strategies and conducting briefings.

The online transfer of digital maps by the MST can assist in informing

CFS Regional and State Coordination Centres of current incident situations.

To date, the severe bushfire weather conditions in the 2006/07 fire season has seen the MST deployed to 27 callouts, with 17 of these being to Incident Control Centres. This compares to a total of 16 callouts for the whole of the 2005/06 fire-season.

As a consequence of the increased number of callouts this fire season, the knowledge of the MST and the services they provide has increase further. Key working relationships with Incident Management Team and Air Operations staff have also been strengthened.

The Mapping Support Team becomes active and on call during the declared fire danger season and the CFS is grateful to again have their resources available during the 2006/07 fire season.



Cleaning up some nasty business.  
Photo: Ashley Hosking



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# AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL

## NEWS & UPDATES - HOW TO NOMINATE...

By: Eileen Dunlop, A/Volunteer Management Consultant

The Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM) is a prestigious award that recognises distinguished service by members of Australian fire services.

Recipients of the award are announced each year on Australia Day, 26 January, and the Queen's Birthday in June.

The Medal is awarded by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the responsible Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers.

Criteria for nomination includes: consistently outstanding and distinguished service in an Australian Fire Service - i.e. service that is seen to demonstrate a high degree of resource and devotion to duty in a particular situation, or in the exemplary discharge of special duties above and beyond normal work. It is not based on length of service with the CFS.

Only one award can be made to an individual and recipients are entitled to the post-nominal AFSM.

The number of medals awarded is based on the combination of one award for each 1 000 or part of 1 000 full-time permanent members of the fire service one award for each 5 000 or part of 5 000 volunteer members of the fire service.

CFS has 110 career staff and 15 500 volunteers and is currently eligible to nominate four members each year.

In December and June each year, the Volunteer Management Branch (VMB) coordinates the AFSM nominations.

Nominations are due by mid-January and mid-July respectively.

Nominations must be submitted on the AFSM pro forma (available through your Regional Office or the VMB), supported by a nomination statement of approximately 200 words.

Once the VMB have received

all nominations, they are collated and provided to a review panel for prioritisation.

The two nominations receiving highest combined priorities are submitted to the CFS Chief Officer for approval and forwarded, through the Minister for Emergency Services, to the Honour's Secretariat in Canberra.

Nominations are to be received by the Governor-General by 1 September 2007 for the Australia Day Honors List. Nominations for this round of awards will be called for in June.

Please contact your Regional Office or the VMB on 8463 4102 for further information.



### NEWS & UPDATES

## CFS WINS 'SAFE WORK' AWARD

The commitment of the SA Country Fire Service (CFS) to improving the safety of its firefighters was recognised with the announcement of the 2006 Safe Work Awards.

The prestigious event was held on 3 November at the Adelaide Convention Centre, with more than 750 people in attendance.

CFS received an award in the category of 'Best Solution to an Identified Workplace Health and Safety Issue,' for the safety features being fitted to the current build of 3 4 and 3 4 P type appliances.

CFS Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson, accepted the award on behalf of CFS saying, "this award recognises the significant efforts that both volunteers and staff invest in continuously improving our firefighting vehicles."

"As an organisation we have a strong focus on safety and our 'safety first' message is continually promoted to our volunteers and staff," he said.

"While we are thrilled to receive this

award, this will not stop our focus on further improvement and our ongoing commitment to keeping our volunteers safe on the fireground."

The award relates to the latest model appliances, which came into service in late 2005, early 2006 with features including the introduction of the cab spray system, the in-cab breathing system, cabin blinds and the crew deck fire curtain.

Emergency Services Minister, Carmel Zollo, says the State Government is committed to properly resourcing our emergency services and ensuring their safety on the job.

In 2005 06 around \$6 million was spent on appliances and on completing the construction of 42 new appliances.

During 2006 07 41 appliances will be built for the CFS at a cost of \$6.9 million.

"The CFS in South Australia is leading many States in the development of new appliances," Minister Zollo said.



The Hon. Bob Sneath, President of the Legislative Council presented the 'Safe Work' award to Andrew Lawson, CFS Deputy Chief Office and Arthur Tindall, CFS Manager Infrastructure & Logistics.

The proud CFS team displaying their award.



CFS is currently the only Australian fire agency to provide this level of protection for firefighters.

Other fire services are now showing interest in this innovation and CFS has been recognised for its role in assisting in the development of this product, which has applications in other industries

such as mining and secure transport services.

CFS is now being entered into the national awards program, to be decided in early 2007.

Additional details of the safety features are contained in the 'Equipment' section, page 44 and 45, of this Volunteer magazine.

# CFS COMMUNITY MEETINGS KEEPING KANGAROO ISLAND RESIDENTS INFORMED

**C**FS Community Education Officers held three Community Meetings for residents and visitors at Vivonne Bay on Kangaroo Island on 12 and 13 October 2006.

In response to a scrub fire that started on 11 October at Brechin, located east of Mt Taylor on Kangaroo Island, these meetings were aimed at keeping the community up to date with current information.

Residents and tourists were informed of the current situation, the CFS action plan, progress of fire fighting efforts, road closures, weather predictions and points the community needed to consider.

The 'Stay and Defend or Go Early' CFS position was explained and reinforced.

Residents / tourists leaving their homes and campsites were warned to 'Go Early' - leave the morning of a Total Fire Ban day and not wait until the fire threatened.

It was reiterated that residents intending to 'Stay and Defend' must be well prepared and ready to stand by their decision.

The CFS answered questions regarding how residents would be notified if the fire threatened their homes.

These meetings were part of a new

CFS strategy to work more closely with communities, with the aim being to inform residents on the bushfire situation and to educate on possible actions.

These meetings also allowed the small community of Vivonne Bay to speak with others, to advise neighbours of their intended actions and provide support.



# KANGAROO ISLAND SURVEY

**I**n May 2006, CFS Prevention Services conducted a survey among the Kangaroo Island community to help develop an education strategy to improve bushfire understanding and planning for Kangaroo Island.

The Kangaroo Island District Bushfire Prevention Committee, Kangaroo Island Council and the CFS Community Education Unit worked together to develop the survey and the subsequent education strategy.

The surveys focused on the community as a whole, which includes a mix of residents, tourist and ratepayers who do not live on the island.

More than 870 surveys were collected, giving a 23 per cent return rate, which is considered to be very high for this type of survey.

The survey provided some interesting results, including:

- Just under one third expect to be informed of a fire by radio
- Only three per cent have written a Bushfire Action Plan and of

those five per cent have practised their Plan

- One third made potentially unsafe choices when asked what their plan would be if there was a fire in the area
- The majority of tourists indicated that they would try and outrun a bushfire and their plans included sheltering in water
- The majority of residents believe they are prepared, but only 10% had spark- and ember-proofed their home
- Tourists looked for guidance

from holiday homeowners / tourist operators or residents on bushfire safety.

The key findings from this survey have resulted in a comprehensive bushfire education plan and some activities, including:

- Facilitation of Community Fire Safe meetings at Vivonne Bay, American River and Island Beach
- CFS Prevention Services presence at the Parnada Show (November 2006), and the Kangaroo Island Show (February 2007)
- Facilitation of Tourism Workshops.





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# 2006 EMERGENCY SERVICES AWARDS AND MINISTERIAL COMMENDATIONS

The 2006 Emergency Services Medal and Ministerial Commendations were announced at a ceremony at the Stamford Plaza, Adelaide on Wednesday 29 November 2006.

The Hon Carmel Zollo provided seven CFS volunteers and CFS/SAFECOM staff with medals and commendations in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the CFS and in turn the community.

The citations for the awards glowingly described the dedication and commitment of these volunteers and staff.

## Emergency Services Medal

### Yvette 'Pixie' Dowling

#### State Operations Planning Officer Analyst - SA Country Fire Service

Yvette Dowling was nominated due to her significant input into the development of the CFS Resource Information Management System Online Network (CRIIMSON) system and the extension of that system to other agencies within the emergency services sector.

Yvette's diligence in implementing a system, which meets the needs of the emergency services in documenting and incident reporting in a response system that registers regional, situation and State resource status, has been outstanding.

She has demonstrated her ongoing commitment to the project by continuing to use a transparent and meticulous consultation process to support the further development and review of the system.

Yvette has also developed training packages and exercises to ensure an effective and efficient rollout of the system across the State.

**Congratulations Yvette.**

### Rex Hall AFSM

#### SAVFBA Executive Member – SA Country Fire Service

Rex's involvement in a range of activities and areas have benefited SA Government, the CFS organisation, CFS volunteers and the wider rural community of South Australia, far beyond what is normally expected of a volunteer.

Rex is actively involved in a large

number of committees and groups as well as being the Naracoorte Group Officer and former Captain of Willaluka CFS.

Additionally Rex is:

- An executive member of the SA Volunteer Fire Brigade Association (VFBA)
- President of the South East VFBA Branch
- Chairman of the Cross Border Working Party
- Chairman of the CFS/VFBA Heritage Working Party
- VFBA Delegate on the Farm Fire Units Working Party
- VFBA delegate on the CFS Awards Committee
- Level 3 Incident Management Team Member

Additionally, Rex has organised the SAVFBA reunion and five Emergency Services evenings in Naracoorte.

**Congratulations Rex.**

## Ministerial Commendations

### Brenton Eden AFSM

#### Manager Training (seconded as Project Officer to Coronial Inquest) – SA Country Fire Service

Brenton has undertaken a significant leadership role in the coordination of the legal and personal support to CFS witnesses during the Wangary Fire Coronial Inquest.

Brenton has displayed outstanding commitment to the organisation and also to the individuals who have been required to give evidence. In addition, he has provided expert advice to the CFS legal team, which has resulted in them being well informed and able to gain access to vital information available within the CFS system.

Brenton has sacrificed substantial personal time over many weekends and late nights to see the Coronial Inquest conducted effectively. He has gone well beyond the call of duty.

**Congratulations Brenton.**

### Trevor Rodda

#### Captain – SA Country Fire Service

Trevor Rodda joined the then Emergency Fire Service on 31 December 1966, received Life Membership in the CFS on 20 March 1990, is a Life Member of the Volunteer Fire Brigade Association's



**Sarah Stopford, Training Administrative Support Officer (seconded to the Coronial Inquest) – SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission.**

Eyre Peninsula Branch and has been a member of the CFS OHS&W Committee since the late 1980's.

Trevor has been the Captain of Cleve CFS since July 1992 and has spent many years training and instructing new and existing members in the Cleve group and CFS Region 6. Trevor was also involved in the Black Tuesday fires on the Eyre Peninsula.

**Congratulations Trevor.**

### Sarah Stopford

#### Training Administrative Support Officer (seconded to the Coronial Inquest) – SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission

Sarah Stopford was seconded to the Wangary Coronial Inquest in January 2006, to provide administrative support to the Coronial Inquest Team, for an initial period of two weeks. Based in Port Lincoln from January through to May, prior to the Coroner's Court, moving to Adelaide, Sarah remained on a permanent basis with the Coronial Inquest and has volunteered to continue until the Inquest concludes.

Throughout her time with the Coronial Inquest, Sarah developed unique administrative and record keeping systems to support not only the general day to day running of the Inquest, but also the individual requirements of the Crown Solicitor's Office, the Junior Barrister and Paul Cuthbertson QC. Working long hours every day of the Inquest, Sarah has also continued to work after hours and on weekends to support the ongoing requirements of managing the CFS Training Administration System (TAS).

Sarah's contribution to the Coronial Inquest is highly valued and recognised by all parties and her dedication to the task has clearly been above and beyond that which is required in the performance of her

normal duties. Sarah has also received letters of commendation from the Crown Solicitor's Office and Paul Cuthbertson QC.

**Congratulations Sarah.**

### Bryan Trigg AFSM

#### Group Officer – SA Country Fire Service

Bryan showed outstanding leadership during the 2005/06 Fire Danger Season with three major fires in his group area following a lightning storm that burnt for more than seven days.

Bryan was instrumental in ensuring community support during these incidents including church groups, football clubs, local businesses and many other agencies. Following the fires, Bryan organised this type of support to be provided again, if required in the future.

**Congratulations Bryan.**

### Edward Wehrmann

#### Senior Firefighter – SA Country Fire Service

Edward (Ted) Wehrmann is a firefighter with Salisbury CFS, who continuously excels at all he undertakes. He always makes himself available to train and assist his peers within the fire service. Ted has also made himself available to assist at and help coordinate CFS events such as the annual CFS competitions, the Royal Adelaide Show and Field Days.

Ted has excelled in his duties as a firefighter at emergency incidents and efficiently and effectively undertakes any task he is confronted with. His passion for the CFS and the community, in which he lives and protects, demonstrates that he is an outstanding person.

**Congratulations Edward.**





**Brenton Eden, Manager Training (seconded as Project Officer to Colonial Inquest) – SA Country Fire Service.**



**Bryan Trigg, Group Officer – SA Country Fire Service.**



**Edward (Ted) Wehrmann, Senior Firefighter – SA Country Fire Service.**



**Rex Hall, SAVFBA Executive Member – SA Country Fire Service.**



**Trevor Rodda, Captain – SA Country Fire Service.**



**Yvette 'Pixie' Dowling, State Operations Planning Officer Analyst - SA Country Fire Service.**



## NEWS & UPDATES

# HAVE YOU VISITED THE SOUTH COAST TRAINING CENTRE?

**T**he South Coast Training Centre is looking for photos and video footage taken by trainees and visitors to the centre.

The training centre, which has been in operation for 18 years is hoping to use the images to create a library and a display in the centre.

If you can help, contact Alan Jordan on 8556 3961 or 0417 844 821 or send materials directly to:

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## NEWS & UPDATES

By: Lynda Smith, CFS Business Services Officer Region 6

# CFS ATTENDS NSW RFS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

**A** team of seven represented the SA Country Fire Service at the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSWRFS) Championships in mid October.

The biennial competition was held at Barooga, a small community just across the Victorian border.

The CFS team comprised Graeme Ward and Todd Filmer (Waikerie CFS), Rebecca Crack (Barmera CFS), Neil Ellis (CFS SHQ) and Phillip Paterson (Willunga CFS), with Mike Arnold (Waikerie CFS) and Lynda Smith (Port Lincoln CFS) attending as observers on behalf of the SA Competitions Committee.

The team enjoyed the experience of competing against the interstate teams and the chance to observe how NSWRFS managed the competitions, and gathering ideas,

which may be introduced into the CFS competitions in the future.

The officials at the New South Wales competitions placed a significant emphasis on the crews' decision-making skills; using scenarios that accurately reflect fireground situations and firefighters regular fire training.

To ensure the element of surprise was a factor in each team's performance, competitors were discouraged from watching any events before they competed. The judges then allocated points according to how well prepared the team was to deal with the individual situations they were presented with.

Points were deducted when mistakes were made and bonus points given for displays of initiative or when safety issues were handled well.

Cadets and senior crews were given challenges based on elements from a range of incidents including gas fires, emergency response, equipment failure, vehicle handling, hose and ladder drills. All competitors needed to be familiar with the different types of stowage and equipment used by fire crews.

Safety was a major factor in all

events and although the events were time bound, fast completion was not necessary. The events were designed to allow volunteers of all levels to participate and radios were used for all communications between officials and crews.

The South Australian CFS team placed second in the visiting crew category.

>>The CFS team being briefed by an official prior to commencing the bushfire firefighting skills event.



^ Rebecca Crack balancing on a temporary suspension bridge, assisted by the team, to shift equipment from one side of the bridge to the other. This was a section of the bushfire firefighting skills event.



^ 'The Team' that represented the SA CFS at the NSW Rural Fire Service Championships.



# AFAC COLLABORATIVE PURCHASING INITIATIVE

By: Arthur Tindall, CFS Manager Infrastructure and Logistics

**L**ike most organisations, Fire and Emergency Services across the country are committed to achieving more from their limited funding base.

Consequently, agencies need to work smarter and employ sound business management strategies to ensure that service levels to the community are maintained or enhanced, by using funds available.

Members of the Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC), the peak body for fire and emergency services in the Australasian region, have recognised that significant financial, and other non-financial benefits, could be achieved if closer collaboration between member agency operational, procurement and technical departments were to occur.

An independent study, initiated by AFAC, highlighted that member agencies were procuring similar products, but at significantly varying costs.

It was also recognised that the combined purchasing of commonly used items would not only provide potential cost savings, but could provide other tangible benefits such as commonality amongst member agencies.

At an AFAC meeting held in May 2006, agency heads unanimously endorsed and agreed to support and promote what has become known as the AFAC Collaborative Purchasing Initiative (CPI).

The CPI Project Managers are Russell Shephard from the ACT Emergency Services Agency (who is also AFAC, Manager Standards), and Arthur Tindall, CFS Manager Infrastructure and Logistics.

## The AFAC Collaborative Purchasing Initiative

The primary aim of the CPI project is to facilitate a collaborative approach to the procurement of commonly used items by AFAC member agencies.

As a result of this initiative, it is expected that both cashable and non-cashable savings will be achieved due to enhanced purchasing power and a reduction in duplication of effort.

In turn, this will allow agency staff to provide our volunteers with the

best products available that meet nationally and internationally recognised standards.

To achieve the desired outcome a planned and structured approach is being undertaken including an analysis of specifications, procurement methods and a number of other areas.

## Specifications

Historically, individual agencies have worked in isolation when procuring goods.

Now, the intent is to procure these goods collaboratively as part of the CPI.

Agencies around the country have noticed similar procurement outcomes, even though different agency specific specifications have been used and such an approach creates duplicity of effort.

## Under the CPI:

Relevant agency technical experts will jointly prepare specifications, common to all AFAC member agencies and a technical committee will be established to assist in the preparation of these common specifications.

The specifications will be negotiated and agreed upon by consensus.

Specifications will be output based and focused on functional outcomes. Where applicable, specifications will be underpinned by the mandated use of the Australian Standards or, where none is available, another recognised standard.

A national database of technical projects, being undertaken by AFAC agencies, will be kept by the respective Technical Committees to minimise the duplication of effort and encourage the sharing of information.

## Procurement Methods

AFAC member agencies are government agencies and as such any approach to collaborative purchasing needs to be structured and facilitated in accordance with each agency's procurement processes.

Currently, there is no predetermined procurement process, however it is likely that a 'Supplier Panel' approach, similar to that used by CFS to acquire cab chassis, pumps and bodies, will be used.

With this in mind, the Collaborative Purchasing Group, a group made up of AFAC agency procurement experts, has already commenced identifying and agreeing on a procurement process.

The group are identifying, negotiating and preparing common procurement processes and procedures and the cornerstone of any processes will allow for open and fair competition between suppliers and flexibility of choice.

It is intended that wherever possible, regular tenders will be called to ensure that suppliers will not be locked out for long periods; to maintain a competitive market environment.

Outcomes will be based on 'value for money' and all variables will be considered, not only the initial cost.

Once tenders have been awarded partnering and collaboration (partnerships) will be embraced to enable goods to be tailored to meet specific agency needs.

## Other Benefits:

Invariably much of the CPI focus will be identifying the year-on-year savings that can be achieved by agencies through combining their purchasing power.

Other identified longer-term benefits include:

- Adoption of a national approach to specifying, testing and acceptance activities;
- Adoption of common risk assessments and training materials;
- Greater operational interoperability between agencies resulting in an increased capacity to deal with major disasters.

## Conclusion

The benefits the AFAC CPI can deliver are significant and have the potential to provide substantial long term financial and other benefits for AFAC member agencies and the communities that they serve.

However, to see these benefits and to ensure the success of the CPI, many cultural and historical values and beliefs will need to be managed as the project progresses.

AFAC agency Chief Executives have showed their support and commitment to this initiative.

# VOTE OF CONFIDENCE AS VFBA PRESIDENT IS RE-ELECTED

By: Brenton Ragless, VFBA

Committee members of the VFBA have put forward a vote of confidence, with Ken Schutz AFSM being re-elected as the Association President for a further two years.

Ken, a member of the Pinnaroo CFS Brigade who has held the office for the past two years, said he is looking forward to continuing the role of promoting the best interests of volunteers and presenting their

views to the Government, CFS and the South Australian community.

"2007 will be particularly challenging with the review of the SA Fire and Emergency Services Act and the release of the Coroner's recommendations following the inquest into the January 2005 Wangary Fire," Ken said.

"However, the VFBA has a team of highly experienced and highly motivated individuals who are

dedicated to ensuring that the interests of CFS volunteers are well represented," he said.

The elections were held at the VFBA Annual General meeting at Roseworthy College on Sunday 22 October.

Wayne Thorley was re-elected to the position of VFBA Vice President. Wayne is the Association nominee to the SAFECOM Board and also sits on the SAFECOM Advisory Board.

Rex Hall AFSM from Naracoorte, Ian

Gordon from Coober Pedy and Glen Willson from Kangaroo Island were also re-elected to the VFBA Executive.

CFS Manager of Operations Services, Malim Watts, was invited to speak at the meeting, and discussed the current state of play within the operational arm of the CFS including the early start to the Fire Danger Season, levels of preparedness, volunteer safety, and the review of Standards of Fire and Emergency Cover (SFEC).

Among other topics discussed at the AGM was a review to expand the criteria for awarding National Medals, the status of the Chief Officer's Advisory Council, and the draft CFS Volunteer Charter.

For more information on the outcomes of the Annual General Meeting, visit the CFS member's section of the new look VFBA website at [www.savfba.org.au](http://www.savfba.org.au)



Pictured: 2006/07 VFBA Committee Members (left to right, third row back) Tim Cooper, Rodger Flavell, Wayne Thorley, Fred Munzer, Glen Willson, Neil Turner, (second row) Russell Branson, Ferdie Noll, Rex Hall, Philip Parker (front row) Ian Gordon, Ken Schutz, Wendy Shirley.

## NEWS & UPDATES

# FAMILIAR 'VOICE' JOINS THE VFBA

By: Brenton Ragless, VFBA

Also at the VFBA Annual General Meeting, Brenton Ragless - a familiar voice to the CFS - was appointed the role of part time Project Officer with the VFBA.

Brenton has resigned from his role as CFS Media Liaison Officer to work two days a week with the VFBA, while also working with the Department of Defence (Defence Science Communications).

Brenton has a long standing history with the CFS. Having seen

his father respond in the days of red trucks and khaki overalls, he received the volunteer baton after finishing high school in 1993. After working in radio and volunteering with the Eden Hills CFS Brigade, he then pursued his passion even further to become a CFS Media Liaison Officer in 2001.

As a former staff member of the CFS Public Affairs team he worked closely with CFS brigades across the State and brings with him an

excellent rapport with volunteers, staff and stakeholders.

"I love the culture of CFS. It was very much a part of my growing up. I look forward to broadening my understanding and experience with the CFS from a different perspective while retaining the relationships I so enjoy with volunteers and staff," Brenton said.

"We're faced with challenging times but CFS volunteers are dynamic individuals who are no

strangers to working closely in a team. I look forward to continuing to represent that team, albeit in a different capacity," he said.

Brenton will be assisting the VFBA with its communication initiatives including administering the new website, the VFBA Bulletin and developing proposals for grants and audiovisual presentations.

Brenton can be contacted via email at [brenton.ragless@savfba.org.au](mailto:brenton.ragless@savfba.org.au)



# SPEECH OFFERS HEART FELT THANKS TO CFS VOLUNTEERS

On 12 November 2006, Max Fatchen OAM, and patron of Dalkeith CFS brigade delivered the following as part of a speech recognising the commissioning of the brigade's new appliance.

"I am not much use for climbing aboard a fire truck but I am pleased to offer some heartfelt words about this brigade of which I am proud to be a patron.

I saw it's forerunner, Smithfield CFS Brigade, from its inception and I remember when our son Tim was a member, whenever the siren sounded – and what a siren it was, how he leapt into his boots. You could hear the flurry of other firefighters roaring down the street in their cars.

In those days the main vehicle was an old blitz buggy, a machine of no great speed. Legend has it; that as it

spluttered down Main North Road, a fella on his pushbike overtook it shouting, "if you blokes don't hurry you'll miss the fire." How things have changed with the powerful trucks today with a significant improvement in communications.

However, what hasn't changed is the dedication, courage, responsibility for community safety and welfare, and the commitment to training displayed by its male and female volunteer members.

There are so many memorable occasions that I remember, but one that truly stands out was when brigades were fighting the terrible bushfires in New South Wales and how the residents of small townships were standing in the streets cheering on our volunteers who had helped save their homes.



Max Fatchen OAM delivers his speech at the Dalkeith appliance commissioning.

There are many challenges facing Dalkeith and other CFS brigades, confronting dangerous fires, helping with storm damage and floods, and attending road accidents, many of them heartbreaking. And through it all, their constant attention to training and the support of families who remain anxious while their family members are on the job.

The media use the word 'heroes' rather loosely, my perception of the word is somewhat different. The ordinary men and women, who

volunteer their time and energy, risking their own lives in doing so, and always being available when they are needed... these are my heroes.

I thank them and wish them well. I express my admiration and deep concerns for their safety. I also thank their families and places of employment for supporting them.

I have seen how remarkable and resilient the human spirit, which is only exemplified by the members of this brigade. I salute you – the CFS volunteers!"

## NEWS & UPDATES

# VFBA WEBSITE - ONLINE AND INTERACTIVE



CFS volunteers now have access to a 'members only' section online at the VFBA's interactive website: [www.savfba.org.au](http://www.savfba.org.au)

Launched in November 2006, the website is the association's newest and most effective form of two-way communication with the State's 15 000 CFS volunteers.

The site has numerous headings that the public can explore but, in a first for CFS volunteers, members can log in using their name and CFS ID (TAS) number (located on the bottom of CFS ID cards) to visit an exclusive members section.

Wendy Shirley, VFBA Executive Officer said the Association is determined to improve communication with CFS volunteers who automatically become members of the Association once they register with a brigade.

"Not only do we want to provide our members with relevant and up to date information, but we also want to hear your say on issues facing volunteers," Wendy said.

"We've dedicated a page to online surveying in which we'll include regular discussion topics that volunteers can provide us with valuable feedback.

"The information we obtain from the online surveys will greatly boost the feedback we currently obtain from brigade, group and VFBA meetings and events," she said.

Also featured on the website is a notice board for brigades and members to post information on coming events, CFS and VFBA discussion papers, outcomes of State and Branch VFBA meetings, CFS contact details, and links to

other websites including ones useful for obtaining grants.

Brenton Ragless, who will be working closely on developing and administering the website, said he hoped that the project would always be "work in progress".

"A website is a continually evolving communicative product that will only ever be effective if it remains fresh and interactive to retain enough interest and hopefully be kept in the user's

'favorites' column," Brenton said.

"My hope is that volunteers will come up with ideas of what they would like to see available on the web and, if feasible, we'll do our best to have it placed there."

If you have any ideas about the things you would like to see on the website either email [brenton.ragless@savfba.org.au](mailto:brenton.ragless@savfba.org.au) or contact the VFBA State Office on 8244 6500.





# \$150 000 DAMAGE TO LOCOMOTIVE

**F**irefighters from Nairne and Littlehampton CFS responded to a fire in a locomotive around one kilometre from Nairne in the Adelaide Hills on the 18 September. Reported to CFS just after 6am, volunteers arrived to find a large amount of smoke issuing from the engine bay of one of five locomotives pulling the train.

Wearing Breathing Apparatus, firefighters quickly extinguished the blaze in the generator using a dry chemical extinguisher.

The locomotive sustained around \$150 000 damage with the cause of the fire believed to be electrical.

The train eventually continued to Adelaide towing the burnt locomotive.



## REGION 1 TRAINING COMMITTEE VISITS KANGAROO ISLAND

By: Robin Geytenbeek, Summertown CFS

**O**n Friday 27 October, Eight Region 1 Group Training Officers (GTO) embarked on a two-day tour of Kangaroo Island.

Daniel Austin, Region 1 Training Officer, Lee Watson, State Training Officer and Liz Stewart Regional Administration Officer bravely chaperoned the group as they set off on their adventure.

The tour gave GTO's the chance to visit local brigades on the island including the newly constructed Haines MacGillivray Station and the Group Communications Centre at Parndana.

We looked at the impact points

from recent fires on the blue gum plantations, chain break from fires last season, hydro axed road verges and shack settlements at Vivon Bay and Sapphire Town.

Time was spent with Kangaroo Island Group Officer Terry May and Deputy Group Officer Peter Davis, allowing us to gain a better understanding of how vastly different groups can be within the same region and how they also struggle with the same training and operational issues that all groups face within the whole of CFS.

By looking at the issues from

a regional group perspective rather than an individual group all GTO's agreed on the importance for everyone to work together to resolve issues both within our own groups and outside our group boundaries.

The committee also held it's bi-monthly Region One Training Officers Committee meeting while on the Island.

Thanks must go to Daniel Austin and Liz Stewart for organising the tour; everyone that attended had a great time and learnt so much.

Special thanks must also go to Don Duffy, Kangaroo Islands OH&SW Representative for being the tour guide and making it the tour enjoyable and informative for everyone.

✓ **KI Rotcom Region 1 Training Committee members**  
**Photo: Robin Geytenbeek**



## WOODCROFT EXPLOSION

**A** Woodcroft man received minor injuries when the walls around him exploded just before 7pm on the 16 October.

The owner of the Abbey Road home was spraying insecticide from an aerosol can near a hot water system outside the home to kill a

swarm of bees while a second man was inside.

The spray triggered an explosion in the wall cavity, destroying walls in five rooms causing around \$50 000 damage.

Fire Cause Investigators and MFS also attended.





## [ EAST TORRENS BA EXERCISE ]

By: Robin Geytenbeek, Summertown CFS

Members of the East Torrens CFS Group tested their structure fire response capabilities at an Operate Breathing Apparatus Open Circuit (OBAOC) training exercise held at Ashton Co-op in August.

The exercise was designed to give the group's OBAOC wearers a chance to wear the sets under similar circumstances, as they would face at an incident. It also tested the incident control knowledge and capabilities of the group as well as the response plan for the Co-op.

In all seven brigades participated in the exercise, hosted by Summertown CFS and contributed to by the Group Officer and two Deputy Group Officers.

The exercise involved, firefighters arriving at the scene at staggered intervals similar to what would be expected if this had been a real incident. Upon arrival they found two fires alight in the packaging section of the Co-op, two confirmed

casualties and three missing persons.

All involved handled the exercise with professionalism using the correct knowledge and skills from their OBAOC training.

At a debrief held after the exercise, volunteers spoke of the challenges they faced during the exercise and the benefits they received by being involved, with most agreeing the exercise is worth reviewing and would be good to repeat in a couple of months.

A big thankyou to everyone that participated, it's good to see the brigades getting together and working as one.



## [ KANGAROO ISLAND FIRES ]

By: Mark Thomason, CFS Regional Commander R1

On 11 October 2006 the fire season started early for the Kangaroo Island community and Country Fire Service volunteers, with three large fires within two days stretching resource capabilities on Kangaroo Island.

Unattended campfires and previous burnoffs were rekindled by the hot and dry weather with fires escaping at Brechin, Cape Hart and Parndana.

The most significant of these fires was at Brechin, south west of Parndana.

This fire began in a creek line enabling the fire to run through the native vegetation along the edge of the creek.

Significant spotting activity occurred during the first two days of the fire, with one spot jumping over a three kilometre area. Extreme fire behaviour was also reported to have occurred at night.

To control the fire, firefighters used a strategy allowing the fire to come out to the grass area and self extinguish, while crews developed

control lines in natural vegetation and dozer and grader breaks were being constructed.

Approximately 1 200 hectares was burnt, and 71 kilometres of fire perimeter needed to be patrolled.

Of concern to firefighters was the threat of fire escaping from the native vegetation once the grass was capable of carrying fire.

Local resources were supported by a number of strike teams from the mainland, who were housed at a base camp at Parndana.

A number of lessons have already been identified from this fire and both the local group and region are progressing these.

Group Officer Terry May said that this was a very early start to the season with the lightning season yet to come and thanks all firefighters and support personnel for assisting during these fires.

## 'WE'RE NOT HEROES'

— THE HISTORY OF HAHNDORF CFS

The history of Hahndorf CFS has been documented in a book launched in February 2007.

The book entitled 'We're Not Heroes, the story of Hahndorf Country Fire Service, 1949-2006' has been five years in the making, with the decision to document the history of the brigade made at its 50 year celebrations in 2000.

Excellent record keeping by the brigade made the task of writing the history far easier for Moya Stevens, from Mount Barker who was commissioned to the task in 2001.

By 2002, a 20 000 word transcript had been completed and the Management Committee decided to publish the work.

Building on Moya's work, Trevor Gauld, Brigade Administrative Coordinator, took on the project, which tells the story of the first 57

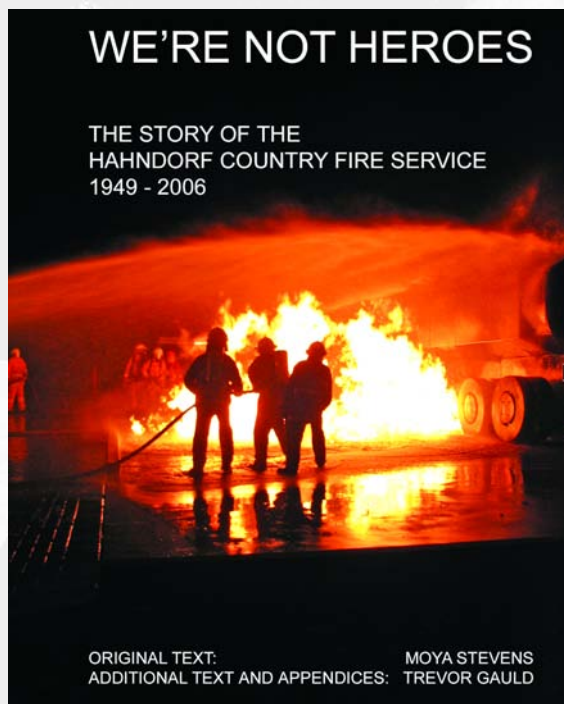
years of the brigade's history.

The book includes stories on the building of the first fire station, Ash Wednesday devastation, endless fundraising and the remarkable, selfless people who have made Hahndorf what it is today.

Trevor collected anecdotes from past members, old photographs and other memorabilia, and 50 pages of brigade statistics, which include every member since 1949 who appears in the records.

The result is a colourful 250 page book of great interest to anyone in the Hahndorf district community, the Adelaide Hills and the wider volunteer fire service.

For more information on 'We're Not Heroes, the Story Behind the Hahndorf Country Fire Service, 1949-2006' contact Trevor Gauld on 8388 7997, or at [tvgauld@internode.on.net](mailto:tvgauld@internode.on.net).



Photos: Alan Bence  
Smoke plumes.

Smoke collum from the fire.

Firefighters extinguishing a hot spot.





# MUDLA WIRRA

## CFS – ROCKET LAUNCH

By: Rick Curnow,  
Mudla Wirra CFS

**O**n Thursday 26 October volunteers from Mudla Wirra and Roseworthy CFS assisted university students from Adelaide University test their rockets.

The rockets were built as part of the University's Engineering and Electronics

end of year projects.

Before the launch could occur the all clear needed to be given by Roseworthy College, Adelaide University, the Airforce and the CFS.

Fire Prevention Officers inspected the launch site and an appropriate time was organised.

To provide appropriate fire cover,

two CFS appliances were positioned at opposite ends of the launch site.

Three rockets in all were launched at various angles and reaching heights of up to 200 metres.

Regular checks of wind speed and direction were conducted by the Light Group Officer and the air force also assisted with a fly over in an

F18 fighter jet.

After each launch CFS volunteers quickly made their way to the landing site in case the rocket had caught fire during the flight or caused a fire on landing.

The launch occurred without a hitch as a result of careful planning and preparation.



✓ Rocket being prepared for lift off.  
Photo: Rick Curnow

## BALAKLAVA CELEBRATION

**A**t a presentation dinner held on the 7 August, volunteers from Balaklava Country Fire Service (CFS) celebrated a combined 225 years of service to their community.

At the dinner, eight long serving members of the brigade received their CFS life memberships.

Over the years these members have given up their time to come to the aid of those in need, whether it be structure fires, bushfires, vehicle

accident, floods and even to rescue a little cat up a tree.

Regional Commander John Hutchins was on hand to present the awards to the recipients and to present a brigade honour board to the Captain, Kevin Julyan.

The recipients of the life membership were; Doug Clark, Chris Cowan, Neil Fisher, Kevin Julyan, Colin Milton, Joy Milton, Colin Stewart and Jenny Stewart.





# CUDLEE CREEK

## FAREWELLS AN OLD WORK HORSE

By: Ian Baines, Cudlee Creek CFS

After losing their truck in the devastating 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires, Cudlee Creek CFS received a replacement Mercedes Benz 911 2.4 appliance. The brigade proudly cared for this appliance, which was once the envy of neighbouring brigades. But in recent years it had raised a few smiles and comments with many believing it to be a display museum piece brought out on special occasions.

To the surprise of many the truck, until recently was a fully operational appliance attending in excess of 70 callouts a year, bravely travelling into areas that no one would dare take the new appliances.

However with the tank springing several leaks, equipment starting to fail and what looks to be a busy fire season ahead of us it was decided that the old truck was no longer going to meet our needs and had to be replaced.

Within a short period of time Region 2 had secured a loan 3.4 appliance and the brigade enthusiastically set

about transferring equipment from one truck to the other.

To honour the old truck, a farewell community BBQ was held at the station, enabling past and present members to come and pay tribute and tell stories of days gone by.

The event was well supported, with many older members taking the chance to catch up with people they had not seen for years over some food and drink well into the evening.

Deputy Group Officer Rick Drury was heard to say "I cannot believe that this brigade is so excited over a truck that is only 5 years younger than the one it's replacing, what will they do when they get their new appliance."

One neighbouring brigade commented, "We always knew when Cudlee Creek were on the radio even if we missed their call sign, because you could hear the thump, thump of the old diesel in the back ground."

The Cudlee Creek 2.4 gave the brigade over 20 years of faithful and reliable service and for that the brigade is extremely grateful.

>> Old friends swap tails and tell stories.

Photo: Mark & Rebecca Hawkins



^ The old and near new.  
Mark & Rebecca Hawkins



^ Old Faithful. Photo: Mark & Rebecca Hawkins

# REGION 2 FIELD DAY

By: Tanya Wutke, Regional Training Officer R2

On Sunday 8 October, 330 Country Fire Service (CFS) volunteers headed to the Clare Valley to participate in the Region 2 Field Day.

Hosted by the Horrocks Group, volunteers were able to participate in up to nine activities spread from Clare to Watervale.

The activities included; Gas prop, Spring Gully simulated fire, Halbury board, SES land search, SAPOL drug lab, Chimney fire/team building exercise, SA Ambulance exercise, Driving/Compass and Pumping Drill and a Rural Drill.

These activities were specifically included to give firefighters experience and a better understanding of what they may face as CFS volunteers, working not only with other brigades but with other agencies.

The Salvation Army supplied catering for the day with their field van staffed by Salvation Army volunteers, who did a wonderful job.

Thankyou to the many people that helped out with the day taking on roles as Staging Area Managers, Drill Coordinators, and Sector Commanders, without these people the day would not have been able to go ahead. The Region 2 Operations Brigade, State Emergency Service, SA Ambulance, SA Police and Department for Environment and Heritage provided vital assistance on the day.

An even bigger thankyou is deserved by the volunteers from Horrocks Group who put the day together; Chris Sullivan, Michael Mathew, Allen Weedon, Trevor Corfield, Peter Tognazzini, Rod Cunningham, Jim Silkstone and Joe Cassidy.

>> Chimney Fire Simulator  
Photo: Rod Cunningham

✓ Teamwork exercise to get to chimney fire.  
Photo: Rick Curnow



>> Gas fire exercise  
Photo: Emmanuel Cusack



# REGION 3 FIELD DAY

By: Andrea Haig, Volunteer Support Officer R3

The Mallee CFS Group hosted the bi-annual Region 3 Field Day on Sunday 6 August at Lameroo.

The field day incorporated five exercises, which were designed to ensure all who attended could participate, learn new skills and refine their existing skills in a non-competitive environment.

The Road Crash Rescue exercise was based on Unit 11 – Respond to a Road Crash, from Basic Firefighter 1 (BFF1).

This exercise gave trainees the opportunity to find out more on developing situation reports and scene arrival procedures and was facilitated by Jim Davis and Adrian March of Coonaplyn Brigade and Greg Stone of State Training Centre.

The State Emergency Service (SES) coordinated the Line Search Exercise.

CFS and SES are increasingly working together at search related incidents, and this session gave the two services the opportunity to integrate training, improve organisational understanding and develop greater working relationships. This exercise was

facilitated by Pieter Scott, Senior Regional Officer (Training) North SES.

The GPS exercise provided a basic overview on the use of a GPS.

In a climate of technological advancements CFS volunteers need to keep up with the changes in the world of mapping and location.

This session allowed trainees to understand the basic fundamentals of turning on a GPS unit and marking their current location and it is hoped that this session would encourage volunteers to complete the 'Introduction to GPS course' run by Bob Kearney. Russell Norman, Mallee Group Officer and Larry Newell, Lameroo CFS facilitated this exercise.

The Fire Break exercise was adapted from the Suppress Wildfire package and was included into the field day to focus the day on one element of basic firefighting.

The participants constructed control lines of up to 100 metres x two metres.

This session also focused on the benefits of the correct use and application of manual control lines, an important skill for all firefighters

to be familiar with.

This session was facilitated by David Lodge, Morgan CFS, Tom Byron Cadell CFS and Doug Smith R3 HQ.

The last exercise focused on Suppress Wildfire, and incorporated the burn over drill, as well as attacking a simulated fire.

This drill was a timely reminder for all CFS volunteers and staff of the dangers of the job we do and how to look after yourself and your team should this situation occur.

Peter Lauterbach Coorong Group Training Office, Sue Mickan Coorong Deputy Group Officer and Kym Simon Sherlock Moorlands CFS facilitated this session.

The Salvation Army Field Van provided catering for the day, and used it as an opportunity to trial a menu that provided hot meals and desserts in the field.

The result was an outstanding

success, and a big thankyou was passed on to John Dunkley and his team of volunteers who staffed the van on the day.

Volunteers from 15 CFS brigades attended the field day, coming from Barmera, Wunkar, Morgan, Lameroo, Geranium, Brown's Well, Coonaplyn, Pinnaroo, Monash, Murray Bridge, Coomandook, Blanchetown, Mannum, Cadell and Meningie.

The CFS Chief Officer, CFS Headquarters staff, dignitaries, other Emergency Service and Local Government Representatives attended along with more than 160 people.

The field day was an outstanding success with indications that everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed the exercises and appreciated the importance of revisiting some of our most basic skills.

## MURRAY BRIDGE TURNS 50

By: Andrea Haig, Volunteer Support Officer R3

On Sunday 22 October, Murray Bridge CFS held a joint celebration for their 50 birthday and the commissioning of their new pumper.

The brigade currently has 31 members, comprising 28 firefighters and three operational support members and attends more than 100 incidents every a year.

A number of Service Awards and Long Service Awards ranging from 10 to 40 years of service were presented on the day to various members.

Ten-year service awards were given to Kevin Milich, Chris Cook and Scott Carter.

Fifteen year service awards were given to Adrian Puust, Martyn Codrington and Dwight Mountford

Beverly Patten was presented with her 20-year service award, Roger

Kilpatrick with his 25-year service award and Barry Butfield with his 40 year service award.

Around 60 people attended, from current and past members to invited guests including: Adrian Pederick, Member for Hammond, Euan Ferguson, CFS Chief Officer, Mayor Allan Arbon, Rural City of Murray Bridge, Chris Martin, CFS Regional Commander, Region 3 HQ, Steve Bowley, SA Police, Peter Fielding, Murray Bridge MFS Station Officer and Father Kym Spurling of the Catholic Church.

The day also commemorated the official handover of the new Murray Bridge Pumper.

The Murray Bridge CFS has in recent years become an urban/rural brigade and receiving this pumper will assist greatly and extend the brigade's firefighting capabilities.



^ Euan Ferguson presenting keys of new Murray Bridge Pumper to Brigade Captain, Mike Codrington.  
Photo: Pip McGowan

The brigade has a large commitment to Murray Bridge and surrounding areas, with the recent development of a number of new businesses and subdivisions within its response area.

This appliance will also be a great asset with the impending expansion of the Mobilong Prison.

After the official part of the day was over everyone was able to relax, enjoy lunch and catch up on old times.

^ Crews standing in front of the new Pumper  
Photo: Pip McGowan



^ Brad Caire (Lt 3), Martyn Codrington (Lt 2), Dawn Hunt (Lt 1) and Mike Codrington (Brigade Capt) in front of the new Pumper.  
Photo: Pip McGowan



^ R3 Field Day Attendees Photo: Pip McGowan