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

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





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VOLUME 1 - WELCOME MESSAGES



## CHIEF OFFICER Euan Ferguson

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Keep up the good work and come home safe!

## CFSVA PRESIDENT Ken Schutz

President of the CFS Volunteers Association.

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

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

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

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

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

While there were numerous promises by both major parties for

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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





## [ SAFECOM Board Chair David Place

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

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

include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

- How are we measuring effectiveness?

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

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

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

## [ PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This partnership is integral in the dissemination of vital warnings

and information to the community during bushfire.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SAFECOM Public Affairs Unit.



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VOLUNTEER - WELCOME MESSAGES



# CFS TEAM SUPPORTS VERY LARGE AIR TANKER IN VICTORIA

By: David Cant, CFS Manager Aviation Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

our personnel played a role in the exercise.

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

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

## UPDATE: BUSHFIRE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

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

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

Key recommendations made by SA's

Bushfire Task Force that have been implemented include:

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

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

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



# ARE YOU AWARE OF THE CHANGES TO NATIVE VEGETATION LEGISLATION?

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

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

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

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

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

## Fast Facts:

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

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

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

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

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

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

for consideration and where appropriate, approval.

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

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

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

Visit the Country Fire Service website for more information [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)

## FIRE DANGER SEASON GETS OFF TO A BUSY START

By: Haley Cahalan, CFS Senior Public Affairs Officer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Emergency Service, Metropolitan Fire Service and farm fire units.

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

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

Fortunately, the new year saw slightly less activity than the



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

start of the season for some regions.

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

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

## RECENT SIGNIFICANT FIRE EVENTS

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



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VOLUNTEER - NEWS & UPDATES



# PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE. CAMPAIGN

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

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

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

getting good airtime on regional and metropolitan media.

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

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



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

Other campaign activities include:

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

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

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



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

## ROYAL COMMISSION UPDATE

By: Jay Gleeson, AFAC Manager Communications

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

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

The Victorian Government (on

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# STATE AIRDESK GOES 24/7

By: Rob Sandford, Assistant Chief Officer

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

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

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

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

In general terms CFS provides information in three stages:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Airdesk are:

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

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

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



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





# NEW DRIVER FATIGUE LEGISLATION

By: Wendy Shirley, CFSVA Executive Officer

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

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

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

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

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

Large penalties apply for not complying.

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

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

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

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

## KEEP ON TIME WITH A CFS WATCH



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

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

They can be engraved on the back.

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

## NEW JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR CFSVA

By: Wendy Shirley

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

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

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

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

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

The Association welcomes Roger to the team!



# FREE ACCESS TO NATIONAL PARKS FOR CFS VOLUNTEERS

By: Wendy Shirley, CFSVA Chief Executive

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The cardholder must be present in the car.

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

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

#### Other Parks Concessions:

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

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

These include:

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

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

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



## NEXT CFSVA STATE MEETING

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

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

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

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

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

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

## COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

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

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

No. The small parking fee will still apply

**Does this pass apply all National Parks in Australia?**

No - only to those in South Australia

**Will this pass cover camping fees?**

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

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

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

**What happens if I change my vehicle during the year?**

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

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





# FOUNDATION IS FOR VOLUNTEERS

By: Vince Monterola AM AFSM, Chair CFS Foundation



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

We want to give CFS volunteers an

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

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

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

Ray, together with David

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

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

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

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

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

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

We look forward to working with you and for you.

Vince Monterola AM AFSM  
Chair  
CFS Foundation



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

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



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VOLUNTEER - CFS FOUNDATION

# DEVELOPMENT OF FOUNDATION BRAND

**CFS Foundation**  
For our local heroes



## **Vision**

Honour, Support and Care for CFS volunteers

## **Mission**

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

## **Objectives**

The objectives of the CFS Foundation are to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Future Direction**

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

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

# CALLING COMMUNITY GROUPS

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

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

Please give Elizabeth Davis a call for a chat.

Elizabeth Davis

Executive Officer

Phone: 0419 583 512.

Email: [edavis@emdfconsultancy.com.au](mailto:edavis@emdfconsultancy.com.au)

Website: [www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/about\\_us/cfs\\_foundation.jsp](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/about_us/cfs_foundation.jsp)

## CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS



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

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

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

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

To view their many products, visit the website at [www.solardepot.com.au](http://www.solardepot.com.au)



# ROAD CRASH RESCUE – THE PSYCHOLOGICAL RAMIFICATIONS

By: Coreyjay Frazer, State Training Officer – Specialist Rescue

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

These items can be distributed in various ways, including:

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

brigade stations, group bases or regional office.

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

- A3 posters
- A2 flyers

- Business cards

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

If your brigade / group has utilised

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

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



## Supporting people affected by vehicle trauma

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

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

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

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

PO Box 292 Prospect SA 5082

Website:  
[www.roadtraumasupportsa.com.au](http://www.roadtraumasupportsa.com.au)

Email:  
[info@roadtraumasupportsa.com.au](mailto:info@roadtraumasupportsa.com.au)

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



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VOLUNTEER – ROAD CRASH RESCUE FEATURE

# DRIVER EDUCATION FOR WILLUNGA YOUTH

By: Dean Norman, Kyeema Group Officer

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

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

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

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



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

## LYNDOCH TEACHES LESSONS OF ROAD CRASH RESCUE

By: Shane Emms, Lyndoch CFS Lieutenant 1

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

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

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

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

On arrival at the simulated road

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

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

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

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



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



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VOLUNTEER - ROAD CRASH RESCUE FEATURE



# ANZAC EVE YOUTH VIGIL WINS TOP CITY AWARD

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

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

by inaugural chairman Bill Denny from Lord Mayor Michael Harbison.

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

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

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

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

"Those young people have also

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

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



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

## ROHAN'S A CAPTAIN OF HIS LOCAL COMMUNITY

By: Terry Price, Media Liaison Officer, SAFECOM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

# A REMARKABLE VOLUNTEER RECEIVES RECOGNITION IN WILMINGTON

By: Terry Price, Media Liaison Officer, SAFECOM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"It made me appreciate the service the organisation provides.

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

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



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

## FRANK NAMED TOP CITIZEN AT TINTINARA

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

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

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

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

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

# SERVICE WITH DISTINCTION

By: Terry Price, Media Liaison Officer, SAFECOM

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

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

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

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

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

"It is very rewarding and fulfilling

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

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

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

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

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

"It's really very nice to receive the

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

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



David Pearce was one of two CFS members honoured with an Australian Fire Service Medal on Australia Day this year.

Photo: The Bunyip Newspaper, Gawler



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VOLUNTEER - AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS



# MASTER SERIES FOAM

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

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

**MASTER A / B - IT WORKS!**

**When proportioned up to 1%**

- Penetrates into wood and all class A materials • Absorbs the heat from the fuel for more protection.
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**MASTER A / B - APPLICATION**

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- |                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| • MOP UP              | 0.25% |
| • INITIAL SUPPRESSION | 0.5%  |
| • BACK BURN           | 0.75% |
| • PROTECTION          | 1.0%  |

**Application to class 'B' hydrocarbon fires**

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

**Application to class 'B' Polar-solvent fires**

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



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## PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR FIRST EFS/CFS VETERANS' REUNION

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rex says he hopes the reunion will not only acknowledge volunteer

contribution, but inspire future generations of volunteers.

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

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

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

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

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



## LATEST BUSHFIRE INFORMATION HOW AND WHEN YOU WANT IT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## MEDIA OUTLETS PARTNER WITH CFS

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

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

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

ABC and FIVEaa continue their

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

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

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

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

A significant amount of work has

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

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

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

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

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

### Emergency Broadcast Partners –

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



# CFS TRAINING MEETS THE BUILDING CODE OF AUSTRALIA

By: Tim Maitland, Manager Training Facilities

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

The installation of a new sprinkler

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

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

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

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



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

## DRIVER DEVELOPMENT TAKES NEW COURSE

By: Owen Glover, Project Manager Driver Development

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

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

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

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

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

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



Driver Training 34 A works through the sand.

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

### New Appliance Driver Familiarisation

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

received new appliances.

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

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

## STATE TRAINING CENTRE ACKNOWLEDGES VITERRA'S SUPPORT

By: Garth Hogarth, CFS Project Manager CABA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# ONLINE ACCESS TO TRAINING AND MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

By: Brenton Eden AFSM, CFS Manager Training

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

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

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

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

As developments continue in

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

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

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

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



## POSITIVE FEEDBACK FOR ONLINE ACCESS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## SA EMERGENCY SERVICES ADOPT A COMMON TRAINING DATABASE

By: Brenton Eden AFSM, CFS Manager Training

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

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

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

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

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

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

4,128 records were imported from these agencies.

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

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

A number of joint members have also brought across their

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

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

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

## VOLUNTEER COMMUNICATION VIA EMAIL

By: Brenton Eden, CFS Manager Training

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

The training department continues to make greater use

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

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

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

the opportunity to provide CFS with your current email address.

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



# HOT START TO TRAINING IN 2010

By: Robin Geytenbeek, State Training Officer - Rural

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

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

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

around 40 degrees Celsius.

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

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

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



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

# INVESTIGATING BUSHFIRE

By: Matt Davis, State Training Officer - Rural

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

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

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

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

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

investigators to a nationally accredited level across the State.

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

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

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

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

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



# MAJOR REVIEW OF BF1

By: Michael Mathew, Manager, Rural Firefighting Training Project

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

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

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

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

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

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

materials from the first version

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

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

The recommendations made by this group were implemented as part of

the review process.

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

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

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

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

# HEARTS ON FIRE — YOUNG TEAM BOOSTS BALAKLAVA CFS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CFS Volunteer Support Officer for the Mid North and Yorke



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

Peninsula Jason Druwitt says cadets are fundamental to the CFS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## WORKING AS A TEAM

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

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

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

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

"Hopefully they all will go into seniors."

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

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

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

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

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

He said cadets benefit the CFS by

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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VOLUNTEER - CADETS



# COMMUNITY ED TEAM JOINS TOUR

By: Rod Cunningham, CFS Community Education Officer



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

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

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

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

At each stage Community

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



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

## NEW COMMUNITY EDUCATION UNIT TEAM

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

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

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

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

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

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

By: Jeff Ayres, CFS Community Education Officer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A similar situation applies to Farm

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

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

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

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

# FOUR MORE COMMUNITY FIRE SAFE GROUPS FORM IN PORT LINCOLN

By: Terry Price, Media Liaison Officer, SAFECOM

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

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

Drive were encouraged to attend.

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

The District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula was happy to assist

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

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

As a result of this meeting four

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

## COFFIN BAY RESIDENTS TAKE ACTION

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

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

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

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

SA Ambulance Service and SA Police member John Randall.

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

Community Education Officer Therese Pedler said the Coffin Bay

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

## BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLANS IN PORT LINCOLN

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

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

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

All their knowledge and pre-planning

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

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

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

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



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

## EDUCATING WANGARY STUDENTS AND STAFF

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

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

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

## NUMBERS CONTINUE TO GROW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## MOUNT LOFTY RANGES BUSHFIRE READY

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

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

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

"Attendance at the Challenge

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

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

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



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



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VOLUNTEER - COMMUNITY EDUCATION



# AN ODE TO THE FORMER DIRECTOR

By: Clyde D Buttery

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

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

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

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



## DID YOU RECOGNISE THE MYSTERY MAN?

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Fire Board had a minimum

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

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

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

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

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

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

At that time officers worked 72

hours on duty and then had 24 hours off.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# THE BUILDING FIRE SAFETY UNIT – WORKING WITH AND FOR YOU

By: Maurie Parker, Building Fire Safety Officer



Pat and Maurie form part of CFS' Building Fire Safety Unit.

While bush and grassland fires present numerous challenges for firefighters, structural fire fighting operations often incorporate the use of installed systems.

But have you ever wondered how fire safety and evacuation systems come to be installed in buildings?

Or indeed why these systems are in some instances NOT installed?

Whilst the answers lie in the often confusing requirements of the Building Code of Australia and technical Australian Standards, the Building Fire Safety Unit (BFSU) is working for you in ensuring that buildings provide a safe environment for all occupants, including firefighters.

The BFSU is responsible for assessing building designs associated with new developments and for inspecting and assessing existing buildings in all CFS regions throughout the State.

What does this all mean for firefighters? In simple terms the BFSU seeks to ensure that in the event of a fire incident, the building occupants can safely evacuate, the fire is contained, firefighters have the resources to control and extinguish the fire and the type of construction prevents structural collapse in the early stages of a fire.

Let's concentrate on one essential safety provision. The principal active system relevant to fire fighting operations and used exclusively by the attending fire service is the fire hydrant system.

As the size of the building or the hazard increases, a dedicated fire hydrant system may be required.

In rural areas where there is no water authority main, the fire hydrant system may incorporate dedicated on-site water storage tanks used exclusively for fire fighting.

Additional system components may include a suction point, booster connection, attack hydrants and pump sets.

While the Australian Standard details the technical system requirements, building owners and system designers on occasion propose alterations to the 'prescriptive' system design.

The BFSU provides input and assesses the suitability of an 'alternative' system design when requested.

This assessment is undertaken to ensure the 'alternative' design will not have a negative effect on fire fighting operations, and importantly, on firefighter safety.

When the BFSU considers the design would not be suitable, the

building owner or system designer on occasion seek unofficial comment from the local CFS representative in an attempt to refute CFS official comment.

Generally the local representative may be asked if they could 'work with it'.

For example, a building owner may ask if the local brigade could service a new building with an existing street plug located 'around the corner'.

Firefighters, being resilient and adaptable, may respond that they could 'work with it'.

What isn't pointed out to the local brigade is they do not have to just 'work with it'.

The Australian Standard may require the installation of a dedicated fire water storage tank to service the building.

The use of this storage tank in lieu of running out extended supply lines would further enhance operations and increase firefighter safety.

While firefighters often deal with variables when managing an emergency situation, it is considered that building owners must, as a minimum, install systems that support effective fire fighting operations.

The above is only one example of the responsibilities of the BFSU.

Essentially the BFSU exists to work with all stakeholders in ensuring that a building provides a satisfactory level of safety to occupants.

In doing this, the BFSU also works with, and for, firefighters in securing suitable systems to support their needs.

If you require any information or advice relating to the built environment, or if you are asked to provide comment or opinion on a development, the BFSU is there to assist.

## BFSU SNAPSHOT

The Commercial and Industrial section of the BFSU operates out of Region 1 at Mount Barker and consists of two Building Fire Safety Officers (BFSO). Pat Ryan is the Senior BFSO and comes with a background in active fire fighting and designing emergency management systems, with formal qualifications in fire safety. Maurie Parker is a BFSO with a background in active fire fighting, building compliance and fire safety engineering. Gill Tiede and Nicky Darter are dedicated administration officers. The BFSU can be contacted on 08 8391 6077.



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VOLUNTEER - BUILDING FIRE SAFETY UNIT



# CFS AND UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP EXPLORES STRESS AND SATISFACTION OF VOLUNTEERING

By: Mark Groote, Manager Volunteer Strategy and Support

The CFS has recently teamed up with the CFS Volunteers Association, Volunteer Strategy and Support Branch, and the University of South Australia to conduct research into Job Stress and Satisfaction in Emergency Service Volunteers.

The project aims to help understand and promote wellbeing in volunteer work by examining factors which affect stress and satisfaction in volunteers.

Over the next few weeks, 2,000 CFS volunteers (aged 18 and over) will be randomly selected to

participate by completing a short survey.

If you are chosen, and complete the survey, you will be in the running to win one of four CFS watches (worth \$100 each).

This survey allows volunteers to voice their opinion anonymously,

and the results will provide the CFS with a snapshot of what volunteers are thinking and feeling to help provide better support to all volunteers.

If you have any questions, contact VSS on 08 8463 4102 or email [vss@safecom.sa.gov.au](mailto:vss@safecom.sa.gov.au)

## REGION 6 VOLUNTEERS HONoured AT MORNING TEA

By: Jain Monteith, Eyre and Western Volunteer Support Officer

Federal Member for Grey Rowan Ramsay hosted a morning tea for Region 6 volunteers as part of International Volunteer Day celebrations at Port Lincoln last year.

To help raise the profile of volunteers in the community, organisations were asked to nominate worthy volunteers to receive a certificate from the Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, Minister Jenny Macklin and Rowan Ramsay, in recognition of

the great work that these volunteers do.

CFS Region 6 volunteers who received a certificate included:

- Sharon Urbanski – Cadet Coordinator with CFS Region 6 and long serving member of the Ceduna brigade.
- Paul Pearce – Elliston Training Coordinator, instrumental in increasing member participation in the area.

- Elizabeth Kammermann – in recognition of her many years of service to Cleve CFS.
- Craig Jericho – member of the State Training Advisory Group, as well as an officer and member of the Wudinna brigade.
- Kym Kenny – former Brigade Captain and now Deputy Group Officer and in recognition of his

many years of service not only in South Australia, but also in other states.

- Rhonda Russ – in recognition of her work as the Group Communication Officer Tumby Bay.
- Amanda Thompson – for her work on the DVD promoting CFS Cadets, as well as her service with the Port Lincoln brigade.

## SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR VOLUNTEERS

By: Mark Groote, Manager Volunteer Strategy and Support

“What a busy week it’s been”. Sound familiar? It’s almost a catch-cry for most of us these days.

We seem to be increasingly busy, whether it is work, volunteering, family or sport ... there never seems to be enough hours in the day, or days in the week.

Despite this, more than 30 per cent of the South Australian population does some kind of volunteering – and more than 15,000 of you dedicate your time and talents to the CFS.

That’s a lot of people making a big contribution in our community.

As a valued volunteer, did you know that the VSS Branch is here to help you?

Maybe you have a question about how to run a meeting, or want some help with a situation in your brigade or group.

You might need some advice or just need someone to point you in the right direction or give you some information.

Maybe you want a Volunteer Support Officer to come and talk with you on workplace dignity, run a health check, or help you start a cadet program.

These are just some of the many tasks that the VSS branch can help you with – and there’s a Volunteer Support Officer in each region.

There are number of other projects being undertaken in VSS at the moment and these include:

- Mentoring for Succession – a program which is being piloted in the Riverland area where volunteers can be a mentor (providing advice and guidance to others) or a mentee (receiving advice and support from others).

Depending on the success and uptake of the pilot program, we are hoping to roll out this program across the State later this year.

- Youth Advisory Council (YAC) – if you’re aged between 16 and 30 years of age, the YAC is here to represent your views. Nominations are currently being finalised and it is hoped that the YAC will be up and running from July 2010.
- Volunteer Recognition – each year we hold volunteer and employer recognition events (usually a BBQ dinner) followed by the presentation of certificates. We’ve already had our first event at Aldinga Beach

CFS, with more planned for the rest of this year.

- Medal Manual – work is almost complete on the development of a medal manual which will help identify the awards and medals available for volunteers – more on this soon!

Do you want some more information? Would you like to get in touch with your local Volunteer Support Officer? Do you have some ideas on what else the VSS branch could be doing for you?

Then please contact the Volunteer Support Officer at your local Regional Office, or call us on 08 8463 4102 and we will point you in the right direction.



Employers of CFS volunteers at West Beach were thanked at a recent Volunteer and Employer Recognition and Support Program event.

# VOLUNTEER INITIATIVE TO PREPARE FOR BUSHFIRES

Lyndoch CFS Brigade has developed a DVD to help South Australians improve their understanding of bushfires and become better prepared for the fire danger season.

The DVD, titled 'One Family's Experience', was produced by volunteer firefighters from the Lyndoch Brigade, with assistance from the CFS Community Education Unit, and features a presentation based on the case studies from the 2005 Wangary bushfires on Eyre Peninsula.

In launching the DVD, CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson said it was a worthy achievement which, through the foresight and enterprise of volunteers, would spread the 'Bushfire Ready' message in South Australia's bushfire prone areas.

Euan said the presentation highlighted the dangers and uncertainty of a bushfire while emphasising the importance of planning ahead to prevent a tragedy.

"The messages in this DVD are extremely important," Euan said.

"They're hard lessons which have been learned from previous experiences and from people who have been affected by some of the most serious fires that we've ever experienced."

Euan said that the stories and

anecdotes of people who survived one of South Australia's most destructive bushfires, should act as a stark lesson to others.

"We need to be better prepared and to better understand the bushfire risk," Euan said.

"The legacy of those who lost significant property and lost their lives should be that we are better prepared, and that the safety of the community is enhanced."

Lyndoch Brigade volunteer firefighters Glyn Schirmer and Brenton Edwards, who feature on the DVD, say planning and preparing is the key to surviving a bushfire.

They remind that anyone who decides to stay and defend their property must be physically and mentally prepared to deal with a potentially horrifying experience, and a decision to leave must be done well in advance.

"If you're going to leave, our message is to go very early in the day so you don't put yourself at risk, because eight people out of the nine that died on Eyre Peninsula that day were on the road. So there is an enormous risk," Glyn said.

The DVD has been distributed to CFS brigades throughout South Australia to be presented to their communities and further copies are available through the CFS.



## COMMUNICATIONS

# SACAD UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2010

By: Gary Bau, State Operations Planning Officer, CRD

Intergraph, the supplier of the SA Computer Aided Dispatch (SACAD) system for all emergency services in South Australia, is currently building three versions of SACAD for SAPOL, SAAS and the three SAFECOM agencies - CFS, MFS and SES.

Each version will have the one base set of data including mapping and be able to seamlessly communicate with each agency.

The completed SACAD should be delivered to each ESO in October this year, ready for testing and finalised data input. This is expected to take three to five months.

It is anticipated our sector will be ready to go live from May 2011.

For CFS a number of tasks are currently being undertaken.

Edited versions of CFS brigade response areas have been sent out to all brigades and groups for sign off. This is a significant milestone as it will be the first time the CFS will be able to clearly determine each brigade response area. It has taken nearly two years, so thanks must go to all CFS volunteers and staff involved in this significant part of the SACAD project.

A review of the MFS / CFS response boundary in the metropolitan area is underway and consultation with the affected brigades and groups will take place.

The CFS SACAD Project Team is currently documenting brigade response plans using the Group Operational Management Plans (GOMPS). This will take about four months and once documented will be given to brigades / groups to ratify.

There will be a review of all SOPS in relation to call, receipt, dispatch and the necessary changes will be

submitted for consultation and review.

The CFS SACAD Business Reference Group (BRG), consisting of one volunteer representative from each region, one CFSVA representative and the CFS SACAD Project Team, meets regularly and provides advice to the project.

Further information is available from Malim Watts - Commander, Manager Operations Planning and Gary Bau - State Operations Planning Officer, CRD on 08 8463 4200.



# SOARING CLUB AND CFS PARTNERSHIP TAKES OFF

By: Janet Inman, CFS Aviations Standards Officer



CFS aviation standards officer Janet Inman, pilot Richard Hastings and Adelaide Soaring Club president Geoff Wood discuss runway protocol at Gawler Airfield. Photo courtesy Bunyip newspaper.

**F**irebombing aircraft tackling fires in the Gawler and Adelaide plains areas will gain an important time advantage thanks to a partnership developed between the Adelaide Soaring Club and the Country Fire Service.

The Adelaide Soaring Club, which operates from the Gawler Airfield, has recently entered into an agreement with the CFS to allow the agency's fleet of fixed and rotary aircraft to use the airfield's facilities in the event of a fire in the surrounding area.

Soaring Club President Geoff Wood is extremely happy with the

arrangements that have come into effect this summer.

"We have a first class airfield at Gawler and it made perfect sense to us that our facilities be made available to help the CFS and ultimately the local community when the need arises," Geoff said.

"While there may be some inconvenience to our members when the airfield is being used for bomber refilling, we have balanced that against the protection of lives and property that could be saved as a result of the new arrangement."

CFS Manager Aviation David Cant

says the CFS installed a 22,000 litre rainwater tank at the airfield to provide quick access to essential water supplies.

Getting the water into the aircraft is an important job and is carried out by volunteer air support crews.

When operating from the Gawler Airfield, the fire bombers are supported by the CFS Mount Crawford Air Support Team.

This team of experienced and dedicated volunteers, headed up by Tony Lange, relocate by road to wherever the aircraft are operating in the northern areas of Adelaide.

"We are delighted by the enthusiastic manner in which the Soaring Club has supported the Country Fire Service's aerial fire fighting efforts," David said.

"In addition to making our pilots and crew feel welcome, Soaring Club members have gone above the call of duty and have chipped in to help with the refilling task and attending to the hoses."

The partnership is already proving to be a successful one with the Gawler Airfield being activated on a number of occasions this year to help fight local fires.

## HELITAK BOMBERS PUT THROUGH PACES

**A**n aviation exercise was held at Cherry Gardens in February to discuss and observe how best to use the two Helitak aircraft in an operational capacity.

The exercise involved the observation of aircraft drops at various heights and speeds, to view the optimum drop characteristics for each aircraft. Pilots put the aircraft through

their paces in an effort to get the best possible drop for differing circumstances; from a hovering position, medium speed, fast speed and with different configurations of doors to determine the volume and rate of water drop and corresponding effectiveness.

CFS Manager Aviation Services David Cant says the exercise was beneficial to both pilots and those

on the ground who were involved in the observation and analysis of bombing effectiveness.

"The exercise was extremely useful in demonstrating the extent of capabilities of these two particular aircraft," David said.

"It provided an opportunity for our pilots and staff to become more familiar with the aircraft, which will allow for improved aerial fire fighting response into the future."

Helitak 574 tests a one-door configuration drop at slow-medium speed.



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

# PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

By: David Cant, Manager Aviation Services  
OPINION PIECE – published in The Advertiser 19 January 2010

South Australia experienced the hot, windy conditions that can cause a major bushfire disaster early in January.

Country Fire Service volunteers and the community must be congratulated for their preparedness and the level of concern displayed on the January catastrophic fire danger day.

While there were a number of fires that occurred that day, we were spared another Black Saturday.

Was this good luck or was it due to the tactical approach by CFS and the preparedness of people living in bushfire areas?

Luck will always play a part, but the CFS philosophy of hitting a fire hard and fast works.

CFS volunteers and aerial fire fighting aircraft are responded within minutes of a bushfire being reported, and as many resources as possible are deployed to keep the fire small and reduce the chance of it getting out of control.

It is not widely known that South Australia has a world class initial attack strategy of aerial fire fighting.

The value of this rapid aerial fire fighting approach has been supported by Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre research.

Our fleet of aircraft are pre-positioned across the State to respond immediately to any report of a rural fire.

The workhorse of this fleet is the Airtractor, a purpose built fire fighting air tanker that can be airborne within two minutes.

The success of this strategy was evident on Monday when two air tankers were dispatched to a fire in Onkaparinga Gorge.

Within minutes aircraft were overhead the fire, dropping three tonnes of suppressant each, in support of the crews on the ground.

It is a testament to the efforts of those CFS volunteers on the day, with the support of the aircraft, that the fire was kept small in difficult terrain and weather.

Determining the right aircraft for use on a fire involves careful consideration such as terrain and access to water.

The CFS sends qualified and

▲ CFS aircraft are pre-positioned across the State to respond immediately to any report of a rural fire.

experienced air crew to each fire to coordinate the aerial bombing efforts and determine the best aircraft for the job.

Having a mixed fleet of aircraft, which also includes helicopters such as the Erickson Aircrane, means CFS selects the aircraft best suited to the conditions on the day

So has CFS picked the right aircraft?

There has been some debate over recent weeks about using scooping aircraft, such as the Canadair, in place of CFS's current fleet.

These types of aircraft are capable but in comparison, are very expensive and have limited application away from lakes and coastal areas.

Scoopers are used in many parts of southern Europe, however their approaches, unlike those of CFS, do

not integrate ground and aerial fire fighting, and it is this integrated strategy that makes aerial fire fighting successful in South Australia.

Greece for example has more fire fighting aircraft than the whole of Australia's fleet combined (including several Canadair scoopers) yet they did not avoid a bushfire tragedy in 2007 which killed 72 people.

Aircraft are a tool to assist in the early suppression of a fire, but can only be effective if they are part of the bushfire strategy being run on the ground.

Everyone must remember that when a bushfire is out of control on a day of Catastrophic fire danger, it is your Bushfire Survival Plan that will save you, not aircraft.

## AERIAL FIRE FIGHTING LESSONS FOR REGION 1

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

CFS Region 1 held an air operations field day in the lead up to the fire danger season late last year to provide background on the use of aircraft and how ground fire operations integrate with air operations.

The field day gave senior CFS personnel and other land managers an understanding of the organisation and operations of the aircraft CFS uses for aerial fire fighting.

The day was made up by three components; an air operations / aircraft tactics classroom activity, followed by a session on safety around aircraft and ground support, before a field assessment of water bombing effectiveness.

The classroom activity described the CFS Air Operations Plan (air operations strategy, requesting aircraft, how aircraft are dispatched and communications), the tactics

used when aircraft arrive at the fire ground and integration with the Incident Management Team (IMT).

The field exercise at the Cherry Gardens airstrip covered aircraft safety, ground support and logistical application and aircraft capabilities and configurations.

The application of suppressants was covered as part of the field exercise, to show participants what is assessed in terms of bombing effectiveness and the best ways to communicate this to the air operations team during an incident.

CFS Aviation Standards Officer Janet Inman says the aim of the day was to enable senior CFS personnel and those involved with Incident Management Teams the opportunity to enhance their understanding of the use and application of CFS fire fighting aircraft.

"Throughout the full-day event, CFS crews considered a range of topics, including the integration of

aircraft into incident management planning," she said.

"In the afternoon, the aircraft dropped loads at varying speeds and heights so that CFS operations staff and participants could consider drop effectiveness."

The aircraft involved in the exercise included two 802 fixed-wing Airtractors, one Bell 205 Helicopter and one Bell 206 Longranger Helicopter.



CFS aircraft are pre-positioned across the State to respond immediately to any report of a rural fire.



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VOLUNTEER - AVIATION

Airtractors on standby as the Helitak takes to the sky for the demonstration.



A fixed-wing Airtractor demonstrates fire suppression tactics from the air.





# TRAINING FOR INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM PERSONNEL

By: Heidi Davis, A/Incident Management Project Officer

**A**re you an officer in a brigade?  
Are you in an operations brigade?

Are you approved through your Region to hold an incident management position?

Are you a staff member that holds an on-call position?

If you have answered 'Yes' to any of these questions, then you also need to answer this question: Do you have the appropriate training?

As a minimum, all incident management personnel should have undertaken the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS)

training course. This course gives you the basis of how CFS and associated agencies such as Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) and Forestry SA operate in incident management.

Below is a list of current course dates for AIIMS as well as some specialist training courses. All course nominations should go through the correct nomination path from brigade to region.

As more course dates are booked they will be added to the training program, which is on the website [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au).

## AIIMS

17 – 18 May STC Brukunga

29 – 30 May R1 HQ  
5 – 6 June STC Brukunga  
7 – 8 July STC Brukunga  
17 – 18 July STC Brukunga  
18 – 19 Sept R1 HQ

## Staging Area Management

17 – 18 April STC Brukunga  
3 – 4 July STC Brukunga

## Strike Team Leader / Sector

### Commander

1 – 2 May STC Brukunga  
24 – 25 July STC Brukunga  
28 – 29 August STC Brukunga

### Operations Officer

19 – 20 June STC Brukunga  
11 – 12 Sept STC Brukunga

### Planning Officer

6 – 8 August STC Brukunga

## Incident Control

22 – 23 May STC Brukunga  
31 July – 1 Aug STC Brukunga

## Tactical Command and Leadership

This course is now being run through your regions so please look on your regional training program for course locations and dates.

## Frontline Leadership

This course is run within groups and regions so please see your group or regional training program for locations and dates.

Please ensure nominations are in line with pre-requisites, which can be found on the CFS website.

## STATUS OF INCIDENT

**I**n the heat of the incident and the flurry of activity it is easy to overlook or forget the criteria surrounding the tasks we need to complete in incident management.

One task is determining the status of an incident. Not only does this relate to what happens directly at the incident, but it also has impacts on external areas such as community, media and website information.

So what do they all mean and when do we change the status?

Remember only the incident

Going	Any fire expanding in a certain direction or directions. Any incident that is expanding or continuing to require an active or escalated response.
Contained	A fire is contained when its spread has been halted, but it may still be burning freely within the perimeter or fire control lines. Other incidents are contained when the spread of growth of the incident is halted.
Controlled	The time at which the complete perimeter of a fire is secured and no breakaway is expected. For other incidents, the time at which the incident is secured and there is no possibility of extension or growth of the incident.
Completed	This is for non-fire and other incidents. It is the time at which the incident is secured and there is no further need for SACFS involvement. Other services (eg. ETSA, Police) may still be involved in response or recovery operations.
Safe	The stage of fire suppression, prescribed burning or incident response when it is considered that no further suppression or control action or patrol are necessary.

controller can change the status of an incident.

When making the decision to change the status of an incident it is vital that only one status

is given, this avoids confusion and allows other activities to commence in response to the change. For example, messages to the community to advise of

the reduced threat of the fire due to the fire being classed as contained.

Please refer to the Field Handbook or the OMG 21 for information.

## CENTRE FOR LESSONS LEARNED

By: Mark Thomason, Manager Operational Improvement

**A** database has been established to capture, interpret and identify treatment options and the responsible person for that action to assist with learnings from past incidents.

Over the past few months the focus has been on the Kangaroo Island fires during 2007 and the Proper Bay fire in 2008.

These were used to assess the database processes as there are a variety of lessons from a past and current event that were deemed suitable for the assessment. Surprisingly within the Kangaroo

Island fire some 50 per cent of lessons have been completed and a further 25pc have strategies which have been implemented.

With the Proper Bay fire, 50pc of the actions recommended have been either completed or strategies are now in place.

Some of the lessons learned from these fires have seen changes to SOPs, Chief Officer Standing Orders or Case Studies and Operational Bulletins have been issued.

In other cases we have modified or developed training courses such as the Tactical Command and

Leadership and Sector Commanders course. Other courses are in the development stage and will also incorporate lessons learned.

Our current focus is to monitor and capture lessons learned from the Black Saturday fires in Victoria, identifying issues in the areas of incident management teams, incident prediction, training and community warnings.

We are also looking at a fire known as Boorabbin in Western Australia in 2007, where three heavy vehicle drivers died when roadblocks were opened up. The main themes with

this fire are incident prediction, risk assessment, incident management teams and traffic management. In reviewing the Boorabbin fire, a case study has been prepared discussing traffic management and it will be distributed shortly.

One valuable tool which has been used recently is a process known as pre-mortems. This process examines what could go wrong before an event has occurred, similar to a brainstorming session, and is very useful to consider when planning or developing an action plan.

# THE BENEFITS OF WORKING WITH MEDIA

By: Heidi Davis, A/Incident Management Project Officer

The pager goes, you go to the station to attend a fire, you're the incident controller, a million and one things are running through your head about the possibilities of what could be happening and what could happen.

You've made it to the incident, your radio is constantly going, you've got trucks to position, aircraft to think about, crew safety to worry about, as well as yourself - do I need more resources, do I need an IMT, who do I need to notify? You can hardly catch your breath and then you are hit with an influx of MEDIA PEOPLE ...

Most incident controllers might say it's the last thing they want to be thinking about, and rather than working with the media, they might prefer to have them off the fireground.

However, how many of us will happily glue ourselves to the radio, paper or television when an incident occurs, or the next day to see the pictures, read the story or hear the interview. So how does this all happen if we don't allow them on the fireground or assist them with the interviews they need?

As Incident Controllers it is important to remember some simple key points;

Media have a major role to play in public information dissemination, especially now the new information and warning systems are so widely publicised.

For South Australian media to have access to a CFS controlled fire they must have undertaken bushfire awareness training, wear PPE and have a current Media Pass.

CFS also has a SOP (SOP 12.1) which directly relates to media attending incident. This sets out media access to a fireground and simply states;



Interviews with the media are an important way of getting vital information to the community in an emergency.

'No member of the media will be allowed by the CFS onto a fireground unless they are dressed in appropriate Level 1 personal protective equipment (PPE) and have a current CFS Media Bushfire Accreditation Pass, even if they have gained access through a Police cordon point.'

It is also recommended that media representatives carry in their vehicles a woollen blanket, fresh water, goggles and gloves.

Media access to a fireground location will be made at the discretion of an incident controller. Where possible the incident controller must ensure that any media granted access are escorted whilst at the incident.

If the incident controller has the reasonable belief that it is unsafe for the media to enter a fireground location, then the media should be advised of this decision, and the reasons that form the basis of this decision.

As the incident controller you need to remember these simple key points;

- Safety is paramount – if it's not safe for media to be present in an area, set up an exclusion zone
- If media are not dressed appropriately, do not have accreditation or are interfering in fire fighting operations they can be removed from the fireground
- Should issues arise with media not gaining access through Police roadblocks, ensure that the Police Liaison Officer in attendance at the ICC is aware media can have access until such time the decision is made to set up an exclusion zone. They will then ensure their officers are aware of this.
- If you need assistance to control media, a request for a Media liaison Officer can be made via your region.

Remember, while an incident is occurring, the media will be in constant phone contact with our Public Affairs team, so important information should be relayed to



^ All accredited media personnel should have an ID card, like the one pictured here.

Public Affairs in order to keep the media (and therefore the public) informed. You can do this by calling the CFS media line on 08 8212 9489. Information fed into CRIIMSON and the Public Affairs Unit can help to relieve the demand for media updates on the fire ground and will help inform the public of the risk.

## REMEMBER YOUR INCIDENT LEVELS

### Level 1

An incident that is able to be resolved through the use of local or initial resources. It is a simple and small incident, with minimal threat or impact to the local community.

### Level 2

More complex either in size, resources or risk. Characterised

by a need for; deployment of resources beyond initial response, sectorisation, incident management functions may be delegated, liaison and management functions generally more complex, possible local threat and impact to the community at a local or regional level, other agencies usually involved.

### Level 3

Characterised by degrees of complexity that may require the establishment of divisions for effective management. Structure and environment at great risk, incident management complicated by the rapid growth of the incident, multiple numbers and types of resources,

delegation of all functions, multiple shifts, numerous other agencies, significant threat or impact to the community at local, regional or State level, incident management requires a large team and involves other agencies and emergency services.

Please see OMG 23 Incident Levels for further information.



# RIVERBANK COLLAPSE – A HIDDEN DANGER

By: Matthew Bowman, Riverbank Collapse Communication Coordinator, Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation (DWLBC)

Riverbank collapse is a relatively new danger that has emerged along the River Murray, downstream of Lock 1 at Blanchetown.

The chief cause is low water levels. As water levels have dropped, the strength and stability of the riverbank has been reduced. This is a problem from Blanchetown to Wellington.

Riverbank collapse poses dangers for anyone working or playing along the affected stretch of river.

This includes SA Country Fire Service volunteers responding to emergencies along the riverbank.

A heavy fire appliance parked too close to the river's edge in a heavily cracked area could cause a collapse.

Unfortunately, while low river levels below Lock 1 continue, riverbank collapse will be an ongoing risk and people need to be vigilant and look for the signs of riverbank instability.

## How serious is the risk?

The unfortunate reality is that any part of the riverbank between Blanchetown and Wellington could collapse into the river at any time, and without warning.

There are cases of serious cracking occurring more than 20 metres back from the river's edge.

In some cases, river homes are between the river and the cracking, indicating that a major collapse could take those properties into the river.

Owners of shacks at River Front Road, Murray Bridge, and at Caloote, near Mannum, have been advised that they should not use their properties because of the high risk of collapse.

There are also risks for houseboats, ski boats and other vessels that are

tied up to large trees near the river's edge.

While every effort has been made, and will continue to be made, to signpost and cordon off high risk areas as they are identified, there are no guarantees that other areas are not affected, so please be alert and never underestimate the danger posed by riverbank collapse.

The largest collapse to date occurred in February 2009 at Long Island Marina, near Murray Bridge, where an 80m-long stretch collapsed into the river, taking with it three cars and several large trees.

The volume of soil and rock in that collapse was so large that one of the vehicles was never recovered.

What are the signs of possible collapse?

CFS volunteers should be aware of the signs of potential collapse. Unfortunately, the signs are not always obvious, below are some indications.

## Look for cracking

Summer's drying effects, coupled with low water levels, are likely to widen, deepen and further open existing cracks. Cracking is a clear danger sign indicating that people should avoid that area.

## Leaning trees

Look out for trees (including willows and gums) starting to lean and tilt towards the river. The root systems of these trees are weakened by the increasingly unstable soil and their substantial weight puts pressure on the riverbank, creating a high risk of collapse.

## Bubbling in the water near the riverbank

This is a sign of soil movement and may also be an indicator of escalating collapse risk.

## Take heed of fencing

Be aware of areas where there has already been a visible collapse or erosion on a smaller scale (these areas may have already been fenced off with warnings).

## Steep riverbanks with drop off

Be careful in places where riverbanks are steep and the channel deep, with sudden 'drop off' to depth. These areas are considered at serious risk of collapse and pose some of the greatest dangers.

## Advice for emergency services

CFS volunteers should consider the following when responding to a riverbank collapse incident, or other incident, along the

River Murray between Lock 1 (Blanchetown) and Wellington:

- Vehicle distance - consider size and weight of response vehicles, and how this may add load to riverbanks which are already unstable. Park vehicles back from the river's edge where possible, particularly larger and heavier vehicles. Approach riverfront areas on foot wherever possible and practical.
- Be vigilant – look for the signs of unstable riverbanks and assess the risk to your own safety and that of your fellow volunteers. Decide whether it is necessary to proceed close to the riverbank.
- Consider machinery and equipment to be used and whether they may create too much load on at-risk riverbanks. Consider alternatives to using heavy equipment.
- SAPOL is the Response Agency in relation to Riverbank collapse. In the event of a collapse, SAPOL will provide the directives.

DWLBC can be contacted for further information on particular site locations. If you are unsure about a particular site, contact the department on (08) 8204 8575.

Minimise the time you spend on areas of riverbank that appear at risk.

Exercise caution and judgement at all times.

Riverbank Collapse Hotline – 1800 751 970 or visit [www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au](http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au)



This was the location of the most significant riverbank collapse, at Long Island Marina, near Murray Bridge.



An example of an indication of riverbank collapse risk, in Murray Bridge.





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# MACCLESFIELD MARKS 70 YEARS

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

The Macclesfield CFS Brigade celebrated the anniversary of its 70th year of service to the community late last year.

A full day of celebrations ensued, including a street parade of fire trucks new and old, and a formal ceremony at Davenport Square, opposite the Macclesfield CFS Station.

CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson attended the day, and congratulated the volunteers and community on the milestone.

"The town of Macclesfield continues to be served by a very loyal group of volunteers, some 35 at this point in time, who over the past four years alone have responded to 266 incidents, with a total of 22,000 hours of volunteer time," he said.

The Macclesfield brigade started out with just a tank and pump, which was transported by a private vehicle,

and was later replaced by a second-hand 1945 Bedford, purchased by the community in 1956.

"To celebrate a 70th anniversary of a volunteer firefighting brigade is a true testament to the ongoing efforts of the men and women of Macclesfield, and I commend the efforts of all those who have played a part in reaching this milestone," the Chief Officer said.

Community members had the opportunity for an 'up close' look at the appliances, along with a number of stalls.

A formal ceremony formed part of the day, with a number of awards presented to long-serving members of the Macclesfield Brigade, including Brigade Member of the Year to Captain Steve Gardner.

A new bulk water carrier appliance and bore was commissioned, providing a sustained water resource for fire fighting.



Macclesfield Brigade Captain Steve Gardner, Macclesfield Lions Club member Eileen Seyd and Macclesfield Life Member Rob McNamara.

>> Cathy Megson receives her award for 20 years of service to the CFS, from Chief Officer Euan Ferguson.



<< Geoff Horsnell receives an award for five years of service to the Macclesfield Brigade, from Region 1 Commander Chris Martin



David Bottroff and Bill Gemmell, both from Macclesfield, enjoy the celebrations.

## OPEN DAY A BUSY ONE FOR SUMMERTOWN AND DISTRICTS

By: Robin Geytenbeek, State Training Officer - Rural

The Summertown and Districts Brigade held an Open Day at the end of January and also used it as an opportunity to commission the new 34P Tanker, award 10 and 20 Year Service Medals and present five new members with their Basic Firefighting 1 certificates.

The day was attended by about 60 people, including many past and current members.

The day also saw a number of members of the community attend, some seeking advice about bushfire safety and those who had just never

been in a fire station before and wanted a look at their local Brigade.

Guests had the unexpected opportunity to observe a demonstration of the Brigade responding to an incident, when just after formalities had finished a response to a Road Crash Rescue came through.

The day however was not over there, with the Brigade also receiving a call to a grassfire while tidying up at the car accident.

Both incidents put the new 34P Tanker and recruits through their paces, with all performing well.



^ The Summertown and Districts Brigade threw open its doors for an Open Day at the end of January.

## SCRUB FIRE BURNS 170HA AT RAPID BAY

CFS crews worked into the night to control a scrub fire in the vicinity of Rapid Bay on Fleurieu Peninsula on 1 February, 2010.

More than 170 hectares were burnt by the blaze, which was started by a truck on Main South Road shortly before 4 pm that day.

Difficult terrain and wind conditions hampered efforts by 160 firefighters on the ground and four aircraft bombers to control the blaze.

Numerous hay bales and areas of scrub burnt within the perimeter, with gully access providing a challenge for crews.

# HOME DAMAGED IN SELICKS BEACH TRUCK ACCIDENT

By: Tanya Norman , CFS Regional Operations Planning Officer, Region 1

**S**elicks and Aldinga Beach CFS, along with Noarlunga SES, responded to a building impact on Saturday, 23 January at Selicks Beach.

On arrival crews found an entire truck embedded inside the rear of the home.

All services worked quickly to establish that the residents were not trapped inside, fortunately having left for an interstate holiday the previous evening.

The truck had rolled unattended downhill from a nearby road before crashing through the rear fence and into the rear of the relatively new home.

Damage was estimated to be \$100-150,000.



This entire truck was embedded into the rear of a Selicks Beach home  
Photo: Aldinga Beach CFS.

## DELAMERE THREATENED BY FLEURIEU PENINSULA FIRE

**A** fire threatened the small township of Delamere, on the Lower Fleurieu Peninsula, on 22 January, 2010.

About 120 firefighters fought the blaze, along with two fixed wing aircraft and two rotary engine air bombers.

Prompt action by the CFS prevented any assets being lost as the fire headed towards Delamere.

A second fire at Parawa remained contained in forest area nearby while the Delamere blaze continued to maintain the majority of resources in the region.

The fire was on the same day as one of the stages of the Tour Down Under bike race cycled to Goolwa.

Some roads in the Lower Fleurieu Peninsula were closed during the afternoon.

That same day saw a fire at Kapunda (Region 2) started by a lawn mower, in grasslands

located between Klemm Road and the old railway line.

No assets were lost, despite a house being threatened at one stage.

A number of fires were also started in the South East by lightning strikes.

Between 2 and 3pm that day more than 160 lightning strikes were recorded in an area between Salt Creek (R3), Tintinara (R3) and Millicent (R5).



A volunteer mopping up at Delamere  
Photo: CFS Promotions Unit

## CFS CREW BAG



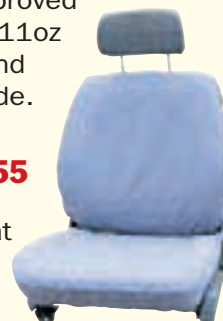
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VOLUNTEER - REGION 1



## REUNION — ONE TREE HILL CFS

One Tree Hill CFS Brigade will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary at the Station on 15 May 2010.

All past and present members are welcome to attend from 2 pm.

Further information: Contact Bevis on 08 8284 0210 or bevisdixon@optusnet.com.au, or Bill on 0412 790 409.

## GOOD ROLL-UP FOR ANNUAL VOLUNTEERS DAY



Volunteers enjoyed their annual day being looked after at headquarters.

There was a good roll-up when Region 2 held its annual Volunteers Day at regional headquarters during December.

The day involves CFS staff waiting on regional volunteers by way of cooking lunch and allowing the volunteers to enjoy fellowship through until tea time.

Always a popular day this year was no different and all look forward to another happy event in December 2010.

# \$3.5M IN HAY BALES LOST IN PASKEVILLE FIRE

An estimated \$3.5 million damage was sustained in a major hay bales fire at Paskeville on northern Yorke Peninsula late last year.

The fire began at about 9 pm with 200 CFS firefighters involved in the operation that night and

over the next week, while back burning, mopping up and monitoring took place.

The incident saw 20,000 hay bales belonging to SP Hay engulfed in fire in an open paddock, about seven kilometres north-east of Paskeville.



^ The aftermath of the Paskeville hay bales fire.

## MAJOR SERVICE STATION FIRE AT BIRDWOOD

By: Terry Price, Media Liaison Officer, SAFECOM

Suspicious circumstances surround a service station fire that shut down the main street of Birdwood in the Adelaide Hills on the morning of Thursday, 4 March.

The non-operational premises on Shannon St, Birdwood erupted in flames at about 1.30 am.

On arrival firefighters found the blaze was too dangerous to attack internally. Firefighters

said there was very little fuel in the underground tanks, but tyres, machinery and chemicals on the premises fuelled the fire, with explosions occurring.

About 24 nearby residents were evacuated as seven CFS crews and Police placed a 200 metre exclusion zone around the site.

CFS incident controller Graeme Hancock lives less than 100 m from the service station and heard the

initial bang when the fire started.

"I was one of the first on the scene," Graeme said.

"When we got here with the fire truck there were flames shooting out the front, it was really going."

The service station and a garage and shed at the rear were all destroyed, with damage estimated at \$400,000. The exceptional work of CFS crews stopped the fire spreading to nearby assets.

## CURRAMULKA FIRE TAKES TOLL ON FARMERS

A fire at Curramulka on Southern Yorke Peninsula burnt through more than 1,200 hectares of crops and bushland on 19 November, 2009.

Farmers lost crops and livestock, some describing it as the worst fire they've battled in the region.

Chad Twelftree from Curramulka lost just more than 200 sheep but still considers himself lucky compared to some.

Andrew Slater's hay shed caught alight and he also lost about 70 hectares of wheat, 35ha of windrow barley and 7ha of feed oats.

There were more than 15,000 lightning strikes on Eyre Peninsula



^ Three thirsty firefighters take a break during the Curramulka fire

that day. These strikes started 23 fires across the region from

Streaky Bay to Iron Duke, near Cowell.

## A PARKING CHALLENGE NO MORE

By: Malcolm Herrman, Birdwood CFS Brigade

Many a newcomer to the Birdwood CFS could attest to the challenge of backing a fire unit into the old shed.

So much so that the experience often resulted in a mark of distinction, treasured by some more than others.

"It was always a bit of precision parking. But that is about to change!" Brigade Captain Craig Zilm said.

An appliance shed has been completed, and frame work is up for a new administration building on the corner of Shannon Street and Lange Crescent in Birdwood.

Construction is due for completion in April or May.

Craig says that members of the Brigade have been talking about plans for new facilities for nine

years, and members are now looking forward to working from the modern facility.

In addition to housing two appliances, it will offer up-to-date training facilities.

In the interim, the Brigade has been operating from the Transport Department depot on Mount Torrens Road.



^ At last! Demolition work on the old Birdwood CFS building.

# TUNGKILLO, MT PLEASANT FIRES TIE UP PERSONNEL

About 45 hectares of hilly country was burnt out in the Tungkillo fire which began on 29 December, 2009.

Up to 70 firefighters on the ground and air bombers tackled the blaze in difficult topography.

Another fire on 11 January at

Mount Pleasant burnt out about 80ha of grass and scrub country.

It involved 95 personnel on the ground, with air bombing support.

This fire began around 6 pm near Schrapels Road, and was placed in the hands of SAPOL for further investigation.



^ Chief Officer Euan Ferguson on the rakehoe.

# HARLEYS LOST IN SHED FIRE

The cooking of bulk pasta sauce was the cause of a fire which destroyed a shed of treasured household items on St Kilda Road, Waterloo Corner.

The fire on 31 January was fully involved, with nine firefighters and three appliances attending.

Two Harley Davidson motor cycles were included in the lost items.

A kitten in the shed at the time of the fire escaped in good health. When not fighting fires the kitten is usually pristine pure white, but as can be seen from the photo (below left), turned a smokey grey.



^ Once pristine white, now smokey grey



^ The remains of the shed at Waterloo Corner

# POOL AND SPA BUSINESS DESTROYED IN \$2M BLAZE

Fire at a fibreglass pool manufacturing business at Burton which resulted in \$2 million damage is highly likely to have been started by static electricity.

The blaze gutted the Adelaide Pool and Spa premises on Port Wakefield

Road on Friday morning, 29 January.

Employees were building a pool when the fire started just before 7.30 am.

CFS and MFS crews took about 30 minutes to control the fire, with mopping up operations continuing throughout the day.

# R2 OPS BRIGADE OPENING AND MEDAL PRESENTATIONS

By: Jeff Clarke, Region 2 Operations Brigade Captain

Region Two Operations Brigade celebrated the opening of their station and presented CFS service medals on 27 January.

The station is the former Roseworthy Station located on Railway Terrace and houses their Operations Support Vehicle (R2 OSV) in the vehicle bay, as well as a comfortable crew area / meeting room.

Since moving in the brigade has repainted and repaired the station, making it comfortable, neat and loved.

Prior to this, the R2 Ops Brigade's 'home' was partly in the R2 HQ and wherever an obliging brigade would provide some space in their station to house the OSV.

The station was officially opened by Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson, who after giving a short speech and

congratulating the brigade, cut the 'ribbon' (CFS Incident tape) at the front of the vehicle bay.

After Andrew read the citation for the CFS Service Medals, Region 2 Commander John Hutchins presented the medals to the worthy recipients.

The evening finished with light refreshments and good company of brigade members and their families.

## R2 Ops Brigade CFS Service Medals were presented to:

### 10 years

Andrew Briscoe, Theresa Bain, Reg Webb, Frank Regan, Andrew Hallam, Richard Jones.

### 20 years

John Giddens, Brenton Henschke, Peter Inkster.

### 30 years

Jeff Clark.



^ At the combined Region 2 Operations Brigade station opening and CFS service medals presentation, L to R, John Hutchins (Region 2 Commander), Michelle Kruger (Firefighter Region 2 Ops Brigade), Andrew Lawson (Deputy Chief Officer SACFS), Jeff Clark (Captain Region 2 Ops Brigade).



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VOLUNTEER - REGION 2



## COOMBE BRIGADE MEMBERS REFLECT ON TIMES GONE BY

By: Greg Kennett, Coombe CFS Captain

Coombe Brigade, Coorong Group in Region 3 held a successful Life Membership ceremony and lunch late last year.

The awards were presented by Coorong Deputy Group Officer Sue Mickan and Group Officer Doug Spry.

Each Life Membership recipient spoke briefly about funny and serious incidents that occurred

during their time with the Coombe CFS, fondly recalling memories of mateship and courage.

Life Memberships were awarded to Reece McDonald, Graham Pearce, Malcolm Kennett, Barry Simmons and Owen Moeller (absent).

Service Awards were also awarded to Life Members and Chris McDonald, Adrienne Pearce, Pat Kennett and Pat Simmons.



At the Coombe Brigade awards ceremony: L to R; Rodney Lush (President), Sue Mickan, Chris and Reece McDonald, Adrienne and Graham Pearce, Pat and Malcolm Kennett, Barry and Pat Simmons, Greg Kennett (Captain), Doug Spry.

## AWARDS KEEP COMING FOR YOUNG CFS VOLUNTEER

Terry Price, Media Liaison Officer, SAFECOM

A young member of the CFS Pinnaroo Brigade has taken out the Youth Award at the 2009 SA Great Murray and Mallee regional awards.

Jeremy Schutz has capped off his award winning year by also being named 2010 Australia Day Pinnaroo Young Citizen of the Year.

He had already been named South Australian Young Rural Ambassador leading into the 2009 Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Show.

The SA Great and Young Citizen of the Year awards recognised his volunteering in the CFS, helping to organise and promote the Pinnaroo Agricultural Show, and

his work in organising 200 students to walk 45 kilometres along the Mallee Highway to raise money for the Victorian Black Saturday bushfire victims.

The trek, undertaken by Lameroo Regional Community School and Pinnaroo Primary School students, raised \$3,000 for the cause.

The 2009 Lameroo School's Student Representative Council (SRC) President, Jeremy knew he was nominated for the SA Great Award after the nomination forms were inadvertently sent to him, rather than the school. However, he had no idea he would take out the coveted prize ahead of 27 other nominees.

## TRAILERS AND WINE DESTROYED NEAR WAIKERIE

By: Graeme Ward, Waikerie Brigade Captain

Late last year 18 crew from Blanchetown and Waikerie CFS brigades attended a B-Double semi-trailer fire, 20 kilometres west of Waikerie, on the Sturt Highway.

Both trailers loaded with wine were well involved in fire when the crews arrived.

The driver of the burning vehicle had noticed a fire in the vicinity of a tyre/brake area and managed to disconnect the prime mover from the trailers, and shift it forward.

With tyre and airbag explosions, the immediate area was showered with burning material, requiring CFS crews to contain a number of small fires.



Two trailers loaded with wine were destroyed near Waikerie

The fire started just before midnight and crews completed operational duties at the site at 0320 hours the following morning.

Damage to the trailers and wine totalled \$250,000.



Jeremy Schutz addresses the gathering after receiving the Pinnaroo Young Citizen of the Year award on Australia Day.

"I didn't really know how I was going to go, not knowing who I was up against," he said.

"It was a bit of a surprise winning another award. The Pinnaroo Young Citizen of the Year award is a great honor and I feel very proud"

Jeremy is particularly rapt with the success of the fundraising walk, which took about two-and-a-half months to organise, with the support of a committee.

He says he organised the fundraiser because he felt a link with those in the Victorian bushfire zone, through his CFS involvement. "Seeing what happened and being a CFS member myself I knew that if a fire came through Pinnaroo or Lameroo, a helping

hand would be needed," Jeremy said.

"As a community I didn't think we'd done that much, so using my school connections and presidency of the SRC I was able to organise the walk. I was very, very happy with the result."

The money was split between Yarraglen Primary School and Yarraglen CFA Brigade. Both have sent back letters of thanks, expressing appreciation for the assistance. The Yarraglen CFA is putting its money towards the purchase of a new fire appliance.

Jeremy also thanked the local police and CFS brigades for providing traffic control and signage during the walk, and the community for their support.

# INCREASE IN NUMBERS FOR STIRLING NORTH CADETS

By: Pete Shalley, Far North Volunteer Support Officer

Pictured at the annual Stirling North Cadets presentation: L to R; Front Row: Matt Leonard (Community CPS), Rhys Bavington (Robert Strongman Cadet of the Year), Fiona Kohler (Community CPS). Middle Row: Jordan, Cody, Hugh, Sam, Kaitlan, Anna, Georgia, Kelsey, Kate, Melisa, Caitlin. Back Row: Pete Shalley, Alex, Axel, Petrea Ellis, Reid, Wendy Barnes, Shannon Doble, Sophie, Todd, Mark Sutton, and Robert Strongman (presenter of the 'Robert Strongman Cadet of the Year award')

Once again we have had a very busy and successful year with the Stirling North Cadets.

Despite losing a few members at the start of the year to "other interests," we have been picking up new members throughout the year and our numbers are higher now than the same time last year. Thankfully that has been matched by an increase in the number of supervisors who give up their time to assist.

The whole group has been a pleasure to work with, all keen and willing to take on challenges outside their comfort zones. This is only

possible because the group respects and is supportive of each other. They are a credit to themselves and CFS.

A big thank you again to our sponsors for the Cadet of the Year (and month) awards, Robert Strongman and family, and the Port Augusta branch of Community CPS Australia Ltd.

## Successes / Highlights:

- Fantastic camp at Dutchman's Stern
- MFS display of a live fire exercise with the gas prop (from a distance, of course)
- Trip to Port Pirie where we saw a range of bowling skills, and



saw the SES Rescue vessel 'Sea Angel'

- We have our Honour Board displayed in our meeting room (also donated by the Strongman family)
- Great attendance, participation and behaviour by all the cadets (and most of the time by the adults too)
- Cadets of the month were:  
February – Georgia

March – Alex

April – (not awarded)

May – Rhys

June – Stix

July – Anna

August – Axel

September – Caitlin

October – Todd

November – Sam

- Robert Strongman Stirling North CFS Cadet of the Year for 2009 was awarded to Rhys Bavington.

## STIRLING NORTH GETS NEW 34P FIRE AND RESCUE VEHICLE

Stirling North Brigade has taken delivery of a new 3000-litre fire fighting and road crash rescue vehicle.

The latest model 34P urban / rural pumper is equipped to handle RCR and has extra features, including cabin oxygen supplies and a 'halo' water system.

CFS Regional Prevention Officer Nik Ludborz recently handed the keys for the new vehicle to Stirling

North CFS Captain Bob Kirby, who expressed great satisfaction at the arrival of the up-to-date vehicle.

The Stirling North crew was chosen as the candidate for the top-of-the-line pumper due to the high number of call-outs it attends and the risks associated with the region, including the local power station and prison.

After maintenance, the old Stirling North vehicle will be heading off to a quieter regional station.

## SPALDING RECOGNISES THEIR LONGEST SERVING MEMBERS

By: Butch Semler, Admin Officer, Spalding Brigade

Spalding Brigade presented awards for significant service, at an Australia Day ceremony at its station on 26 January, 2010.

The day was combined with SES presentations, and the CFS awards were being presented by local dignitary Ian Trengrove, while Robby Clemms of Laura presented to the SES recipients.

The Spalding Brigade has 66 active members and six cadets, with another 23 members on the TAS list who have left the district.

Of particular note is Lyndon Longmire, who has been a member for 51 years, is now retired, and an honorary member living in Moonta.

### CFS Medal recipients were:

#### 10-20 years' service

Michael Daniels Jnr-10 yrs,  
David White-11, Leon Dobbins-11,  
Kevin Fitzgerald-12, Debbie

Pluckrose-12, James Matters-14,  
Andrew Cootes-14, Ben Browne-15,  
Blue Fahey-15, Roger Crowley-15,  
Tim Hage-15, Troy Morgan-17,  
Bernadette Semler-18, Paul  
Goodridge-18, Heather Grindell-18.

#### 20-40 years' service

Darren Longmire-21, Glen  
Hammatt-22, Phil Hammatt-22,  
Robert Hammatt-22, Gavin  
Malycha-22, Peter Shane-22,  
Keith Pluckrose-22, Vaughan  
Semler-25, Geoff Matters-26, Geoff  
Scott-26, Spud Bunfield-27, Bill  
Pryde-27, Mark Williams-30, Eric  
Somerville-34, Kerry Stephenson-34,  
Joe Fahet-35, Roger Gill-35, Peter  
White-36, Peter Roberts-39.

#### 40-50 years' service

John Sommerville-43, Trevor  
Boulton-46.

#### Over 50 years' service

Lyndon Longmire-51.

Photo courtesy: The Transcontinental, Port Augusta



CFS Regional Prevention Officer Nik Ludborz hands the keys of the new 34P fire truck to Stirling North CFS Captain Bob Kirby.



# SOUTH EAST INCIDENT CONTROL CENTRE TESTED

By: Brenton Hastie, Exercise Director, ROPD Region 5



A briefing on the morning of the exercise with functional leaders

A major fire started in the Mil-Lel area north of Mount Gambier on 5 December, 2009 and quickly spread to burn vast areas of land in and around Mt Gambier, and in south-west Victoria. This was on a day of record-breaking Catastrophic fire conditions. Thankfully it was only an exercise.

The exercise saw representatives from the Country Fire Authority (CFA), CFS, Department for

Environment and Heritage (DEH), Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), Forestry SA (FSA) and the Mt Gambier SES unit come together to form a Level 3 Incident Management Team working from the newly established Mt Gambier Joint Emergency Facility.

The day saw more than 60 people actively participate in various incident management roles, and was coordinated by staff from

Region 5 with assistance on the day in exercise control from personnel from the CFA training department.

The exercise gave an opportunity to test the new facility and identify what new work was required to bring the centre to a higher level of functionality.

It also gave newly trained personnel the opportunity to further develop their incident management skills, and a chance to get several different agencies working together

in the same building toward the same common goal.

The exercise lasted about eight hours and has identified further training and facility development opportunities for both the Mt Gambier facility and incident management in general for Region 5.

Further incident management exercises are planned for other Incident Control Centres in the region later this year.

## LEARNING THE ROPES

By: Brett Rumball, Naracoorte Brigade

For the first time a training provider from within SAFECOM has been used for rope rescue training for South East personnel.

Volunteers from Naracoorte and Robe CFS attended the three-day course at CFS State Training Centre, Brukunga, which was conducted by four State Emergency Service (SES) instructors.

Region 5 CFS acknowledged the need to have volunteers trained to cover the risk of emergencies in both the Upper and Lower South East that require rope rescue.

Day one saw the volunteers learning about how to tie the required knots, and the following day included safety around ropes, call signs used during rope rescue and various other theory used in rope rescue.

Abseiling from a distance of 12 metres followed, using a belayer for safety, and then moving on to using their own safety line.

Volunteers also learnt how to ascend on a rope, descend past an obstruction, difficult ascend and emergency ascend.



The volunteers are now accredited to descend and ascend a rope by themselves, leaving two more courses to be held in the future to allow them to descend and ascend with a casualty.

^

CFS volunteers from Naracoorte and Robe with trainers at their rope rescue training, L to R, back row: Jennifer Vincent, David Todd, "Toad" McMartin, Michael Overland, Brenton Hastie, Christopher Low, Eric Green, Geoffrey Spiller, Trevor Arnold, John Cooper. Front row: Rino Dell'Antonio, Brett Rumball, Peter Smith, Kevin Slade.

# IMPRESSIONS OF LUCINDALE BLUE GUMS FIRE

By: Margaret Ludwig, Volunteer Support Officer, based on an interview with Spence Brigade Captain Lindsay Dreckow.

The weather on the day of 22 January 2010 was not overly shocking nor extremely hot, but a fire which started from a lighting strike in a paddock quickly spread to a nearby blue gum plantation and took hold.

Blue gums are planted in compartments with breaks around the outside edge. These gums were about eight years old but had not grown in ideal conditions so were equivalent in size to gums aged about six years. A fire will usually creep through the leaf litter and perhaps the lower sections of the blue gums until it comes to an unplanted area with the remnant vegetation where fire behaviour intensifies and the large, old trees catch alight. Trees will die if the flames reach a metre high and scald the trunks by boiling the sap.

As the fire entered the plantation there was an intensifying of fire behaviour with crowning of the first couple of rows. The fire then died down as it moved away from the influence of the wind and became a slow, creeping fire through the leaf litter.

Understanding that fires such as this can become a 4-5 day job if not tackled swiftly, additional resources were quickly deployed to this fire, including a strike team from Naracoorte Group, a strike team from Wattle Range Group with bulk water carriers and four aerial bombers, supplemented by ForestrySA appliances.

If the distance for the forestry hose lay was more than two lengths, the decision was made to allow the compartment to burn out. The fire died down sufficiently from 2030 hours onwards as the wind dropped and temperature cooled. This allowed the firefighters to take aggressive action.

Patrick Ross, Lucindale Deputy Group Officer, and Lindsay Dreckow, Spence Captain, took rake hoes and established a good mineral earth break of about 400m in half an hour, by raking the burning leaves back into the fire.

Rake hoes were very effective and covered the area quicker than a forestry hose lay.

The leaf litter was quite easy to rake back into the fire. Hose lays were used to enter the first 30 m or so where the fire was still burning quite slowly.

The fire had still not reached the edge by midnight so the decision was made to enter the rows and deal directly with the burning native vegetation. Some of the native vegetation trees that were alight were felled.

The ideal appliance for these situations would be a mid-range 4WD with up to 1,500 litres of water. The Forestry Industry Brigades mostly have large 4WDs like the CFS, and find it difficult to get between the trees. The usual practice is to wait until it comes out of the compartment.



ROPO Brenton Hastie and CO Euan Ferguson inspecting the blue gum fire. Note the tyre tracks indicating travel up the row.

>>



Most plantations now have a red PVC tube located at the entrance gate with maps showing all the areas of remnant scrub, swamps, ridges and water points, but local knowledge of these areas within the compartments is imperative to avoid firefighters encountering dangerous fire behaviour.

It is also imperative to have bulk water carriers urgently attend plantation fires, as most water points are windmill-operated and once the trees get higher the windmills no longer receive sufficient breeze for them to turn and fill the tanks.

The bombers were extremely effective. Their water and foam combination was able to penetrate the canopy and really knocked the fire down which limited the spread. This resulted in only half the compartment

being burnt instead of all of it if the ground crews had dealt with it by themselves. The turnaround from Lucindale airport was rapid and impressive.

The Spence crew members are now more comfortable working with the trees as they have had several lightning strikes and resulting fires in the gums this fire season already. They would rather attack quickly and restrict the size because they do not wish to remain at the scene for hours or need to return over the ensuing few days. Our experience reiterates that the fire must be dealt with promptly and properly to avoid it reaching another compartment or reigniting.

## LIGHTNING, CATASTROPHIC FIRE CONDITIONS – A DANGEROUS COMBINATION

By: Brenton Hastie, Regional Officer, Region 5

On 23 December 2009 a combination of lightning and Catastrophic fire conditions came together, resulting in a large scrub and grass fire which burnt through about 1700 hectares of land north to north-east of Kingston in the South East.

Fire crews initially contained the fire, however strong winds meant that by 1100 hours it was spotting into inaccessible heath and scrubland where it quickly became uncontrollable.

Local crews from Region 5, including the Tatiara Dry Firefighting equipment, a strike team from Region 3 and fixed wing water bombers were quickly deployed to the fire to try to limit the spread, and to protect assets.

Taking into consideration the extreme conditions on the day, the region quickly developed an Emergency Warning Message and used the Alert SA phone warning system to alert surrounding landowners.

Given the potential of the fire, the State Level 3 Incident Management Green Team was deployed to assist the Lacepede Group in incident management. The Zone Emergency Management Committee was also opened up in Mt Gambier to support all responding emergency agencies.

The fire remained uncontrollable in scrubland for a number of hours, eventually being contained in the late afternoon as a result of strategic back burning, mineral earth breaks and direct attack once the fire



^ The Tatiara Skidah was sent to the Kingston fire

ran into surrounding grassland.

As the regional coordinator for the day, I would like to acknowledge the good work by CFS crews on the ground and the assistance from support agencies including Department for Environment and Heritage, SES and ForestrySA for incident management.



# NARACOORTE GROUP'S BUSY PERIOD

By: Bill Corcoran, Naracoorte Group DG03

It's been a very busy time for CFS brigades within the Naracoorte Group over the past few months, with a number of fires and two strike teams keeping personnel busy.

At 0600 hours on 16 December, a Total Fire Ban day, crews were paged for a grass fire just north of Naracoorte.

The first arriving crews reported it burning on a 250 metre front and too hot to attack.

Crews from Naracoorte, Hynam, Lochaber, Stewarts Range, Padthaway, Western Flat, plus private farm units, all worked well in pulling this fire up.

On the same day, Naracoorte and Wattle Range Group were paged to help Apsley Country Fire Authority (CFA) at a fast-moving grass and scrub fire that had come into town and was burning well not far from the fire station.

Crews from Naracoorte, Hynam, Joanna, Frances, Kybybolite and Car One attended this fire.

On 18 December crews were again paged for a haysheaf fire, on the farm of our Kybybolite Captain.

Crews from Kybybolite, Naracoorte, Hynam, Binnun and CFA attended, finding the shed fully involved in fire.

Some 900 large square bales of hay were lost, along with two trailers, with an estimated total loss of \$200,000.

Private farm units and the Kybybolite CFS unit remained on the scene for some time while mopping up took place.

The following weeks have seen crews attend fires in both grass and crops, supported by the bombers from Mount Gambier air base on a number of occasions.

Motor vehicle accidents have been on the rise also with a truck rollover on 27 December being attended by Hynam and Naracoorte brigades.

The Naracoorte Brigade, along with Padthaway, attended another accident involving a truck, which turned into a 10-hour operation for



CFS crews at the Apsley fire.  
Photo: Shane Smith, Naracoorte Brigade

crews as it involved a driver fatality.

On 22 January lightning strikes within the Region started a number of forest fires in the Lucindale Group area.

Crews were sent to assist at these fires and while they were gone a report came in of a fire in the Joanna area.

Fortunately, nothing was found apart from smoke from the Lucindale fires.

Since the start of January 2010 brigades within the Group have attended 15 working jobs and Naracoorte Brigade is up to 112 jobs at the time of writing, this financial year.

The Naracoorte Council has once again been very supportive with the use of their three bulk water carriers, and staff who are able to assist us at any time, day or night.

## PORT MACDONNELL WORKING TOWARDS NEW FACILITY

By: Grant Fensom, Captain, Port MacDonnell Brigade

Port MacDonnell Brigade is continuing fundraising towards construction of its own facility.

The Brigade co-exists with its own Group and Group communications, lacking necessary space for training and storage, mess and meeting rooms.

The facility abuts the existing fire station and adds to the existing store shed where the Quick Attack Vehicle (QAV) is housed.

Fundraising during the past three years has contributed \$17,000

towards the building project, and extra funding has come from local businesses and local government.

Other donations of material and labour has come from businesses such as Bunnings, Banner Hardware, Hansen Concrete, One Steel, Feilders, Carter Holt Harvey, and EDAN Engineering.

Fundraising continues in other forms, such as raffles, Bunnings barbecues, wood sales, can recycling, phone book deliveries and local donation tins.

Other profile-building opportunities include participation in the local Bayside Festival, Australia Day celebrations, and other community events.

In the past two years the Bayside Festival organisers have donated \$750 and \$1,000 respectively towards our building project.

In designing the new facility, provision is being made for situations which may arise in the future, such as incident control, regional training, critical incident

debriefs and possible expansion of the Group or Brigade.

With many volunteers having working partners and children it is important to have the facility double as a place for families to feel safe, allowing appliances to be crewed to their capacity.

To date 1200 voluntary hours have been put into the facility, with Brigade members accounting for 80 per cent of that time on top of their normal training and call outs.

## CFS SITE POPULAR AT SOUTH EAST FIELD DAYS

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

South East residents had the chance to learn how to PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE. by visiting the CFS stand at the Lucindale Field Days in March.

The popular field days attract up to 30,000 people to the region each year, and provide a prime opportunity for the CFS to deliver bushfire safety messages to the farming community.

Representatives were on hand to answer questions and hand out advice about what property owners can do now and over the winter

months, to prepare themselves and their family.

There was plenty on offer within the spacious CFS marquee, including a plethora of advice and information at the Community Education section, historic memorabilia with the CFS Heritage Committee stall, volunteer recruitment opportunity and the road safety team just next door.

Regional Commander Brett Merritt said participating in the event provided an opportunity for the CFS to remind people in the area that

property preparation is a year-round activity, and that owners should take advantage of periods of milder weather to prepare their properties.

"The more we educate people about property preparation, the better the chances are that it will survive a bushfire," he said.

This year's set-up resulted in a pleasing number of genuine enquiries this year and a number of recruitment enquiries which the Region hopes will convert to reality.

Well done to all those in Region 5

involved with making this year's site such a success.



CFS Community Education Officer Vikki Hann chats with Sue Kluske and Larry and Marjory Botterill at the Field Days

# FIRE THREATENS PORT LINCOLN

By: Terry Price, Media Liaison Officer, SAFECOM

Port Lincoln residents were heavily impacted by a major fire on the outskirts of the city just a couple of days prior to Christmas.

The fire burnt 640 hectares of land, destroyed the State Emergency Service (SES) office, homes, sheds and fencing.

Emergency Services Minister Michael Wright joined the Chief Officers of the State's emergency service organisations on a visit to Port Lincoln to assess the damage.

CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson praised the efforts of all firefighters and personnel for a fantastic effort working together to prevent the fire from causing further damage to the city of Port Lincoln.

"The loss of property is a terrible tragedy, and we feel for the people suffering, but a positive is that there have been no reports of serious injury or of lives lost," he said.

The morning after the fire Euan said the efforts were a great example of an integrated response from CFS, MFS and Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) firefighters, with support from SAPOL, SAFECOM and SES volunteers.

In thanking all involved for a job well done and a good save, Euan also took the opportunity to remind property owners of their responsibility

to help with management of vegetation corridors on private properties.

"I reinforce the message that bushfires are a part of the Australian climate, and that land management associated with this is a shared responsibility. This fire in Port Lincoln burnt significant native vegetation fuel, most of which was on private property," he said.

"I remind property owners that they have a legal and moral responsibility to manage the fuel on their property.

"We have changed the legislation surrounding the clearing of land, to make it easier for property owners in high fire risk areas, so let this be a wake up call that the policy

has changed and we need the assistance of property owners to accept responsibility to maintain and prepare their properties in advance of a fire danger season."

At the height of the fire about 30 tankers and 150 personnel from the CFS, MFS and DEH were committed to controlling the fire.

There was relief from the air, with support from four fixed wing bombing aircraft, two fixed wing observation aircraft, one rotary wing observation aircraft and the Erickson Airplane.

Aircraft pilots encountered extreme flying conditions, forcing them to occasionally suspend flight.

Wind conditions were such

that visibility was extremely poor, hampering the firefighting effort. Power was lost to a large section of Port Lincoln and surrounding districts.

Dense smoke rises behind buildings at Port Lincoln.  
Photo: Charlotte Smith.



Remains of the Port Lincoln SES building. Photo: Port Lincoln Times.



## CFS WOMEN MAKE AN IMPRESSION

By: Bryan Trigg, Group Officer, Eastern Eyre CFS Group

Wives, girlfriends and daughters of brigade members from Tuckey, Rudall, Darke Peake, Gum Flat and Mangalo in Region 6 looked most impressive in their 'new' outfits when attending their end of season netball medal count.

With a 'dress up as something' theme for the medal count, the netballers borrowed equipment and a fire truck as part of their 'different look' and made quite an impression on arrival.

Appreciative of the assistance, the girls went out of their way to

say thanks for providing them with the equipment, pointing out they always encourage their men folk to attend fires if available.

All agreed the exercise was a great promotion for the CFS, and who knows, their local brigades may well end up with a new member or two, although their support for their men folk is just as important.

And after all who else goes out and switches off the header after the turbo has cooled down, and checks the sheep when the men tear off to a fire?

Eastern Eyre CFS Group women folk 'on the job.'





# FACES IN THE CROWD

By: Terry Price, Media Liaison Officer, SAFECOM

## A PERSONAL HONOUR, ACCEPTED ON BEHALF OF HIS BRIGADE

**M**urray Bridge CFS Captain Mike Coddington remains in a state of disbelief after being named South Australia's Local Hero in the 2010 Australia Day Awards.

Still reeling from firstly being told he was down to the final four, from 2,500 people nominated in four categories from across Australia, Mike was downright 'blown away' when actually named the winner.

Nominated by Lieutenant Martin Codrington of the local Murray Bridge Brigade, Mike could find no better way of saying thanks than taking Martin to Canberra for the official proceedings as his Principal Guest.

And didn't they enjoy themselves!

"I've never been in a situation where so many of our best know Australians come together for such occasions," Mike said.

"John Farnham, James Morrison and Judith Durham - to name a few - were present, Ray Martin was MC, and great Australians like Jack Bradham, Cathy Freeman, Mick Dodson and Australia Day Council Chairman Adam Gilchrist were there.

"Gilly asked me would I like him to sign something as a memento, however I told him just a handshake would be a memory in itself for me.

**Murray Bridge CFS Captain Mike Coddington, at home in Brigade headquarters.**



Mike accepts his Local Hero award from Treasurer Kevin Foley earlier this year.

"To top it off, Prime Minister Rudd hosted us at The Lodge.

"The special way we were treated in Canberra will long live in my memory."

Taking over as Brigade Captain eight years ago Mike has largely been responsible for revitalising the local station, and apart from clocking up 1,500 volunteer hours each year himself, he has increased membership from eight to 30 active firefighters.

Since joining the Murray Bridge CFS in 1993 he has given outstanding service, relishing the service's respected place in the local community and the close camaraderie which his fellow volunteers are quick to point out he himself generates.

Although Mike has had the honour of Local Hero bestowed on him personally, he sees the award as belonging to all volunteers operating out of the Murray Bridge station.

"Of course I'm proud, but more so, I'm proud on behalf of all those who operate under the CFS banner here," he said.

Migrating to Australia as a '£10 Pom' in 1973, Mike spent 18 years with the E&WS at Reynella and Murray Bridge, before a term as a groundsman with the Education Department. Prior to his retirement last year he travelled the Murraylands area servicing fire extinguishers.

Just into his two-year term as Brigade Captain, the big ex-Yorkshireman intends staying in the CFS for as long as his health allows.

Enjoying the community recognition that comes with being part of such a valuable service as the CFS, he is especially proud of the manner in which his Brigade has performed in more recent years.

"Everyone here has worked towards one goal, and that is making it a top class operation in serving the community, and at the same time becoming an important social outlet," Mike said.

"Having a social outlet tied in with operational duties has been instrumental in building morale

here, and in turn, building a successful Brigade.

"Sure we have three valuable appliances and excellent equipment, but our general facilities have been upgraded through the volunteers' enthusiasm and hard work.

"Murray Bridge CFS is a hub for other nearby brigades, and we also service a growing residential area outside of the traditional Murray Bridge boundaries.

"As for myself, well with 30 volunteers now I'm lucky to ever get a berth on out-going vehicles.

"What's more important is our membership remaining fully up-to-date with fire fighting techniques and road crash operational areas, so much of my time is spent ensuring they receive the best of training.

"No matter what equipment is available, the knowledge to use it is important, and I believe as important is a happy environment in which to operate.

"And that is what I'm most proud of here at Murray Bridge."



# PHABULOUS PHOTOS

**W**ould you like to be in the running to WIN a \$50 voucher of your choice?

It's easy, simply send in a Phabulous Photo with the name of the photographer and / or name of submitter, address, telephone number and brigade name (if applicable) with a description of the photo and / or details of the incident at which the photo was taken.

Post photos to:  
CFS Public Affairs, GPO Box 2468,  
Adelaide SA 5001.

Photos can be posted either as hard copies or on a CD in the largest file size available.

Alternatively, email photos to [publicaffairs@safecom.sa.gov.au](mailto:publicaffairs@safecom.sa.gov.au).

When emailing photos please do not reduce the size.

Sometimes Outlook asks if you want to keep the original size or send smaller. If the file size is reduced, the quality is affected and therefore the photo is not able to be published in a large size.

The winner receives a \$50 gift voucher of their choice.



## Congratulations!

This month's winning photo was taken by Andrew Fisher, at Sellicks Beach. It is an image of a controlled burn at the Sellicks Beach Buddha Temple, picturing CFS member Simon Roos. Andrew will be contacted by the Volunteer Magazine team to choose what his \$50 prize will be for.



^ The MAC Rescue helicopter ready to assist in a vertical cliff rescue operation at Leawood Gardens on January 7. **Photo:** Peter Fanning



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Matt Tinker and Simon Roos work at a controlled burn at Sellicks Beach.

**Photo:** Andrew Fisher

Taken by a Jamestown CFS member at a grass and truck fire at Belalie East.

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VOLUNTEER - PHABULOUS PHOTOS



# THANK YOU CFS

So many to thank after  
23 December fire, 2009

From the Port Lincoln Times,  
4 February 2010

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful people who have helped us out emotionally, physically and financially since the loss of our house, pets and belongings in the bushfire that occurred on 23 December.

To all of our friends and neighbours, thank you.

To our daughters, their partners and friends and workmates, thank you.

To the three men, Worm, Steve and Andrew, who came to our aid after the fire had passed over, thank you and a special thanks to Worm from Susy, for taking her in for the night and then taking her to the vet the next day.

Another special thank you to Narelle and the RSPCA for continuing to look after her until I get a place where I can have her with me again.

To Lincoln Vets, thank you.

To Luke and Janine Fraser who came up and took our old goat away and buried her, thank you. She was 17, her name was Janet.

Reverend Rob thank you for your help.

To all the charities and businesses that have donated, thank you.

Another special thank you to Michael Wall from Centacare.

To the RSL thank you.

To the people we don't even know who have helped us out through mutual friends thank you.

To all the emergency services and pilots of the water bombers, even though you couldn't get to our house in time, you couldn't be everywhere, you did an almighty job risking your lives to save so many; you are all heroes thank you.

Once again, a great big thank you to everyone, your selflessness will never be forgotten.

Last but not least thank you to Geoff Prideaux, you are always the first to offer help.

**Gail and Peter Hockham**  
New West Road  
Port Lincoln



Smoke looms over Port Lincoln on December 23.

## Black Hill fire draws thanks

Please give our thanks to all those involved in the Black Hill fire at Athelstone.

We were away and returned after all the work was done.

Good luck to everyone tomorrow (Monday, 11 January).

You all do such a great job.

**Alan and Judy Cushway**  
Maryvale Road  
Athelstone

## Thanks to all volunteers

This is simply a very big thank you to all volunteers today – Monday, 11 January 2010.

I have been watching the CFS website all day and your people have performed with extreme dedication and vigilance on a very testing day.

My family is most grateful for all you do, not just today but every day.

Thank you and may 2010 reward you all with easier weather and less need to fight fires.

**Dean Whitehorn**  
Yattalunga

## Thanks to a brave and generous group of people

We would like to thank all the Yorke Peninsula CFS people involved in fighting the fire recently at Pine Point.

Although we are not permanent residents of Pine Point, we really love spending time at our home there.

We just want you all to know how much we appreciated the work and effort you put into controlling the fire.

You are a brave and generous group of people.

As we will probably never have the opportunity to meet you personally, we hope this letter and its sentiments of appreciation will be passed on to everyone who was involved in helping fight this fire.

Thank you all so much!

God bless you all.

**Helene Jaensch, Elizabeth Jaeschke, Rosalie Clark, Meg Tscharke, Carolyn Roocke, Mavis Tscharke and our families**

## CFS website making a huge impact

Thank you very, very much for all the efforts of your volunteers, and the up-to-date information on your website.

We live at Woodside in the Adelaide Hills and after the weather of the last three days found your information to be an important part of our day.

We have seen on your site the large

amount of work being done each day due to various incidents and it makes a huge impact.

Also, your work to contain fires that are more serious and threatening (e.g. at Mount Pleasant), is exceptional.

Thank you again,  
**Elizabeth and Bruce Duncan**



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VOLUNTEER - THANK YOU LETTERS

## Fire ban day plan

### From the Eastern Courier Messenger, 10 February 2010

Further to Anton Johnson's letter (February 3), can I encourage residents who live in bushfire danger areas to ensure they have a written, and preferably practised, fire plan?

There is much chatter around the traps about what the CFS and Government is and isn't doing, yet when I attend bushfire safety meetings there's an absence of residents trying to find out what they can better do.

It is an old fashioned idea that when there is a fire the fire siren will sound and give residents enough time to pack their cars and leave, and that there'll be a CFS fire tender at the end of the street. This is not going to happen.

That several residents didn't leave on the Catastrophic fire ban day is not a failing with CFS or the Government. It's plainly people waiting to see the fire first, before they make a decision - now that is catastrophic.

In California, the army simply tells the residents to leave freely or forcibly. That is their fire ban day plan.

We've been given enough information on TV, radio and advertisements to see that each home in bushfire danger areas needs a fully tested fire plan and needs to implement it on fire ban days.

Isn't saving lives more important than saving houses? The CFS has shown residents willing to go along to their information sessions, a scenario of a fire starting in a creek area and taking 12 minutes to accelerate up to the top of a ridge.

It takes the Elvis helicopter 15 minutes to warm up its engines!

The Adelaide Hills is the third most dangerous area in the world for bushfire danger.

Please have and use a fire ban day plan.

**Les Ormrod  
Belair**

## Praise for Current Incidents site

This is not an enquiry or a complaint.

I would just like to thank you for the CFS Current Incidents site.

It is really great to see all the calls that are answered by your organisation each day.

The volunteers that attend your calls do a fantastic job and should be congratulated in a huge way.

Our country would struggle to survive without all the volunteers who give their time.

A big thank you to all.

**Jenny Reeves**

## Warning system worked well for us

Thank you all for your efforts in containing the Mount Pleasant fire.

The phone and SMS warning system worked well. We were able to make a decision and evacuate.

**Swan Family  
Mt Torrens**

## Timely response from CFS

As an owner of a property on Blewitt Springs Road at McLaren Flat, I would like to convey a BIG THANK YOU to the many personnel, equipment, helicopters and aircraft that came to my assistance on Sunday, 28 February, 2010.

Appreciated the quickness that the fire was attended to, and days and nights after.

Thank you  
**Helen M Low  
McLaren Flat**

## Gratitude to CFS volunteers

### From Yorke Peninsula Country Times 16 March 2010

Lifeline Wallaroo would like to extend its gratitude to the Country Fire Service volunteers for their efficient work of mopping out and sandbagging our shop after the heavy rain on Sunday 7 March.

Well done to these valuable members of our community.

**Lifeline Retail  
Wallaroo**



Along New West Road at Port Lincoln after the 23 December 2009 fire. Photo: Port Lincoln Times.

## What an effort

### From Bunyip newspaper 3 March 2010

We wish to thank all the local CFS crews and neighbours who helped to contain a fire in Concordia in late January.

**Charles and Kirstin Teusner  
Concordia**

## Boat fire victims grateful

### From Naracoorte Herald 11 February 2010

On January 9 our family and friends were involved in the boat fire on the River Murray at Blanchetown, and would like to express our thanks to the people who came to our rescue and helped with our care.

Not knowing most of the people involved with the rescue, and therefore not being able to contact them individually, our hope is that they accept this as our personal thanks because, without their help, the accident may well have become a disaster.

To the people in the ski boat who managed to retrieve the injured back to the river bank and stayed, rendering comfort to those concerned, words can not describe our gratitude.

Thanks to the ambos as their help was, to say the least, unbelievable, likewise the retrieval team.

We know they are trained for situations like we experienced, but to see them at work and, without their prompt action, we are sure that things could have been worse.

Also thanks to the Blanchetown police and CFS who suppressed the fire, preventing further issues from occurring.

A special thanks to Captain Quinn and her caring crew at the Women's and Children's Hospital and the amazing Newland Ward staff.

This team didn't just aid to prevent physical scarring but, with their positive attitudes and care, they helped with the emotional issues as well.

The same is also said of the Royal Adelaide Hospital burns unit.

Finally we also thank the people from our home towns for their thoughts, calls and well wishes.

We were well looked after in Adelaide but there's no place like home.

All of the five injured are out of hospital and are well on the road to a full recovery, thanks to the help of our new and old friends.

**Scott, Barb, John and Will Lobban  
Naracoorte**

## AIR ATTACK – FIGHTING FIRES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

'Air Attack – Fighting Fires in South Australia' is a recently published pictorial book that gives insight into the Country Fire Service's aerial fire fighting operations.

Immaculately presented in a hard-cover A4-size display book, CFS

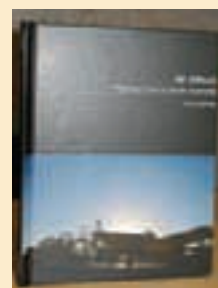
volunteer Gary MacRae's images provide a small insight into the world of the flying firefighters – the people and the machines.

Air Attack is in full colour and captures in photographs the unique times in and around the air bases and of the fires they fought.

The end result is a quality photographic account, worthy of a spot on the coffee table.

Further information: To purchase a copy of the book contact Gary on 0448 866 789 or email [gjmacrae@internode.on.net](mailto:gjmacrae@internode.on.net)

Order your copy of Air Attack today. >>





# OBITUARIES

## Peter Sanders

25 April 1943 - 24 December 2009

By: Craig Holt, Captain, Burnside CFS and Julie Lovett.

Peter Sanders joined the Burnside CFS in 1961 as a 16-year-old.

The brigade's early days were very basic with a tin shed in the council depot and the fire fighting capabilities of only a tractor and trailer.

Peter experienced many large fires during the 60s and 70s in Burnside and adjoining areas, and was instrumental in continuously looking at improvements in fire fighting equipment and appliances.

Peter had many roles within the Brigade. He was a firefighter, fire control officer, member of the Management and Operation Committees and was Burnside Captain from 1986 to 1989, Burnside Hills and Athelstone Group Officer from 1989 to 1991, and then Burnside Captain from 1991 until his retirement in 1994. Peter was awarded the National Medal and Life Membership of the CFS.

During Peter's involvement with Burnside CFS, he was instrumental in a number of significant changes. These included the brigade participating with the MFS in CABA training in 1977, and the lobbying for and designing of the first Volvo Pumper of its kind in the CFS. The Burnside Pumper was a state-of-the-art appliance, and was instrumental in

saving lives during the Ash Wednesday fires in 1983.

In 1985 mutual aid began between the CFS and MFS and Peter was active in having MFS channels used and installed in CFS radios.

After the Ash Wednesday fires, the Burnside Brigade benefited from public donations and government schemes, additions to the station and improvements to equipment. Peter was always actively involved with improvements such as these.

He designed and built the Brigade's current water tanker, all paid for via fund raising activities.

Although retiring from active duties in 1994 Peter maintained a strong interest in the Burnside Brigade, and was very keen to see our current Volvo appliance from the earliest days of planning to its commissioning in April 2009.

Peter fought both Ash Wednesday 1980 and 1983, the latter at great personal cost, losing half of his home at Greenhill whilst fighting the fires. He was involved also in the first interstate deployment to Sydney in 1994, and other strikes teams to fires within South Australia.

Actively involved in his community at Greenhill, Peter had a vision from the



The late Peter Sanders

post-Ash Wednesday fires for the community to have a reticulated water supply. He was instrumental in lobbying community support and finally having that vision realised in 2004.

To achieve this, he was hands-on in sinking the bore and laying much of the pipe work himself. For this he received an Australia Day honours award, and a plinth in his honour is on display at the south eastern end of Yarrabee Road.

Peter was a member of the National Trust from 1976 and during his lifetime involvement he oversaw the restoration of the grounds of Beaumont House including the sinking of a bore and much of the earth work for the grounds and garden as it is today.

At the time of Peter's retirement from

the Brigade he was beginning to have health issues. In 2004 Peter had a liver transplant which gave him a new lease on life and he continued being involved with all his community projects right up until the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer in September 2009. Although this slowed him down he kept working at these projects until his passing on Christmas Eve 2009.

Peter will be missed for the dedication and vision that he inspired in many others, being particularly keen to encourage young members to be actively involved and achieve life goals.

"A life well lived in the service to others."

Peter is survived by his brother David, sister in-law Fran, niece Janet, nephew Ben and great niece Piper.

## Peter Bolbot

3 January 1952 - 7 November 2009

By: Captain Lance Lawson, on behalf of the members of the Oakbank / Balhannah CFS.

The friendship and satisfaction of being a part of the CFS encouraged Peter Bolbot to become a member of the Oakbank / Balhannah station in 2003. Peter recognised that by applying himself in this amazing organisation he could achieve some personal goals along the way.

A couple of years ago he also joined the Onkaparinga SES, accepting the requirement to attend different training courses in order to achieve skills for other challenging tasks outside the norm of being a firefighter.

No personal skill or prior learning is required to become a member of the CFS, or the SES, just an unselfish

willingness to apply yourself.

Peter was a member of the team, always prepared to help when it was needed, and always giving extra when called upon, knowing that he would probably never again see those he helped.

An obliging workplace supported him when he was called upon to assist with the fire fight or any other emergency.

Typical of a volunteer, he sacrificed his time for the wellbeing of others, with the support of his wife Sue.

With a cheeky smile and never a bad word for anyone, he was a welcomed mate in our station, and we simply won't forget him. In his passing days,



Chief Officer Euan Ferguson presented Peter Bolbot with his Chief Officer's Certificate of Service shortly before his passing.

we let him know that we all cared.

We all feel that it was an honour to know Peter. He won't be forgotten, and I feel that when we face another challenge, Peter will be there.

So we thank you Peter, for your

mateship and for supporting this amazing organisation, so rest now, we will remember who you were.

Peter was 57 when he passed away on 7 November 2009 in Calvary Hospital.

## SA COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE STATE HEADQUARTERS

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CFS Bushfire Information Hotline: 1300 362 361

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#### REGION 3

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Eyre Peninsula and West Coast  
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