

VOLUNTEER



Government
of South Australia

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.





P Prime Minister Julia Gillard chose the Aldgate CFS Brigade as the venue to launch a Federal Government initiative recently that will improve access to training for CFS and SES volunteers. The program called E-mergency Connect will provide online facilities including video and web conferencing to enhance the delivery of training and reduce travel costs. Read more on page 27.



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Front cover image: Taken by Jeff Anderson of CFS assisting a Rescue 52 medical retrieval team after a motorcyclist crashed into a guard rail on the Sturt Highway near Truro in October. More details on page 26.

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Comments and opinions expressed in Volunteer do not necessarily represent the views of the CFS. Volunteer is a free publication to all CFS volunteers.

DEPUTY CHIEF OFFICER ANDREW LAWSON



As I write this, our televisions are being bombarded with images of flooding in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. I am sure you will agree the images and stories are distressing and moving to say the least. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those who have lost loved ones and all those who have endured the destruction of their property and livelihood. It is a true testament to the resilience of all Australians to watch the response and recovery activities swing into full gear.

Traditionally at this time of year, we will

be focussing on bushfire and trying to keep the bushfire safety message (*Prepare. Act. Survive*) at the forefront of our collective minds; however it seems that South Australia and Western Australia are the only states that will have a Fire Danger Season this year. While the start of the Fire Danger Season in South Australia has been relatively kind to us thus far, we should not relax just yet. The central, northern and western parts of South Australia are still dry and it will only take a couple of hot windy days and we could be right back into it.

Fire Season Campaign:

The key focus of the 2010/11 Fire Season Campaign is the development of Bushfire Survival Plans by individual households and businesses in Bushfire Prone Areas. This year the multi-media campaign includes three television and five radio advertisements running on both metropolitan and rural commercial media outlets. ABC Radio have also been running a series of Community Service Announcements (CSA's) as well the standard CFS messaging for Total Fire Bans and actual bushfires (*ie: Advice,*

Watch & Act and Emergency Warning Messages).

The 2008/09 and the 2009/10 Fire Season Campaign included a direct mail out of a DVD to all householders in Bushfire Prone Areas. While feedback about the content of the DVD was positive, not as many people as anticipated actually viewed the product. This year, CFS direct mailed a fridge magnet to 40,000+ householders in Bushfire Prone Areas. The aim of the fridge magnet is to better explain the Fire Danger Rating System and what people should do on high risk days.

CFS is also moving into a relatively new form of advertising known as '*venue advertising*'. This includes the placement of the standard CFS messaging (*ie: Prepare. Act. Survive*) on bus shelters and fuel bowsers in key locations and on arterial roads. Standard CFS messaging is also being placed in Clubs and Hotels in an effort to keep the message at the forefront of people's attention. You may see our message in some places you may not expect.

CFSVA PRESIDENT KEN SCHUTZ



The recent devastating floods in Queensland, NSW and Victoria demonstrated the significance of the bond and support shown towards our fellow emergency services volunteers. We were notified by our Queensland sister association, the Rural Fire Brigades Association of Queensland (RFBAQ), of deaths affecting Queensland Rural Volunteers.

A volunteer was killed on his way home from assisting in the floods and another

from Grantham lost his wife and two of his three children. Our hearts go out to both families and we ask that you keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

The RFBAQ has started a fund to assist volunteers who have suffered loss during the floods and we hope that brigades around South Australia will consider donating to that fund.

This edition of Volunteer also marks the end of an era having farewelled our former Chief Officer Euan Ferguson and now welcome his successor, Greg Nettleton.

After nine years at the helm Euan has certainly left his legacy on the CFS and in my opinion most of the changes he made were for the betterment of the organisation. We need to congratulate Euan for his forward thinking and his interaction with the CFS volunteers. We also need to thank Kristen - Euan's wife, for all the support she gave Euan and the many brigade functions that she attended along his side.

Euan had an extremely trying time during the Inquiry of the Wangary Fires;

not many people would have got through that turbulent period but Euan not only came through it, but he made the CFS a stronger organisation.

This strength will serve him well in his new role as Chief Officer of the CFA and we wish him all the best.

The new Chief Officer will also have his work cut out for him with Greg starting mid fire season in a year when the fire danger is as high as it has been for a number of years.

I believe Greg's history of involvement in the fire services as a volunteer in Victoria, Tasmania and ACT and professionally in Western Australia and the Territory will prove him a worthy person for the job.

The CFSVA and senior volunteers from all around the state have put an issues paper together to brief our new Chief Officer on the major issues facing CFS and volunteers from a volunteer point of view.

I, together with the CFSVA Management welcome Greg on board and look forward to working closely with him.

BOARD CHAIRMAN, SAFECOM DAVID PLACE



To say there have been some significant changes in recent months in the leadership of South Australia's emergency services sector is something of an understatement!

Both the CFS and the SES have new Chief Officers and as I write this, SAFECOM staff are busily preparing sector-wide briefing documents for a new Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon. Kevin Foley MP.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge the support given to the emergency services sector by the previous Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Michael Wright MP. During the two-and-a-half years he held the portfolio, Minister Wright achieved much, most noticeably the injection of an additional \$47 million into the sector.

Minister Wright also delivered the rollout of Alert SA and major improvements in community education

and awareness campaigns and was widely recognised for his support for volunteers.

I'm sure you will join with me in wishing him and his family every success for the future. In the meantime, we look forward to working closely with Minister Foley.

On a final note, it is pleasing to see that South Australia has attracted such capable and professional people to head the CFS and SES. Both Greg (CFS) and Chris Beattie (SES) are highly regarded nationally and were appointed to their new roles following extensive – and somewhat exhaustive – recruitment processes.

With all of these changes in the emergency services sector, I look forward to an exciting 2011.

MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES HON. MICHAEL WRIGHT



We are currently midway through the 2010/11 fire danger season and we've seen our volunteers work hard to prevent and control numerous blazes around our State. This season we've also seen a change in the determination of the fire danger rating index, which the community has so far responded well to and consequently South Australia has endured two catastrophic days so far this season.

Our recent bout of hot weather and dry conditions in late January saw our crews on high alert but fortunately our State did not endure any major bushfires. This is by no means a cue for complacency however, in fact, quite the opposite. South Australians must remain

acutely aware of fire fuel on and around their properties that has now become extremely dry and will remain so for the next couple of months.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to the new CFS Chief, Greg Nettleton, who began in his new role in January. Mr Nettleton comes from the Northern Territory where he was the Chief Fire Officer and Executive Director.

I wish Mr Nettleton all the best in his new and challenging position here in South Australia. He has proven performance and skills in State and National emergency management and is recognised nationally for his contribution in this field.

I'd also like to thank Andrew Lawson who's been acting in the role of CFS Chief Officer in the interim and has done an outstanding job.

Andrew has shown exceptional leadership and operational capabilities and is highly respected by both the volunteers and staff and I know he will continue to be an important asset to Mr Nettleton in his role as Deputy Chief Officer.

The Government is committed to ensuring the CFS has access to the resources it needs to make their job as manageable as possible. Since the

tragic Black Saturday fires, the State Government has dedicated more than \$47 million towards better preparing all South Australians from the threat of bushfire.

This included \$9.4 million for new technology, infrastructure upgrades, equipment and volunteer support for the CFS and SES.

I wish to again pay tribute to the unwavering dedication and generosity of our volunteers. We simply couldn't do without your contribution to this State and you certainly do us all proud every time you respond to an emergency.

I know that should our volunteers be called upon, your devotion to protecting and defending the communities of South Australia will be resolute. On behalf of all South Australians, I thank you and wish you all the best for the year ahead.

Editor's Note: On February 7, The Hon. Michael Wright MP announced that he was stepping down from State Cabinet after nine years and handing over his Ministerial responsibilities. We wish him well in his ongoing role in State Parliament and thank him for his support and commitment towards CFS volunteers during his term as the Minister for Emergency Services. We now welcome the Hon. Kevin Foley MP as the sector's new Minister.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA SAYS THANKS AND FAREWELL TO EUAN FERGUSON



CFS mascot Smokey gives Euan a farewell hug.

Emergency Services Minister Michael Wright announced in October that Euan Ferguson would be stepping down as Chief Officer of the Country Fire Service (CFS) after deciding to return to his home State of Victoria to assume the role of Chief Officer of the Country Fire Authority (CFA).

Minister Wright said Mr Ferguson, who had been Chief Officer since 2001, was an admirable leader and asset to the CFS, successfully managing the organisation and more than 14, 500 volunteers around the State.

“Euan Ferguson has made an outstanding contribution to South Australia and has been a great leader with a wealth of experience and fire-fighting knowledge that will be greatly missed.



Euan accepts a gift at his farewell from MFS Chief Officer Grant Lupton.

Euan says goodbye to his MFS counterpart Grant Lupton.



CFS staff form a line of honour outside CFS headquarters for Euan Ferguson who is flanked by his wife Kristen.



Smokey and MFS Chief Officer Grant Lupton at Euan's farewell.

"He has forged a reputation for being a highly professional and well respected Chief of an emergency services organisation. He has the utmost respect and admiration of his volunteers," Minister Wright said.

"Mr Ferguson has served the CFS for close to nine years, during which time he has coordinated fire-fighting efforts during some of the South Australia's deadliest bushfires.

"Importantly, he has also been responsible for quelling and preventing fires that could so easily, without expert management, have become tragic bushfire events.

"Throughout his career, Mr Ferguson has been instrumental in driving and implementing change in the CFS and the State's bushfire management processes.

He's chaired the State's Bushfire Taskforce, which has analysed issues coming out of the Victorian Black Saturday Bushfires and subsequent Royal Commission.

"Under his leadership, the CFS has significantly expanded its aerial fire fighting fleet, training capacity and systems for incident information flow and warnings.

"Mr Ferguson leaves a positive legacy for current and future volunteers as well as loyal Country Fire Service staff.

"The State is in the best position it has ever been in terms of fire fighting resources and capabilities as well as ensuring South Australians are better educated about the risks and dangers of bushfires," Minister Wright said.

Mr Ferguson said it had been both a privilege and an honour to serve as the Chief Officer of the Country Fire Service and was going to miss everyone.

"CFS is an organisation rich in talent and capability," Mr Ferguson said.

"Its people are amongst the most professional, dedicated and motivated of any organisation in the world. I've seen actions every day that hold me in awe of the men and women who serve their community as CFS volunteers, often in unimaginable conditions.

"To the hard working staff who have been my strength and to the wonderful volunteers who are the CFS, I owe a huge debt of gratitude."

Euan took up his new position interstate in November 2010.



A line of honour for Euan Ferguson's farewell.



SES Deputy Chief Officer Matt Maywald thanks Euan for his commitment.



Euan and Kirsten leaving the CFS for the last time.

CFS WELCOMES ITS NEW CHIEF OFFICER

The new Chief Officer of the Country Fire Service, Greg Nettleton commenced his five-year term on January 24.

The Minister for Emergency Services Michael Wright announced the appointment in December after the position became vacant when Euan Ferguson left the CFS to become Chief Officer of the CFA in Victoria.

"A nationwide search attracted an exceptional group of candidates for this position and in a strong field of applicants, Greg's experience and qualifications clearly stood out." Minister Wright said.

"The fact that he was able to win the job from a high calibre field and also the broad experience that he has had working in this particular field over an 11 year period, stood him in very good stead.

"The State Government looks forward to working with him in his new role, and has every confidence he will build on the reputation the CFS has earned for excellence in emergency services."

Greg's diverse career has included

appointments in Engineering, Research and Development, Land Management, Training, Strategic Contingency Planning, Risk Management and Emergency Management.

He holds a Bachelor of Engineering, Masters in Engineering Science and Masters of Business Administration and has worked and studied in various parts of Australia and overseas.

Greg who was the former Chief Officer and Executive Director of the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service said heading a predominantly volunteer-based organisation appealed to him after having spent more than 14 years as a volunteer firefighter himself.

"Having come from a volunteer background myself, in country Victoria and Western Australia and to now work with the CFS particularly with the people in country South Australia, really appeals to me."

Minister Wright also thanked Andrew Lawson who was acting in the role of CFS Chief Officer.

"Andrew has done an exceptional job during this interim period and has



CFS Chief Officer
Greg Nettleton.

demonstrated exemplary leadership capabilities, he is highly respected by both the volunteers and staff and I know that in his role as Deputy Chief Officer, he will continue to be an important asset to Mr Nettleton."

Mr Lawson also welcomed the appointment of the new Chief Officer.

"Please join with me in congratulating Greg on his appointment as our new Chief Officer and I am sure there will be ample opportunities in the near future to meet Greg and welcome him to South Australia and to the CFS," he said.

GREECE'S NEWLY APPOINTED AMBASSADOR MEETS CFS AND MFS CHIEFS



From left, MFS Regional Manager George Rodis, CFS Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson, Greek Ambassador Alexios Christopoulos and SAFECOM Board Chairman David Place.

In November CFS Deputy Chief Officer, Andrew Lawson and Assistant Chief Officer, Rob Sandford were part of a group of emergency services personnel who met the Ambassador of Greece, Alexios Christopoulos.

The Ambassador was warmly welcomed at MFS Headquarters on Wakefield Street in Adelaide by CFS, MFS and SAFECOM representatives, including MFS Chief Officer, Grant Lupton and SAFECOM Chief Executive, David Place.

When welcoming the Ambassador, CFS, MFS and SAFECOM representatives mentioned the strong kinship between Greece and Australia, including the global bond firefighters have with each other despite the language barriers.

CFS Deputy Chief Officer, Andrew Lawson and MFS Regional Manager, George Rodis spoke about their visit to Greece in 2007 where they assisted members of the Hellenic Fire Service, after Greece endured its worst bushfire season, with the loss of 84 lives and numerous injuries.

The Ambassador spoke about his country's main vegetation - forests of pine trees - and the challenges they present to firefighters.

All were impressed with Ambassador Christopoulos's warm, friendly demeanour and sense of humour, and enjoyed a relaxed morning tea with him and South Australia's Vice-Consul of Greece, Eleni Theologitou.

BUSHFIRE ACTION WEEK

Bushfire Action Week was launched during the second week of October at the new Birdwood CFS station which was officially opened by the Premier Mike Rann.

This year the name was changed from Bushfire Awareness Week to Bushfire Action Week (BAW) to highlight a central theme that people living, working or travelling through high-risk, bushfire-prone areas need to 'take action' to ensure their personal and family's safety.

Some of the major events that were featured during the week included:

- A **Bushfire Information Hotline** (1300 362 361).
- The launch of PIRSA's brochure **Farming Guidelines for the Reduction of Bushfire Risk**.
- ABC Local Radio conducting an **Outside Broadcast** at Aldgate CFS station on Tuesday 12 October from 8.30am to 12 noon. ABC regional stations will also be supporting BAW.
- Utilising the new CFS **community education trailer** at various Adelaide Hills locations, including Blackwood, Aldgate, Mount Barker and Gawler.
- Holding **Bushfire Ready** meetings along with other community events, in various locations.

Two public forums - **Busting bushfire myths** - were also held in Adelaide which was organised with the support of the Royal Institution of Australia (RiAus), DENR and the ABC's Catalyst program.

REDUCING BUSHFIRE RISK ON FARMS

South Australian farmers have a new tool to help them reduce the risk of bushfire on their properties with the recent launch of the **Farming Guidelines for the Reduction of Bushfire Risk** brochure.

The guidelines form part of the State Government's response to implementing recommendations from the coronial inquest into the 2005 Wangary bushfires.

The guidelines have been developed by the Department of Primary Industries and Resources of South Australia (PIRSA) in conjunction with the South Australian Farmers Federation (SAFF) and the CFS and complement existing bushfire management plans. They provide farmers with a consistent farm management approach on topics such as stubble management, fuel hazards and native vegetation.

The guidelines also reinforce the need for farmers to take responsibility to

control fuel levels on their properties and to be prepared for a bushfire.

Former CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson welcomed the new brochure saying it would supplement existing prevention measures that help farming communities increase their resilience against bushfires.

"This is a comprehensive guide that has been thoroughly researched to reduce the risk of bushfires in day-to-day farming activities," Mr Ferguson said.

"It also demonstrates the level of cooperation between government agencies to develop an effective and practical tool for the benefit of regional South Australia," he added.

This document is available in the *Community Information* section on the CFS website www.cfs.sa.gov.au by clicking "Prepare" and then the "Farming" links.



SES HAS A NEW CHIEF OFFICER By: Jon Carr



New SES Chief Officer Chris Beattie at the launch of the CFS 2010/11 Fire Danger Season.

New SES Chief Officer Chris Beattie has had little time to put his feet under his desk on the eighth floor of 60 Waymouth Street since taking up his new role in late October.

Apart from meeting with his counterparts in a variety of other State Government departments and non-Government organisations, the one-time high school teacher has been travelling throughout the State visiting SES units and talking with as many volunteers as he can.

"Taking the pulse of the organisation" is how Chris describes the process and he likes what he has seen so far.

"The SES here in SA has a really strong capability to deal with a range of emergency incidents. Our volunteers are well trained, well equipped and there are high levels of interoperability between the SES, CFS and other emergency service agencies," Chris said.

"It really is very heartening ... as Chief Officer I couldn't ask for more.

"It also interesting to see that many SES volunteers also serve the community as CFS volunteer firefighters," Chris added.

Married to Mel with two children (Hamish, 7 and Imogen, 6), Chris joined the SES after six years with the Tasmanian SES. Most recently, he was Assistant Director (Emergency Management).

Chris also was a high school teacher in Tasmania for five years before working with the Office of the Governor and the Department of Defence.

Away from work, Chris and his family spend time in the Great Outdoors, bike riding and camping.



The Chief Officer of the Hellenic Fire Service, Stylianos Stefanidis is presented with a plaque by CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson to mark his visit to the fire service's headquarters in Athens.

CFS DELEGATION WELCOMED BY GREECE'S FIRE CHIEF

In July, CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson and Emergency Services Minister Michael Wright took part in a series of meetings with high ranking officials from the Hellenic Fire Service in Greece.

This included talks with the National Fire Chief of Greece Stylianos Stefanidis.

Chief Stefanidis was the Regional Commander during the devastating fires that swept through Greece in 2007 that resulted in 84 deaths which included firefighters.

A total of 670,000 hectares of forest, olive

groves and farmland were scorched, while 1,000 homes and 1,100 other buildings were destroyed with hundreds more damaged.

"Emergency crews endured an unprecedented battle over several days to control these raging infernos," Minister Wright said.

"Authorities have told us they have large fires in Greece every summer but the wildfires that broke out in August 2007 were unlike anything they'd ever seen before."



From centre left, SES Chief Officer Chris Beattie, Emergency services Minister Michael Wright, Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson and MFS Chief Officer Grant Lupton.



Emergency Services Minister Michael Wright chats with CFS volunteers at the launch of the Fire Danger Season.



SAPOL, SES, MFS and CFS members at Belair National Park for the launch of the Fire Danger Season.

EMERGENCY SERVICES MINISTER LAUNCHES FIRE DANGER SEASON

Emergency Services Minister, Michael Wright, launched the 2010/11 Fire Danger Season at Belair National Park on 1 November by urging all South Australians, to be prepared for bushfires. Minister Wright said there are several key elements to bushfire safety that people need to consider as part of their planning including:

- Ensuring they have a bushfire survival plan in place
- Having at least 20 metres of defensible space around their home
- Ensuring that their home is properly constructed and prepared
- Having adequate fire fighting equipment and protective clothing.

Minister Wright also announced improvements to Fire Danger Ratings.

Changes to the ratings system now affect 12 Fire Ban Districts that will see higher thresholds for Catastrophic & Extreme ratings to better reflect local conditions.

"People who live, work or travel through bushfire-prone areas need to familiarise themselves with these ratings and have a plan in place for what they'll do for each category," Minister Wright said.

"When a district is declared Catastrophic it is still the safest option to leave early such as the night before or early in the morning," he said.

CFS Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson said the changes to the Fire Danger Ratings were required to distinguish between grass and forest fires which have different characteristics.

"What we have introduced, is a more accurate reflection on the actual risk which is being posed locally," Mr Lawson said.

Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) Chief Officer, Grant Lupton also urged all South Australians, including those living in urban and rural communities to be conscious of the bushfire risk over the warmer months.

"Lives and properties in suburbs, towns and cities with adjacent vegetation or bushland, can quickly become at risk if a bushfire occurs. Making the necessary preparations and taking the appropriate actions can reduce the risk of bushfire and increase the chances of survival," he said.

The 12 Fire Ban Districts affected by the change are: Adelaide Metropolitan, Eastern Eyre Peninsula, Flinders Ranges, Lower Eyre Peninsula, Mid North, Murraylands, North East Pastoral, North West Pastoral, Riverland, Upper South East, West Coast and Yorke Peninsula.

There are no changes to the Fire Danger Ratings for the Mount Lofty, Kangaroo Island and Lower South East Fire Ban Districts.



Emergency services agencies that took part in the launch of the Fire Danger Season.

Minister Wright also announced details of the new Prepare. Act. Survive. advertising campaign aimed at helping South Australians prepare for bushfires.

"We know we are on the right track and that we need to keep reinforcing these messages to change people's behaviour and ensure that they clearly understand that being Bushfire Ready is a shared responsibility," he said.

The 2010/11 campaign will also have a greater focus on vulnerable groups including children, with the CFS working closely with the Department of Education and Children's Services to ensure that parents and schools have access to bushfire planning information.

The CFS has a range of bushfire preparedness information available including a Bushfire Survival Plan, Bushfire Safer Places and Last Resort Refuges.

Visit the CFS website at www.cfs.sa.gov.au and click on the Community Information link.

MAJOR REVAMP TO CFS WEBSITE

You will probably have noticed a number of significant changes to the CFS website to improve both the quality and timeliness of bushfire information. The website is a great source of up-to-date information about preparing for the bushfire season.

In January almost 150,000 people visited the CFS website looking for bushfire information when a 'Catastrophic' rating was forecast for most of the State. Over the past two years, the number of people visiting the CFS website has almost tripled with close to five million hits last year.

The website now has a Bushfire Household Self-Assessment Tool, which can be used by people living in bushfire-prone areas to calculate their level of risk from a bushfire. This tool is designed to help people make informed decisions about their safety.

Another new feature is a 'mobile' version of the website for people who want to access bushfire warnings, current incidents and recent media releases, through a portable data-enabled device, such as an iPhone, iPad or BlackBerry. iPhone, iPad or BlackBerry users who log on to the CFS website will be automatically redirected to the mobile site www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/mobile.jsp

The new features follow the revamp of the CFS website earlier this year to meet international standards for vision-impaired people and the introduction of a map on the site's incidents page. The easy-to-use map is updated every five minutes, and shows the location of current bushfires as well as the progress of other incidents such as car crashes and storm damage.

To see the changes for yourself visit www.cfs.sa.gov.au

CFS PROMOTIONS UNIT

The CFS Promotions Unit website continues its expansion with photos of incidents and vehicles being regularly updated. This unit began in 1996, as part of the CFS mobile display unit, known as the Pantech and two years later launched its website, with a major overhaul in 2001 and again in 2005.

The website is a way for brigades to recruit and inform members, to assist the public and CFS members in gaining an understanding of the CFS and local brigades and promote the volunteering ethic.

This is not the official site of the SA Country Fire Service (CFS) or the Country Fire Service Volunteers Association (CFSVA) whose official sites can be accessed by clicking on their respective logos at the bottom of the home page of CFS Promotions Unit website. However it is operated with the full co-operation of CFS Headquarters and individual CFS stations. It also

has the full endorsement and support of the CFSVA.

The website administrators Pip & Ashley, who are both CFS volunteers, run the Promotions Unit website, with input from other CFS members and the public, throughout South Australia. The information on the website is updated regularly, through mailouts to brigades, and input via the website.

Photographs are updated whenever possible and while most are taken by the website administrators on their travels across the state, it is often difficult for them to be updated on an annual basis. The website administrators welcome suitable photographs from anyone.

Permission is required from the website administrators for the use of any photographs that appear on the Promotions Unit website www.fire-brigade.asn.au

CONGRATULATIONS ARTHUR FOR LAURIE LAVELLE AWARD



From left, Arthur Tindall, Russell Shephard who accepted the Laurie Lavelle Award from AFAC Chief Executive Officer Naomi Brown.

CFS Manager of Infrastructure and Logistics Arthur Tindall and AFAC Manager Standards Russell Shephard, were jointly awarded the Laurie Lavelle Award at the 2010 AFAC Conference.

This award is presented annually to an individual or group who, in their role within an AFAC member agency, make a significant contribution to enhancing the knowledge or skills, operations, performance or public profile of the fire and emergency services in Australasia.

The most recent presentation of this prestigious award was in recognition of both Arthur and Russell for their work on cooperative purchasing and common standards.

SAPES GAMES 2011

The South Australia Police and Emergency Services (SAPES) Games will take place in Adelaide between 30 April and 13 May, 2011.

Competitor registration will commence electronically in late February 2011. Information will be available soon on the SAPES website www.sapes.com.au about the online process and closing dates for entries.

The administration cost will remain at \$25.00 and include an inter-agency

barbeque on Friday 13 May to mark the conclusion of the Games.

The new rules for the games as stipulated by the Governance Committee will be detailed on the SAPES website.

The sports included for the Mike Bentley Inter-Services Trophy (members of agencies are eligible to earn points for their agency) have yet to be determined.

For more information on becoming involved in the 2011 SAPES Games contact Malim Watts at the CFS on 8463 4294.

SA FINAL RESPONSE TO ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

In October, the State Government announced its final response to Victoria's Royal Commission into the Black Saturday tragedy, which claimed 173 lives. The devastating fires prompted significant changes around the nation in terms of bushfires.

After analysing Victoria's findings, SA's Bushfire Taskforce identified that SA already had 28 or well over one third of these recommendations in place with 34 of those remaining, being supported. The recommendations relate to a wide range of fire management and bushfire safety policies.

The breakdown of South Australia's final position on the 67 recommendations is as follows:

- 28 recommendations are already in place

- 34 recommendations are supported
- 2 recommendations are not supported
- 3 recommendations are noted with an SA-based risk approach to be taken.

The State Government does not support the Royal Commission's retreat and resettlement recommendation.

Recommendation 53 is also not supported as information relating to properties being located in bushfire-prone areas is already available through local councils.

Emergency Services minister Michael Wright said the State Government was committed to doing all it can to preserve human life and property in the event of a bushfire and to help make South Australia as safe as possible.

CFS MANAGER AWARDED EMERGENCY SERVICE MEDAL

CFS Prevention Services Manager Leigh Miller has been awarded an Emergency Services Medal.

He was recently named among 23 South Australians whom the Emergency Services Minister Michael Wright said had gone above and beyond the call of duty, in some cases risking their lives and were honoured at a special ceremony in November.

This included the former East Torrens Group Officer and current CFSVA president of the East Torrens Group Terry Beeston and CFS Tea Tree Gully Brigade firefighter and Lower North CFSVA branch president Jim Sandford. Both were awarded Ministerial Commendations for their work with the CFS.

"Deserving a special mention is the youngest award recipient, Harry Anderson (SLSA) who, at just 14 years of age, received a Meritorious Award for Bravery after saving two 14 year old boys and a middle aged lady caught in a rip at Bichenno Beach, Tasmania, while holidaying," Minister Wright said.

"These individuals are recognised for their extraordinary dedication to their role. All have proven a willingness to go above and beyond daily duties, including the implementation of community education and awareness programs such as the Prepare. Act. Survive. campaign (led by Leigh Miller)."

Others have pioneered environmentally sustainable initiatives including water saving strategies and solar panels for MFS fire stations (Don Cranwell).

Minister Wright said the extraordinary efforts of the 23 recipients serve as a reminder of the efforts made by many people – both volunteers and paid staff – to ensure the safety of every South Australian.

"I would like to congratulate each and every one of them and thank them for their stellar efforts and contribution to our community," he said.

NATIONAL PARKS PASS

By: Wendy Shirley
CFSVA Executive Director

The CFS National Parks Pass, which provides free entry to most South Australian parks, has been available to CFS volunteers for some time.

The pass has been provided by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in recognition of the work done in national parks during bushfires.

We recently conducted a survey of pass holders to determine satisfaction levels with the pass and get some idea as to how often they were used and in what parks.

The results indicate that pass holders were extremely happy with the pass and would like the program to continue. Some people commented that they would like the pass to extend to camping fees. They also wanted to make it more flexible, linking it to the volunteer's name and identification number rather than a specific car registration plate.

We will be talking to DENR about these issues in the near future.



The current pass expires on March 31 and DENR has agreed to provide the passes for a further 12 months.

We thank DENR most gratefully for continuing this program, which is seen by volunteers as a thank you for their efforts.

Application forms for the new passes will soon be available on the CFSVA website www.cfsva.org.au.

Fill in an application early to ensure you obtain your National Parks pass!

FREE LEGAL ADVICE

By: Wendy Shirley,
CFSVA Executive Director

The free legal advice service to CFS volunteers has now been operating for some time.

The feedback we have had from volunteers who have used the service is that it has been extremely helpful.

The advice is provided by CFSVA legal advisors Tindall Gask Bentley and is for up to 20-minute consultations on any legal matter, including business and property, wills and estates and family law matters.

The service is in addition to the first hour of legal advice on any issue relating to a member's CFS volunteering provided by the CFSVA.

This is a telephone service so volunteers from across the State are able to easily access the legal advice.

Appointments are scheduled every half



hour on Wednesdays. However, urgent advice can be arranged, if required. The scheme is designed to deliver only preliminary advice.

"Advice might, in many cases, be the only thing they need, and they can go away and resolve whatever it is they need to resolve," according to Tindall Gask Bentley Principal Partner Moray Bailes.

"If the advice is that they need to engage someone, there is no obligation to come to our firm with their problem.

"But, obviously, if they want to be our client, we would like to act for them, given the existing relationship that we at TGB have with the CFSVA," Bailes said.

The Association coordinates the scheme with members required to call Wendy Shirley on 8244 6500 to arrange an appointment with a TGB lawyer.

A WARM WELCOME TO THE NEW CHIEF OFFICER

By: Wendy Shirley
CFSVA Executive Director

The CFSVA welcomes our new Chief Officer, Greg Nettleton, and we wish him every success in his new role.

The Association looks forward to a close and cooperative working relationship with him.

In order to give Mr Nettleton a complete picture of the issues of importance to CFS volunteers, the CFSVA convened a working party

comprising senior operations volunteers, Association members and paid CFS staff from across the State to develop an 'issues briefing paper'.

The briefing paper was designed to give him a written overview of the issues along with possible solutions.

The Association presented the briefing paper to Mr Nettleton at our first meeting with him. We will meet with him further

to expand on these issues.

The issues raised are in four main categories:

- Funding (recurrent and capital)
- Communication and consultation
- Management systems, and
- Volunteer recruitment and retention.

A copy of the briefing is available from the CFSVA State Office on 8244 6500 or by emailing wendy.shirley@cfsva.org.au

CFSVA AGM



The CFSVA AGM was well attended with representatives from around SA.



CFSVA Executive Committee members from left, back row, Greg Forbes, Russell Branson AFSM, Roger Flavell, Ray Bryant AFSM and front row, Ken Schutz AFSM, Wendy Shirley and Wayne Thorley AFSM.

The CFSVA held its 2010 Annual General Meeting on October 12 at Regency Park.

The meeting was well attended, with representatives from across the State.

Ken Schutz, Wayne Thorley and Roger Flavell were re-elected to the positions of President, Vice President and Deputy Vice President respectively.

Greg Forbes, Russell Branson and Ray Bryant were elected to the Executive Committee.

The CFSVA would also like to thank Origin Energy for its continued sponsorship of the Association in 2011.

FROM THE CHAIR

**By: Vince Monterola, AM, Chair,
CFS Foundation**



*Board chairman
Vince Monterola AM, chairman.*

It is now 18 months since the CFS Foundation decided to become more proactive. In that time we have appointed a part time Executive Officer, established a logo to focus attention on the Foundation through numerous printed material, created a website, written a business plan and started communicating more widely.

These are some of the things we found necessary for reinforcing the base upon which we needed to build on the important work done to

establish the CFS Foundation in the first few years.

The other very important and exciting developments recently have been the appointment of new Directors to the Board, and the partnership development with corporations who know the value of the community contribution CFS volunteers make.

In the last issue of Volunteer we introduced new Board Members Christine Locher and Rob Snowden to you. They have been extremely influential towards the CFS Foundation's success in a very short time.

Elsewhere in this issue you can read about some of the generous corporate sponsors beginning to associate with us simply so that they can assist you should the need arise. I encourage you to support our sponsors in return.

A member of the Foundation Board almost since its inception was Euan Ferguson. As Chief Officer, Euan was in a unique position to align much of CFS and CFS Foundation pursuits to the benefit of both. My Board colleagues join me in thanking Euan on your behalf for his contribution to the development of the Foundation.

We still need volunteers to assist the Foundation at times. Please give me a call on 83391311 or contact the Executive Director to discuss what is available.

FELLOWSHIP AND FUTURE LEADERS GRANT

Fellowships will be available in 1011/12 to assist CFS volunteers planning to study either overseas and/or within Australia, through the generosity of Foundation sponsor ElectraNet. This may take the form of attendance at an international conference or a formal course of education or training.

To be eligible for a fellowship, applicants must be serving volunteer members of the SACFS with certain criteria including:

- Being Australian citizens aged over 25 years
- Having more than 10 years of exemplary service

All applications will require the endorsement by the applicant's Brigade Captain and Regional Commander

Applications will open in mid 2011 with fellowships to commence in 2012

Future Leader Grants will also be available to CFS volunteers to inspire and assist them with 2 years' of demonstrated commitment to service, (aged 18 – 25) to increase their potential leadership through education & development opportunities including studying overseas and/or within Australia or to attend a formal course of education or training.

Applications for Future Leader Grants will open in mid 2011 to commence in 2012. Further information outlining additional detail will be available in mid 2011 via the Foundation website. For more information beforehand, contact the Executive Officer, Elizabeth Davis on 8332 3137 or 0419 583.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

There are many different ways members of the community can help us. Would you like to support the work of the CFS Foundation? Initially we are looking for active volunteers to help with a major fundraising event at Balaklava in mid 2011. Please give Elizabeth Davis a call for a chat. **Contact:** Elizabeth Davis, Executive Officer • Phone: 0419 583 512

• Email: edavis@emdfconsultancy.com.au • Website: www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/about_us/cfs_foundation.jsp



YOUR HELP REQUIRED TODAY

I would like to make a tax deductible donation to the CFS Foundation

Dr/Mr/Miss/Mrs/Ms: _____ First Name: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____ Email: _____

With a gift ☐ My cheque is enclosed (payable to the CFS Foundation) Or ☐ Please debit my Credit Card

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 Or \$_____ (your choice) Card Type: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Cardholder's Name: _____ Card No. _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Expiry date: ____ / ____ Signature: _____

☐ Please send me information on leaving a bequest in my Will to the CFS Foundation

☐ Please send me information on how I can donate through the Regular Giving Program.

Return to CFS Foundation, GPO Box 2468, Adelaide SA 5001. Your gift is **tax deductible** and a receipt will be sent to you.

ELECTRANET SUPPORTING THE CFS FOUNDATION



Members of the Board are delighted to have established a three year relationship with ElectraNet.

ElectraNet owns and manages the electricity transmission network throughout South Australia. Their role in the electricity industry is to transmit high voltage electricity from generating sources to multiple customer connection points, including the South Australian distribution network. They also offer state-of-the-art monitoring, controlling and switching operations.

ElectraNet specialises in the transmission of electricity over long distances and to remote areas. The transmission network extends over 200,000 square kilometres through the length and breadth of South Australia's diverse geographical terrain.

ElectraNet is responsible for operating, maintaining and upgrading almost 6,000 circuit kilometres of high voltage lines and owns 82 substations and switchyards throughout metropolitan and regional South Australia. The business provides electricity transmission services to over 99% of the State's population.

Their business is dedicated to supplying cost effective electricity transmission services and providing the highest safety and reliability outcomes for both South Australian and National Electricity Market customers.

In preparation for the bushfire and summer season, ElectraNet undertakes a cyclical vegetation clearance program on all its powerlines throughout South Australia, to minimise the risk of vegetation coming into contact with the transmission network.

ElectraNet take fire prevention and management very seriously and understand the expectations of regional communities and in turn appreciate services such as the local Country Fire Service units run by local community members.

This is demonstrated through their support of our work. Each year a number of CFS trucks will be upgraded through a retrofit which will include cabin air supply, internal cabin heat shielding curtains and roof cabin spray bar.

Initially Sandy Paterson will be working with the relevant regional commanders to fit out trucks at Wudinna, Clare, Millicent, Keith, Roseworthy & Nairne. Over the course of this period we will continue to keep you up to date on future fit outs.

In addition, ElectraNet will fund two ElectraNet Fellowships which will be launch in early 2011.

"ElectraNet is delighted to support the CFS", the Chief Executive Officer of ElectraNet, Ian Stirling said.



"By developing the ElectraNet Fellowship and improving safety conditions in CFS vehicles we are directly supporting the dedicated and hardworking CFS volunteers in the community. Fire prevention is critical for the State and thanks to the tireless efforts of these volunteers we know we're in good hands."

CMV FARMS – THANK YOU

Recently CMV Farms approached the Foundation seeking to support our work. Recognising that we have a number of volunteers who have been injured while serving their communities, it was their desire to direct support for this purpose.

On behalf of CMV Farm we were delighted to provide funds to a CFS volunteer for their ongoing needs.

I am sure you will appreciate their desire for anonymity. The response we received for this support provides us with a very small insight into the importance of our work.

"I remember being told that one of

the big challenges CFS volunteers often face when seriously injured is the "Superman Syndrome". We are the rescuers but who rescues the rescuer? Along with my wonderful partner my CFS mates and friends, I found other groups who rescue the rescuer.... CMV Farms and the CFS Foundation!

I would like to express my appreciation for the unexpected support. It was such an uplifting feeling knowing that others are thinking of me and working towards providing support when you are down and in need".

XMAS SHOPPING? - THINK OLYMPUS CAMERA



Are you thinking of updating your camera or a special present for a loved one?

Olympus Imaging is generously supporting the work of the CFS Foundation.

With every Olympus camera purchased between 1 October, 2010 to 31 January, 2011 a \$2 donation will be made to the CFS Foundation.

BUSHFIRE INCIDENT APPEAL

Over the bushfire season, a number of campaigns will be undertaken to generate funds to support CFS volunteers who are injured in the line of service.

These campaigns will be directed through all media and through many regional and metropolitan areas.

DO YOU HAVE THE WILL TO GIVE?

A bequest can make a significant difference to the lives of CFS volunteers who have been injured in the line of service or to those families who have lost a CFS volunteer through their service.

Leaving a bequest to the CFS Foundation means that you have the use of your funds or property during your lifetime with the opportunity of leaving part or all of your money or property to the CFS Foundation on your passing.

Speak with your legal advisor for advice or call the Executive Officer, Elizabeth Davis for further information.

BUSHFIRE SAFER PRECINCTS AND LAST RESORT REFUGES

Premier Mike Rann and Emergency Services Minister Michael Wright in October launched a ready-reckoner of 54 Bushfire Safer Precincts and 56 Bushfire Last Resort Refuges for people living in high-risk areas across South Australia.

The list of “bushfire safer” areas was released to coincide with the start of Bushfire Action Week and the opening of the new CFS station in Birdwood.

Mr Rann says the precincts and refuges were selected using stringent analysis of weather and geographical conditions.

“These ready-reckoners for designated areas should be kept handy so that householders who believe they are vulnerable can easily and quickly identify where they should go on days that have been forecast as ‘catastrophic’ for bushfires,” he said.

Primarily, the safer precincts and refuges are town centres and ovals.

“One of the valuable lessons learned from the Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria is that people should have a readily-accessible place to seek refuge on days where they could be in grave danger in the event of a major bushfire,” Mr Rann said.

The number of Bushfire Safer Precincts and Bushfire Last Resort Refuges will increase as the CFS continues its



Premier Mike Rann launches Bushfire Action Week and opens the new CFS Birdwood station.

assessment and mapping of other council areas throughout the State.

Mr Rann says South Australians can’t afford to be complacent and Bushfire Action Week aimed to serve as a reminder to people living, working or travelling through bushfire-prone areas to make sure they have a prepared up-to-date Bushfire Survival Plan.

“Once they’ve got a plan, they need to make sure they practise what they have in their plan as a family and with their neighbours,” he said.

“It’s also vitally important for people who live and work in those high risk areas to have a back-up plan should their Bushfire Survival Plan fail.”

Lists of the safer precincts and last resort refuges are available from local councils or on the CFS website www.cfs.sa.gov.au

NEW COMMUNITY EDUCATION TRAILER A WINNER

By: Jon Carr

The CFS new community education trailer has proved to be a big success since its launch at this year’s Royal Adelaide Show where it won third prize in the Most Impressive Major Exhibit category.

The custom-built trailer, which opens out to an 11-metre long interactive stand, has been ‘on the road’ almost continuously since its debut in September, attending the Riverland Field Days and being seen at major shopping centres during Bushfire Action Week in October.

The trailer was on display at a number of Adelaide Hills locations during Bushfire Action Week – Birdwood, Aldgate, Mount Barker, Blackwood – along with Gawler and under the big canopy in Rundle Mall.

CFS Manager, Community Education and Public Warnings, Fiona Dunstan said: “We’re really thrilled with the public response and the numbers of people stopping by to meet and have their photograph taken with Smokey, enquiring about volunteering and seeking bushfire safety information.



The CFS community education trailer at this year's Royal Adelaide Show.

“It really does provide enormous presence for the CFS wherever it is used,” Ms Dunstan said.

The trailer also has PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE. display panels, brochure racks and two LCD television screens along with its own generator.

CFS brigades wanting to use the trailer for promotional purposes should contact Natasha Huber, Coordinator Community Programs, on (08) 84634127 or huber.natasha@cfs.sa.gov.au

Strict conditions apply for its use, including the need for a CFS-paid staff member to be with it at all times and drive the towing vehicle.

ROYAL SHOW TRIUMPH FOR CFS



CFS attracts the attention of Royal Show judges.



CFS mascot Smokey at the Royal Adelaide Show.

South Australia’s fire services each received awards for their educational stands at the Royal Adelaide Show in September.

The Country Fire Service (CFS) received the **Most Impressive Major Exhibit – Third Prize** and the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) was awarded the **Community Organisation Award – First Prize**.

The CFS stand featured a new custom-built promotional trailer which opens out to an 11-metre interactive stand with display panels, brochure racks and two LCD screens.

CFS Manager, Community Education and Public Warnings, Fiona Dunstan said children particularly enjoyed having their photograph taken with CFS mascot, Smokey the Koala.

“We were really thrilled with the public response to our stand, and the numbers of people stopping by to meet Smokey, enquire about volunteering and seek bushfire safety information,” Ms Dunstan said.

MFS District Officer of Community Safety, Allan Foster said the MFS stand has been a family favourite after nine years at the show.

“We received a very positive public response to our stand, with hundreds of parents and children seeking home fire safety information and advice.

“Children of all ages enjoyed the free fun; dressing up as firefighters, sitting in a mini fire engine, taking a journey down Livelonga Lane and having a turn at Stop, Cover, Drop and Roll,” Mr Foster said.

SMOKEY GETS A MAKEOVER

By: Felicity Hopkinson, Project Officer, Community Education, CFS

The CFS mascot – Smokey the Koala – has had a makeover.

The new Smokey will be cropping up in a range of CFS material for children, much of which can be found on the CFS website, and new Smokey costumes will be rolled out to all regions this summer.

The new costumes will replace the ageing – and in some cases damaged – costumes and have been designed to match the new Smokey material.

They will be available for groups and brigades to promote the CFS at community events in their area. Your regional office has more information.

But be warned – the new costumes are very valuable assets and have been built to last for some years.

They will also be expensive to repair if they are damaged. So we'll be asking borrowers to jump through a few more hoops before loaning them out and we'll have higher expectations of the individuals responsible for them while they are on loan.

Also new for this year are Smokey books which are aimed at helping children learn about bushfire safety and provide hints and tips for parents. There



Smokey costumes are being rolled out to all regions this summer.

will be a colouring-in book for children aged up to seven and an activity book for older children.

You can get a sneak peak on the CFS website where currently there is a crossword and codebreaker. The new Smokey books will also be downloadable from the CFS website www.cfs.sa.gov.au

\$12M BOOST FOR BUSHFIRE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The State Government announced ahead of the Fire Danger Season that it will provide an extra \$12.9m to continue increasing bushfire awareness and boosting education around the **Prepare. Act. Survive.** strategy.

Emergency Services Minister, Michael Wright, said the funding allocation, over the next 4 years, would help bolster community awareness around bushfire preparation, by giving every South Australian the chance to adequately prepare for the fire danger season.

"Part of the additional funding will be used to enhance the **PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.** awareness campaign. During the last fire danger season, television advertisements along with radio and print announcements proved highly successful in generating community awareness about what to do when a bushfire strikes," Minister Wright said.

"This funding will go towards ensuring that people continue familiarising themselves with the new warning system and help motivate them to take action so they are prepared for any eventuality during the fire danger season.

"At the end of last season, independent

market research revealed that the overall education and awareness strategy was extremely successful and we want to continue building on that to ensure the message reaches and is heeded by every South Australian."

The target was to raise the awareness of people living in bushfire prone areas by 20% to 95% by the end of the last fire danger season.

"Results of the survey showed that by February last year, 99% of respondents could recall **Prepare. Act. Survive.** bushfire awareness advertising which is an extremely encouraging achievement," Minister Wright said.

Targets were also exceeded in other categories including 'neighbourhoods prepared to act' with 54 new community fire safe groups established, an increase of 27%, easily overtaking the initial objective of 20%.

"Whilst there are some encouraging statistics from this survey, there is always more work to be done, Mr Wright said.

"This is why we're pledging additional funding to ensure we're doing all we can to maximise community safety and awareness."

SA ADOPTS STANDARD FOR BUSHFIRE SHELTERS

The Minister for Urban Development and Planning Paul Holloway announced in October that South Australia had become one of the first Australian states to adopt the national building standard for private bushfire shelters.

He said that building applications will be referred to a committee of experts to ensure all bushfire bunkers built in South Australia comply with the new national performance standard which has also been adopted by Victoria.

"While seeking refuge away from a bushfire area during high risk days is a preferable course of action, there have been calls within the community for the option of building private home shelters," Mr Holloway said.

"As there previously had been no national standard for the construction of bushfire shelters, it was difficult for local councils to assess whether any particular design would provide a reasonably safe refuge during a catastrophic bushfire event.

"The changes to development regulations now in force in South Australia allow any application to be referred to the Building Rules Assessment Commission to ensure that the proposed design complies with the new national standard."

The State Government's decision to refer all applications to build these structures to the commission follows the Australian Building Codes Board's publication in April of a Performance Standard.

The commission comprises technical experts appointed for ensuring national consistency and timely decision making on technical matters relating to compliance with the Building Code of Australia.

Mr Holloway said South Australia would normally have to wait until May to adopt a new performance standard as part of the national Building Code.

"This government remains committed to doing all it can to preserve human life and property in the event of bushfire and help make our State as safe as possible," he said.

"The introduction of assessment controls for the building of bushfire bunkers in South Australia is one of many steps this Government is undertaking for the safety of South Australians."

CFS AIRCRAFT DEMONSTRATION AT MT CRAWFORD

By: Andrew Lawson
CFS Deputy Chief Officer

On Tuesday 21 December, CFS hosted an Air Operations Open Day at the Mount Crawford Airstrip.

In addition to the Premier and the Minister for Emergency Services, the day was attended by approximately 120 invited guests and media representatives.

The morning session provided an excellent opportunity for the media and invited guests to view part of the CFS aerial firefighting fleet and to observe a demonstration of the capabilities of each type of aircraft.

The Premier also welcomed the arrival of the high-volume helicopter ahead of the demonstration.

"The addition of the Aircrane means South Australia now has extensive aerial fire fighting capabilities, particularly in high fire risk areas to assist firefighters on the ground," Mr Rann said.

"Last year we used this helicopter during significant fires at Port Lincoln, Athelstone and Delamere and in 2009 deployed it to the Victorian bushfires to support fire control operations in the days following Black Saturday.

"Bushfires can be unpredictable but what we have learnt from our past experiences is that the threat can be reduced by people and their communities learning how to prepare and more importantly, how to respond when one strikes."

The CFS aircraft fleet is jointly funded between the State and Federal governments through the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC).

The mix of aircraft for the 2010/11 Fire Danger Season has enabled CFS to best meet its needs for operational



CFS Aviation Manager David Cant with MFS Chief Officer Grant Lupton, Premier Mike Rann and Emergency Services Minister Michael Wright who are shadowed by the Erickson Aircrane.



The Erickson Aircrane at Mt Crawford before its demonstration.



Premier Mike Rann talks to the media before the CFS aircraft demonstration at Mt Crawford.



The high volume Erickson Airplane.



Some of the CFS helicopter fleet at Mt Crawford.



An Air Tractor water bomber demonstrating its capability at Mt Crawford.

effectiveness, fatigue management and safety of flight operations.

While aircraft are a valuable firefighting resource, they do not replace the need for firefighters on the ground. Aircraft work with, and support firefighters on the ground and it is via the exceptional work of our people on the ground that fires are brought under control.

Following the 2009/10 Fire Danger Season, the CFS undertook a review of aircraft requirements across the State. This resulted in several relatively minor changes of aircraft types for the 2010/11 Fire Danger Season.

All fourteen dedicated firefighting



The Erickson Airplane in action.

aircraft are now on contract and/or are on active standby (as required) at their nominated airbases – Woodside, Brukunga, Port Lincoln and Mount Gambier.

We actively relocate these aircraft as

required to meet the forecast and actual fire danger across the State. In addition to the 14 dedicated firefighting aircraft, CFS also has access to the three Motor Accident Commission (MAC) Rescue Helicopters, as needed.

BATTERY SPECIALTIES (GROUP)

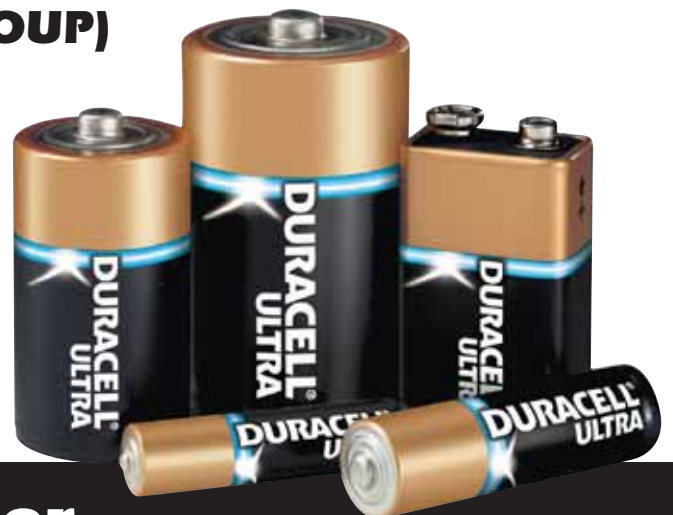
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VERSP RECOGNITION ON KANGAROO ISLAND

By: Toni Richardson, Senior Project Officer, Volunteer Strategy and Support Branch, SAFECOM

More than 75 people attended the final Volunteer Employment Recognition Support Program (VERSP) event on Kangaroo Island in November.

Held at the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard (AVCG) Flotilla in Kingscote, the event provided an opportunity for local emergency service volunteers from the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard (AVCG), SES and CFS to meet SAFECOM board members.

It also represented an opportunity to recognise not only volunteers but the employers and families of emergency service volunteers in their support of the emergency services.

State MP Michael Pengilly, Member for Finnis, and Jayne Bates, Mayor of Kangaroo Island, as well as staff from each of the emergency service agencies attended the event.

Attendees were treated to a delicious barbecue dinner (including dessert) as well as presentations from SAFECOM Board Chairman David Place, the Deputy Group Officer of the Kangaroo Island CFS Group Ivan Smith and Mayor Bates.



SAFECOM Board chairman David Place and Kangaroo Island Mayor Jayne Bates at the VERSP function.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to employers of emergency service volunteers as well as self-employed volunteers. Recipients included:

- Bob Watson Fire Safety Equipment
- Errol Taylor
- Island Tree and Stump Service
- Mike Swayne
- Dudley Villa
- Ingrams Home Timber and Hardware

- Calana Heights
- Davo's Deli
- Five Star Design and Construction
- Henk Levering
- KI Engineering and Auto Airconditioning
- Swagman Home Improvements

A special thanks to Phillip Buck and his team from the AVCG for their help in organising the event and the excellent catering.

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL UP AND RUNNING

By: Lisa Greig, Youth Development Officer

On Sunday 21 November 2010, the inaugural Country Fire Service (CFS) Youth Advisory Council (YAC) meeting was held at CFS Headquarters.

This committee consists of youth representatives from the six regional areas, the Volunteers Association, a mentor as well as the Youth Development Officer and the Deputy Chief Officer.

Congratulations are extended to David Manuseto, Daniel Phillips, Kirstie McGarrity, Nicole Kelly, Kerry Gilson, Lisa West, Nick Ditter and Ruth Coveney. These young people were selected from close to 100 applications from a list of 3000 young people who were invited to apply to join the council.

These young people will be actively involved and play an important role in the leadership and decision making of CFS. They will also provide the CFS with a strategic voice on issues not only relating to young people within the CFS but the wider CFS community.

One of the first projects the Youth Advisory Council will undertake is to plan and run Expedition Compass, an initiative to identify and work towards recruiting and retaining young people



From left, Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson with YAC members Lisa West, Ruth Coveney, Nicole Kelly, Daniel Phillips, Kirstie McGarrity, Nick Ditter, Kerry Gilson, David Manuseto.

in the CFS as well as a discussing a number of other issues.

The Chairperson of the YAC and one other member of the committee will attend COAC meetings to input their views on issues discussed.

This is a very exciting time for the

CFS and a great opportunity to develop our leaders for the future.

The Youth Advisory Council will meet six times a year.

Contact details for the Youth Advisory Council will be available on the CFS website shortly.

RECOGNISING VOLUNTEERS AND EMPLOYERS IN STREAKY BAY AND CEDUNA

By: Joanna Bond, Project Officer, Volunteer Strategy and Support Branch

SAFECOM held a Volunteer & Employer Recognition & Support Program (VERSP) event in both Streaky Bay and Ceduna, in August.

The VERSP events were an opportunity to acknowledge the commitment and passion of CFS and SES volunteers, their families and the employers who support them.

The Streaky Bay VERSP morning tea was held at the Streaky Bay Visitor and Information Centre and provided an excellent opportunity to meet and recognise volunteers and their employers. The morning tea was attended by the SAFECOM Board, the Deputy Mayor of the District Council of Streaky Bay, Mr Greg Schreiber, and local CFS and SES volunteers and employers.

Anthony Rosenzweig, a CFS volunteer with the Streaky Bay CFS Brigade,

nominated his employer Ian Beck, from Beck Brothers Mitre 10.

It's important that employers get recognition for letting employees go out to protect their communities," he said.

When asked why he releases employees to attend an incident Ian said: "The volunteers do a fantastic job and it's important for the town to be protected."

The Ceduna VERSP dinner was held at the joint CFS/SES/SAAS facility on Poynton Street, and was attended by over 35 CFS and SES volunteers and employers. Others included the SAFECOM Board, Mayor Allan Suter (District Council of Ceduna), Mr Peter Treloar MP (Member for Flinders) and representatives from SA Ambulance Service and SA Police.

At the Ceduna VERSP everyone enjoyed getting to know one another over a delicious meal catered by the Sea



Anthony Rosenzweig alongside CFS Acting Chief Officer Andrew Lawson and SAFECOM CEO David Place at the Certificates of Appreciation presentation.

Dragons, a group of women from the local community.

The Streaky Bay and Ceduna VERSP events were a great way to say thanks, to the volunteers who make such a big commitment to ensuring community safety and to employers and self employed volunteers who support the work of the emergency services sector.

COMMAND LEADERSHIP AND INCIDENT MANAGEMENT (CLIM) UPDATE

By: CLIM Team

2010 proved to be a very busy year for the CLIM team with many courses to run, Royal Commission recommendations to progress and incident management policies and procedures to review, write and implement.

During the training sessions much of our focus was around the development of two new courses - Incident Command and Leadership and Level 3 Incident Control.

The Incident Command and Leadership course was developed from a need to ensure our Level 2 Incident Controllers and Deputy Incident Controllers were given the right training and tools to undertake the role.

Attendees participated in a range of sessions including; Tasks of a Level 2 Incident Controller, Transfer of Command, Stakeholders and Other Agencies. This course was run on two occasions as a pilot in May and October and due to the positive feedback received will be further developed and included in our training plan for 2011.

In September we also ran an Incident Controller course aimed at Level 3 Incident Controllers and Deputies. This was run as a national course under the facilitation of Stuart Ellis. Participants of this course included CFS, Department for Environment and Natural Resources, Forestry SA, Country Fire Authority Victoria, NSW Rural Fire Service, SA Police, SES, Tasmanian Fire Service and Queensland Fire and Rescue Service. Although being an intensive five-day program, the feedback was very positive with many commenting on how well run and how much knowledge they gained during the week. Many also commented on the benefits of running the course as a national course which enabled greater knowledge sharing and understanding of the how the position is run across the country.

Some of the topics covered included Court and Inquiry Appearances, the Nature of Strategic Leadership, Government Expectations of Incident Controllers, Information and The Media and Trends in Operational Management. The participants also sat through a series of nine workshops that they completed in pairs under the assessment of a senior facilitator.

Again due to the positive feedback from this course we have programmed it to run in 2011.

In blue is a spreadsheet of the courses that were run last year and the amount of people that were trained in incident



Level 3 Incident Controller Course Participants.

Training Summary for CLIM 2010

Course	No Trained	No Courses
Tactical Command and leadership	228	8
AIIMS	157	10
Incident Command And Leadership	18	2
Level 3 incident Controller	17	1
Operations Officer	25	2
Planning Officer	14	1
Staging Area Management	17	3
Strike Team Leader Sector Commander	36	2
Fire Weather 1	3	1
Fire Weather 2	2	1
Fire Behaviour Analyst	1	1
Ground Observer	1	1
Frontline	342	23
Level 3 IMEX	30	1
Totals	891	61

management related courses. A big thank you must go out to everyone who attended one of these courses and to those that put their hands up to coordinate or assist with their delivery.

Not only did the CLIM team organise training in South Australia, but a number of people attended training courses interstate. By sending people interstate we were able to review other courses and assess whether they would be suitable in South Australia. These courses included Fire Weather 1 & 2, Ground Observer, Information Officer and Fire Behaviour Analyst. Those who attended provided valuable feedback which is being considered in line with our review of courses for 2011.

Towards the end of November CFS, in consultation with SES and MFS, implemented a significant change to the way our Incident Management Teams are structured in line with recommendations from the Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission. This recommendation

was to have a separated function under AIIMS dedicated to looking at the Information needs of the incident. Therefore the Information Unit under a CFS incident management structure has been removed from the Planning Unit and made a separate Functional Unit under the Incident Controller. This is a major change for our organisation and the implementation of this is a key focus of the CLIM team over the next few months. As the processes and policies with how this will run are finalised, more information will be released.

CLIM have also been working on producing an incident management manual, the manual will contain all relevant incident management policies and procedures and will be used in conjunction with the COSO/SOP/OMG's. The aim is to provide a collated manual of all information relating to incident management that is accessible and easy to follow. Currently it is out for consultation with the aim to be completed by April.

CFS PASTORAL CADETS ENJOY 2010 CAMP

By: Deb Perkins and Kane Honner

The CFS Pastoral cadets from Roxby Downs, Andamooka and Woomera took part in an enjoyable camp at Errappa Blue Light Camp, Iron Knob, in July. The camp hosted 25 cadets from the three brigades and eight leaders.

On the first day, a Greyhound bus began the pick-ups, starting in Andamooka before moving on to Roxby, Woomera and the final destination, Errappa at Iron Knob.

On route to the camp we stopped at Region 4 Headquarters which provided the cadets an opportunity to see what happens there and to meet the staff. After arriving at Errappa the cadets had some free time and they watched a movie, titled Major Pain, that evening.

On Saturday the cadets were placed in three groups that involved a mix from the three brigades. The Errappa staff started with teamwork games with all three teams doing very well and after lunch the cadets tested their fitness skills on the high rope and finished with the flying fox.

The cadets later on had some free

time before going for a walk to the local CFS station in Iron Knob. One of the Iron Knob members addressed the cadets about his role in the CFS and the common types of incidents that requires a response.

The cadets later returned to camp where they completed a teamwork game before dinner. After dinner the cadets enjoyed a game, while others opted for a quiet time by a camp fire and some preferred a movie, 101 Dalmations.

On Sunday, the Errappa staff guided them through the Rock Wall and Leap of Faith, which was a nine-metre platform they had to climb and then jump off. The larger jump was 12 metres high from a single pole about 8 inches in diameter and yes, they had to climb to the top as well, which they thoroughly enjoyed. The Errappa staff then finished the day's activities with another stunt on the flying fox.

The camp ended with lunch before we started the long trip home and stopping at McDonalds for a well-deserved junk food break.



A cadet tests his skills with a high rope activity at the Errappa camp.



CFS pastoral cadets and staff at Errappa Blue Light Camp.

A big thank you is also extended to the Greyhound Bus driver who took part in the activities and helped our cadets.

RIDLEY GROUP CADET CAMP

By: Trena Williamson, Swan Reach CFS Cadet Coordinator



Chloe Marks and Shannon Tanner participating in a casualty extraction exercise during the Ridley CFS cadet camp.

Twelve CFS Cadets from the Ridley Group attended an overnight camp in October.

Hosted by the Swan Reach Brigade, the cadets took part in a variety of activities including observing Blanchetown SES personnel using spreaders, participating in pump training on the 3/4 truck and in a casualty evacuation from a vehicle.

They also took part in GRN training and were challenged by an obstacle course that included fire classification, ranks and the phonetic alphabet. In addition to these activities, they also took part in a treasure hunt, where cadets were required to complete a crossword puzzle to find a hidden clue for the treasure's whereabouts.

They also enjoyed an outdoor movie on the big screen and lots of food.

Feedback from the cadets was positive with many expressing that they were learning so much without even realising how much they were learning because they had so much fun.

A big thanks must go to all the volunteers who helped to make this happen, and also to the Ridley Group who funded all the food for the camp.

CFS CREW BAG



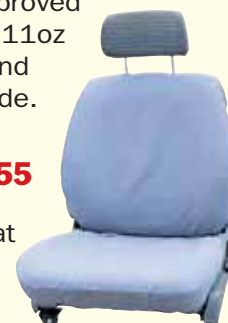
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BASIC FIREFIGHTING COURSE UPDATED

By: Michael Mathew
Manager, CFS Rural Firefighting Training Project.

The new and revised version of the **Basic Firefighting 1 (BF1) course** was launched in November. Courses were held at the CFS State Training Centre at Brukunga, Region 1 at Kyeema Group, Region 2 at Concordia and Region 4 at Wilpena.

The course redevelopment took many months, with course evaluations, SOPs, equipment changes and suggestions from CFS staff and volunteer trainer-assessors with an active involvement in the delivery of the BF1 which has been used to guide the review. Firefighter safety has been the underpinning philosophy throughout the course.

Of significance, a better balance between theoretical topics and practical work has been achieved and course delivery time has been significantly reduced compared to the original version.

Prior to the release of the course, staff and volunteer trainer-assessors attended up-skill sessions to ensure the course was delivered to the highest possible standards. Support for volunteer trainer-assessors will be ongoing with up-skill sessions and reviews to be conducted by Rural State Training Officers and

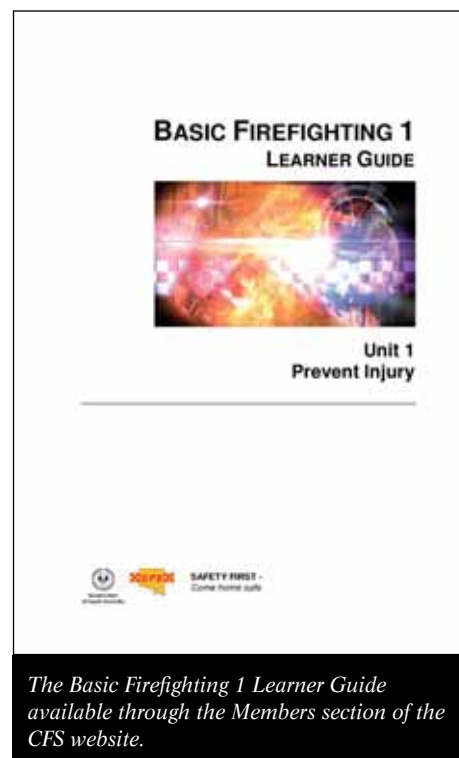
Regional Training Officers.

This has been a significant change in the way the initial three units – ‘Prevent Injury’, ‘Follow Occupational Health and Safety Policies and Procedures’ and ‘Introduction to AIIMS’ – are delivered. A purpose-made professional quality DVD has been produced to enable, wherever possible, these units to be completed pre-course to allow even more efficient use of volunteer time. All learner manuals and the DVD videos can be accessed via the Members Only section of the CFS website under Training Materials.

It is important that all new CFS volunteers wishing to become firefighters complete their BF1 course within 6 months of joining the service.

Check the CFS website course calendar for course dates and please contact your Regional Training Officer via the chain of command if you require any further assistance in nominating new members or to host BF1 courses in your Group or Brigade.

Please note that any old BF1 materials may no longer be used and should be returned to your Regional Training Officer.



The Basic Firefighting 1 Learner Guide available through the Members section of the CFS website.

JAMESTOWN BA TRAINING FACILITY

By: Garth Hogarth
Project Manager CABA

On October 22, 2010 the Jamestown Brigade commissioned its new **Breathing Apparatus Training building** by facilitating a state-based initial Breathing Apparatus course for 12 volunteer trainees from Region Four brigades.

This facility will assist Region Four volunteers to gain accreditation in Operate Breathing Apparatus Open Circuit without the need to travel to the CFS State Training Centre at Brukunga.

The brigade is to be commended on the design and construction of this facility which allows for realistic response drill training whilst meeting the stringent safety requirements needed to deliver Breathing Apparatus training.

Brigade Captain Graham Simms said that this facility would not have been possible without the commitment of the Jamestown Brigade members who spent approximately 1500 hours of

donated time (over four years) to complete the project.

Brigade members also wrote grant applications to assist in the funding of the project. Funding was also provided by the Bundaleer Group, CFS Region Four and the State CABA Project.

The brigade would also like to thank the many local tradespeople that helped them with the design requirements, many of whom donated their time and expertise to assist the brigade.

Graham also acknowledged the support of Region Four staff in particular Bluey Devine and Phil Tapscott, the Bundaleer Group, Group Officer Peter Smallacombe and CABA Project Manager Garth Hogarth, who said without their input, this project would never have happened.

This facility will now host a minimum of one state-based initial Breathing Apparatus course per year for Region Four CFS volunteers.

CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC SAFETY CFS RECIPIENTS

By: Brenton Eden
CFS Manager Training

In October, 67 members of the CFS, staff and volunteers were awarded **Certificate II in Public Safety [Firefighting Operations]** which brought the total to 164 members in the service who have achieved this award.

The awarding of this certificate has been the culmination of hundreds of hours of training over many years and highlights the efforts of our members towards their professional development.

Three staff completed Certificate II in Public Safety [Firefighting and Emergency Operations].

Five completed Certificate II in Public Safety [Firefighting Operations].

Two Training Officers completed Certificate IV in Public Safety [Firefighting Supervision].

I acknowledge the efforts of all, staff and volunteers and encourage all career staff to continue to pursue qualifications from the Public Safety Sector.

TRAINING EXERCISE UTILISES CFS AND PARAMEDICS RESCUE SKILLS

By: Coreyjay Frazer
CFS State Training Officer –
Specialist Rescue

In November the CFS was offered an opportunity to provide a day of extrication training to the South Australian Ambulance Service (SAAS). This training involved a group of Graduate Paramedics finishing their 3rd year degree and now working with SAAS (on road) consolidating their skills. The group size was 16 trainees and three SAAS trainers as well as three from CFS.

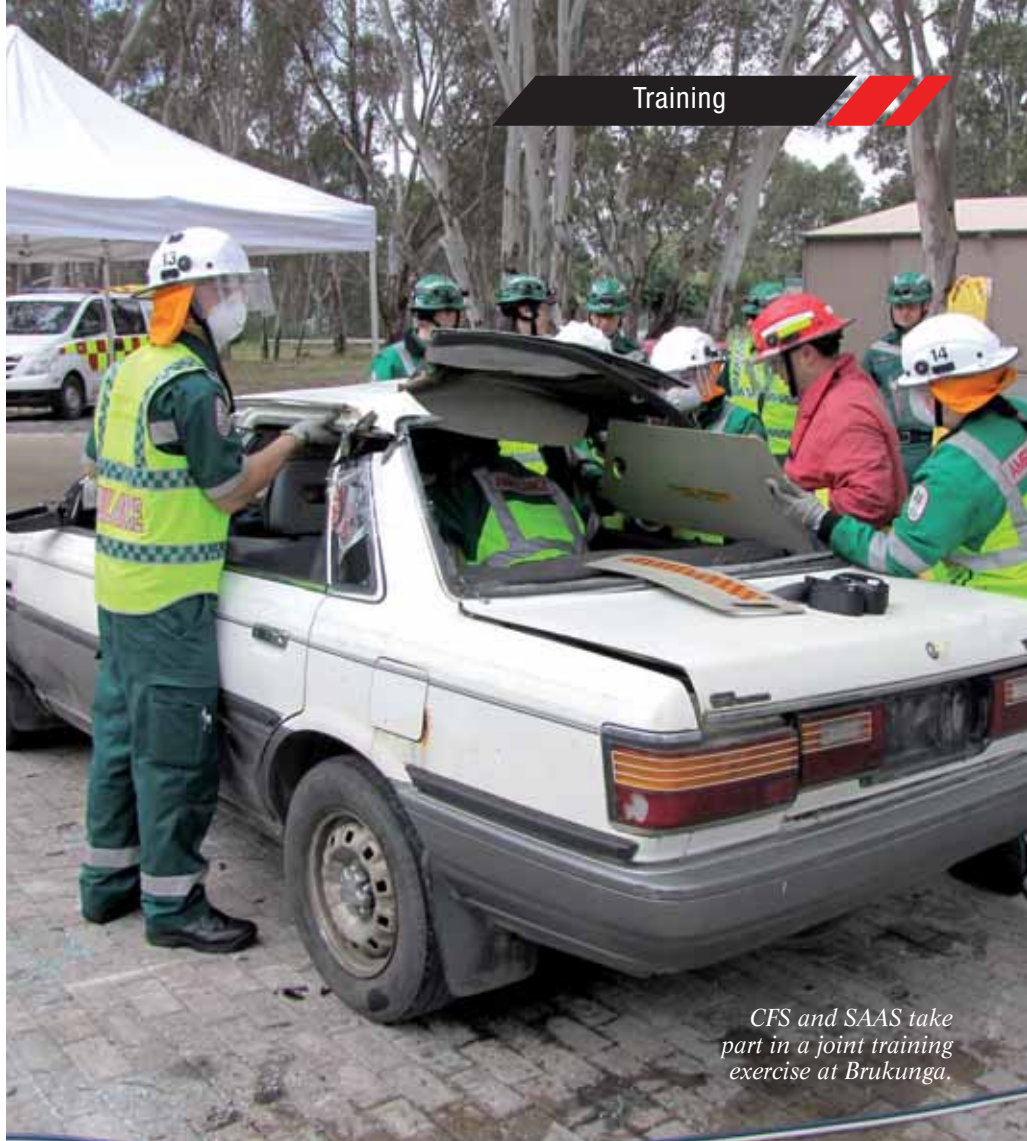
The day was split into two parts. The first couple of hours saw rescue technical specialists discuss incident arrival safety, scene hazards, vehicle hazards, extrications techniques and working with rescue/fire services. There was a strong focus emphasis on team work, communication and appreciation of each respective agencies role.

The second part of the day was spent completing the scenarios for their medical assessments however the groups rotated around the roles of being casualties, rescuers and medical attendants. The SAAS trainees actually performed the extrication techniques using cutters and spreaders under the direct supervision of CFS Trainer Assessors.

The feedback from the SAAS trainees was very complementary. A majority of them were amazed at how heavy our rescue equipment is, as well as how long it can actually take to create an inline extrication pathway when you're the person holding the tools and dealing with the challenges of a modern strength vehicle. Additionally for many of them it was their first time visiting the State Training Centre and again they commented on the facilities and the high level of infrastructure and resources that is accessible to volunteers to support their learning requirements.

Overall, this was an excellent opportunity for both CFS & SAAS to interact and learn from each other about what our common challenges are when working side by side with each other out on the roads.

This training is hoped to be continued into the future.



Training

CFS and SAAS take part in a joint training exercise at Brukunga.

MULTI AGENCIES TAKE ON ROAD ACCIDENT RESCUE

By: Coreyjay Frazer
CFS State Training Officer – Specialist Rescue

Over the last 16 months, a steering committee has been bringing together the three rescue agencies in South Australia to collaborate their training Resource Kits (TRK's) and produce a single Multi-Agency URAR TRK.

This has been a fantastic opportunity for the Country Fire Service (CFS), State Emergency Service (SES) and Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) to combine skills and knowledge sets to produce a TRK that will standardise the knowledge and practical application of existing Road Accident Rescue procedures.

The steering committee formed two sub working groups. The first being the technical working group and the second being the assessment development working group. All three groups/committees have representation from the CFS, SES & the MFS staff

and volunteers. This process has seen technical and training development specialists all come together and demonstrate how effective and professional our agencies are when we work together to achieve a common goal.

Together we have sought approval from and adopted the Learner Material from the joint CFA / VICSES. Many hours of thorough reviewing from the technical working group, have gone into making the learner guide applicable to South Australia and for compliance across all three agencies.

Successful progress is being made towards having the learner materials completed by early 2011, whilst the assessment tools, strategies and methods are likely to be ready for implementation shortly thereafter.

Watch this space for the final completed product!



ALDINGA ROAD CRASH RESCUE



CFS crews assist a medical retrieval team at the scene of a motorcycle crash near Truro.

Aldinga Beach brigade responded to a Road Crash Rescue on Main South Road near Malpas Rd, Aldinga.

The incident involved a semi-trailer during a heavy downpour when a car lost control and ended up in the path of the heavy vehicle.

The semi trailer careered off the road into a ditch.

Main South Road was closed to traffic in both directions while CFS crews waited for a tow truck to clear the scene.

TRURO MVR By: Jeff Anderson

On 23 October, 2010, CFS crews from Nuriootpa and Truro Brigades responded to a road crash involving a motorcyclist who crashed into a guard rail on the Sturt Highway east of Truro.

SA Ambulance and a Medstar retrieval team attended to assist a male rider who was airlifted to the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

CFS crews closed the Sturt Highway to

allow Rescue 52 to land near the crash site.

Traffic was diverted around the scene for almost an hour while the retrieval was being undertaken with Medstar stabilising the patient on the side of the road before he was transported.

The CFS appliances that attended were Truro 24, Truro 34 and the Nuriootpa Pumper.

CFS RESPONDS TO ROAD CRASH AT MORPHETT VALE

CFS and MFS crews responded to a road crash rescue on Main South Road and Pimpala Rd at Morphett Vale involving two cars.

An elderly lady was trapped in her car and was extricated by crews from



CFS crews at the crash scene at Morphett Vale.
By Jeff Anderson

the Morphett Vale, Christie Downs and O'Halloran Hill brigades.

She was transported to the Flinders Medical Centre in a serious condition.

The SAPOL Major Crash Unit also attended the scene and diverted traffic.

BURTON HOUSE FIRE



CFS crews were called to this house at Burton which was extensively damaged by fire.

CFS crews from Salisbury were called to a house fire at Salisbury in September after neighbours raised the alarm early in the morning.

The fire which was deliberately lit began on a boat under a carport that spread to the house while a family with two children who had been sleeping inside managed to escape the blaze.

The fire quickly spread through the ceiling and air conditioning ducts before it was brought under control by fire fighters.

The damage was estimated at around \$150,000.

CFS WATER BOMBING AIRCRAFT SUPPRESSES WINGFIELD FIRE

CFS utilised some of its water bombing aircraft resources to assist firefighters during a potentially hazardous fire at a pallet storage factory at Wingfield in January.

Several advice messages were issued through the media after smoke from the fire on Cormack Road could be seen from most parts of the Adelaide metropolitan area and flames peaking to a height of 20 metres.

The fire is suspected to have started near a neighbouring railway line which quickly spread along grass and travelled to towards properties in the area.

More than 60 CFS and MFS firefighters battled the fire and the CFS helicopter was called in to assist their efforts with 20 water bombing drops which prevented it from spreading and causing further damage.

Two MFS firefighters were injured



A CFS water bomber assisting ground crews at the Wingfield fire.

during the incident with one tripping and hurting his elbow while the other sustained minor burns from the intensity of the blaze.

A neighbouring pallet factory was severely damaged.

The incident lasted for 16 hours with an estimated damage bill of more than one million dollars.

BOOST FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S ONLINE EMERGENCY SERVICES

Prime Minister Julia Gillard recently visited Aldgate CFS to announce Federal Government funding for an online application to enhance training for Country Fire Service (CFS) and State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers in rural South Australia.

E-mergency Connect will receive \$2.53 million and is the first project to be provided funding under round two of the Government's \$60 million Digital Regions Initiative.

E-mergency Connect is a project being run by the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM) and will significantly improve access to a range of online services, including e-learning, not previously available to CFS and SES volunteers.

E-mergency Connect will enhance the delivery of training and reduce travel costs by providing more than 17,000 volunteers and retained fire fighters across regional SA with access to a new volunteer web portal offering a range of services.

The program will commence early this year and will be completed over two calendar years. The primary focus of this project will be online access to new digital collaboration facilities including video and web conferencing and media rich self-paced volunteer training courses.



Prime Minister Julia Gillard with CFSVA Executive Director Wendy Shirley, CFS Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson (right) and members of the Aldgate CFS Brigade.

SAFECOM Board Chairman David Place said: "I'm confident that the adoption of e-learning will support volunteer recruitment and retention by enabling convenient local access to an electronic learning environment.

"It will provide increased flexibility for our volunteers and retained staff so they can better manage their learning within existing demands. Learning will become possible within the home or at local facilities," he said.

"This will help reduce the amount of travel and time away from home by volunteers and retained staff in developing and maintaining their critical skills. *E-mergency Connect* will go a long way to ensuring communities are given the best possible protection and support".

NEW CFS VEHICLES ON KANGAROO ISLAND



Wisanger CFS Brigade members with latest acquisition an Isuzu dual cab 34 tanker.

Kangaroo Island brigades recently received two refurbished appliances thanks to Robin Geytenbeek during his time as Acting Training Officer for Region One.

Wisanger received an Isuzu dual cab 34 ex Happy Valley and American River received an Isuzu Dual cab ex Summertown. Both appliances replace Hino single cab appliances which were over 20 years old.

The tankers were replaced under the CFS Infrastructure & Logistics (I&L) Fleet program.

Robin, who is the State Training Officer Rural, had a special interest in the American River tanker as it was originally from his own brigade at Summertown.

"I have spent many hours on the appliance at incidents and it was good to see it go to a new home where it would be appreciated," he said.

"When I was acting as Regional Training Officer, part of my role was to work with I&L to deliver new and refurbished Tankers, Bulk Water Carriers and Pumps."

The refurbished appliances feature:

- Dual cab allowing the crew to sit together, improving communication.
- Crews can travel to incidents in safety and comfort.
- Air-conditioned cabins
- It carries 3000 litres of water (giving both brigades a further 1000 litres than previously available)
- Higher capacity pumps
- Roll down heat shield curtains in the cabin to protect the crew if trapped in a burn over situation.
- Wisanger 34 also has a cabin water spray system and in-cab breathing system to further enhance fire fighter safety.

CYCLONE TEARS THROUGH SMALL TOWN

*CFS crews assist in the clean up after a small cyclone tore through this house at Redbanks.
By Jeff Anderson*

Brigades from Mallala and Two Wells responded to a storm damage incident at Germantown Rd, Redbanks after a mini cyclone tore through the area on a day of extremely wild weather.

The mini cyclone caused a path of destruction through paddocks and properties before smashing into

a house and lifting the roof off embedding sheets of iron in trees and scattering debris for almost a half a kilometre.

Both brigades assisted council workers in placing tarps on the roof of the house and clearing debris.

There were no reports of injuries.

REGION 2 TRAINING FIELD DAY SUCCESS

This year's successful CFS Region Two Field Day was held in and around the Mt Pleasant area.

The bi-annual training event ensures the basic skills of firefighters and Incident Managers are practiced ahead of the Fire Danger Season. It is one of the largest gatherings of CFS members and fire appliances in South Australia.

The exercise also provides a safe and realistic learning environment where skills can be used and tested.

300 CFS volunteers from over 35 Brigades attended with communities from Yorke Peninsula, Clare Valley, Barossa, Mid North, Adelaide Plains and the Adelaide Hills sending crews and fire appliances to represent them.

The event is held in a different location each year by a local Brigade who organise the day from catering to exercise set up.

Drills included map reading, road crash rescue, bushfire fire cause, team work and team communication, search & rescue, LPG cylinder fire, incident management, rural fire fighting skills and driving.

Several VIP's, including the Governor of South Australia, His Excellency Rear



CFS field day participants take part in a briefing at the Mt Pleasant showgrounds.

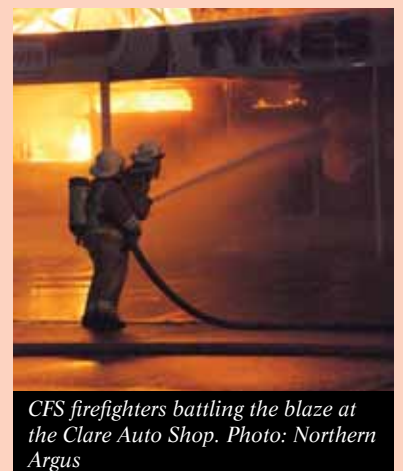


CFS Region Two Field day participants.

Admiral Kevin Scarce were invited to lunch with CFS crews and had a tour of the Field Day. The younger firefighters had an opportunity to meet the Governor and discuss their achievements in CFS and their communities.

All crews performed well and CFS members enjoyed a productive day with good food and a chance to catch up with

CLARE AUTO SHOP FIRE



CFS firefighters battling the blaze at the Clare Auto Shop. Photo: Northern Argus

CFS fighters battled a large fire with flames as high as 20 metres at an auto shop in the main street of Clare in September.

About 12 appliances and 60 CFS volunteers worked hard to prevent the fire from spreading to adjoining properties.

SES crews also attended the scene to assist local police with traffic management and direct people away from the scene.

their counterparts from across the region "without the fire".

A big thank you must go to the volunteers around the Barossa and Gumeracha Groups who organised a fantastic day.



Fire engulfs hay at a storage facility at Bow Hill near Mannum.
By Jeff Anderson

BOW HILL HAY SHED FIRE

CFS Brigades from Bow Hill, Mannum, and Walker Flat attended a hay shed fire in November at Bow Hill, about 30 kilometres south east of Mannum.

The fire started by spontaneous combustion and was burning very well on arrival of the Bow Hill appliance.

Additional brigades were called to provide asset protection for a shed full of pallets adjacent to the hay bales.

The entire stock of hay was destroyed and took about three days to extinguish.

Damage was estimated at around \$50,000.

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*CFS crews at the Laura Mill which was destroyed by fire.
By Jeff Anderson*

LAURA MILL FIRE

CFS Brigades from Appila, Caltowie, Laura, Gladstone, Georgetown, Jamestown, Wirrabara attended a commercial fire at the Laura Mill in October.

When crews arrived they found the fire was going well and had quickly consumed the building where over 200,000 donated books were being temporarily stored to be distributed to charities in third world countries.

Bundaleer CFS Group Officer Peter Smallacombe, said the fire was intense for several hours and hampered the efforts of crews to contain it. An excavator was also used to pull apart hay that was also stored near the building.

Police were investigating the cause of the fire which was believed to have started by children who were seen playing in the hay.

CFS ROXBY MEMBERS AT FAMILY FUN DAY

By: Stephen Scarr Roxby CFS

Members of the CFS Roxby Downs Brigade took part in the outback town's annual BHP Family Fun Day in November.

It was a busy month for the Brigade which also saw the delivery of a Quick Response Vehicle to its fleet.



CFS mascot Smokey was a children's favourite at the Roxby Downs BHP family day.



Clowning around during the Roxby Downs BHP family day.



A new Quick Response Vehicle (QRV) for Roxby Downs CFS.

BUSY START TO THE FIRE SEASON IN REGION 5

By: Bill Corcoran, Naracoorte CFS

The start of the Fire Danger Season has been a busy period for brigades within the Naracoorte Group with burn-offs out of control, a hayshed fire and a hazmat task all within a few weeks of each other.

In November, Naracoorte and Stewarts Range brigades were alerted to a shed fire on the Lucindale Road about 11 kilometres west of Naracoorte with Naracoorte 34 being the first on the scene.

Crews from Lucindale and Spence also assisted and prevented the fire from spreading despite being unable to save hay and vehicles inside the shed. The fire was caused by a hot engine from one of the cars parked too close to the hay and resulted in about \$80,000 damage.

Several days later, a burn-off on private property on Wild Dog Valley Road Naracoorte which had not been properly contained and monitored required a CFS response that prevented it from reaching a shed and livestock.

Naracoorte CFS was also paged for

a hazmat at the local waste transfer station where chemicals had been wrongly dumped. Further assistance was requested from Bordertown and Millicent Brigades and Hynam did a change of quarters into Naracoorte.

The chemical - RAMETIN (UN 2783) - which is used as a sheep drench is safe unless the package is open or broken. Crews in splash suits and BA were able to remove the chemicals and transfer them into drums to make the area safe. Decontamination of the area took place before a debrief at Naracoorte station.

On November 8, Naracoorte, Hynam and Stewarts Range Brigades attended a burn-off that went out of control in Kingston Avenue at Naracoorte. When Naracoorte 34 arrived, the fire was burning in green grass on a 60-metre front with flames up to a metre in height. Once again great work by crews prevented the spread of this fire as it was burning towards a large housing area, and contained it to one hectare.



A CFS crew tackle a hay and shed fire at Stewarts Range.

On the following day, Naracoorte and Lochaber Brigades were paged to a burn-off out of control about 10 kilometres north of Naracoorte. A private farm unit and Naracoorte 34 were the first on scene and managed to contain the fire. Crews reported that this fire was spotting well around the farm's buildings and could have been much worse if not for their quick response.

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Proban Dust and Face Mask: ◆

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◆ Pager Pouch:

- All leather mobile phone belt clip
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\$50⁰⁰



◆ Vest Holder:

- 12oz Heavy Duty Canvas
- Holds 3 vests plus large torch

◆ Note Pad & Radio Holder:

- 12oz Heavy Duty Canvas



◆ Drink Bottle Holder:

- 12oz Heavy Duty Canvas
- Holds 8 drink bottles

\$50⁰⁰

\$50⁰⁰

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CFS COMMUNITY EDUCATION ON EYRE PENINSULA

Community Education was brought to the heart of Eyre Peninsula at the end of October.

Residents from Koongawa, Kyancutta, Warramboo and Wudinna were given the opportunity to experience first hand, some of the benefits of Community Fire Safe from Community Education Officers Kylee McNamee and Therese Pedler.



Eyre Peninsula residents listen intently during a Community Fire Safe meeting.

HOME CARE WORKERS PROMOTE BUSHFIRE PLANNING

By: Therese Pedler,
CFS Community Education Officer



Home care workers during a Community Education training session to help them promote bushfire safety to their clients.

The importance of bushfire planning is now being promoted by nine recently trained contractors who work for West Coast Home Care out of Port Lincoln.

Since mid November these contractors have not only been proactive in helping their clients with domestic activities but have also been encouraging them to think about and plan for Bushfires.

The three-hour Bushfire Awareness Training session delivered by Community Education Officer Therese Pedler has enabled the West Coast Home Care staff to extend their skills as in-home carers.

It has also enabled them to make safer decisions as workers if they are ever caught in a bushfire.

COMMUNITY FIRE SAFE GROUP

By: Therese Pedler, CFS Community Education Officer

Residents of Fishery and Sleaford Bays have been fortunate to have had a personal visit from Lincoln Brigade Captain Greg Napier and Community Education Officer Therese Pedler as part of a Community Fire Safe Group activity which was recently held in Region Six.

This group has been working really hard over winter to become Bushfire Ready.

They have also developed a number of local strategies including pre-identifying who is leaving and who is staying to defend, a telephone tree, a group purchaser of hand-held radios and a pre-identified place they can meeting in Port Lincoln if they are separated from their families and their homes.



Lincoln Brigade Captain Greg Napier with Fishery Bay and Sleaford Bay residents during a fire safety demonstration.



Members of Riding for the Disabled discussing bushfire safety with the CFS Community Education Unit in Port Lincoln.

PROPERTY INSPECTIONS OF FIRE SAFE HOMES



Ken Holden pointing to an effective home sprinkler system.

The Festive Season started early for the members of the Howard Avenue Community Fire Safe Group in CFS Region Six when they met for “drinks and nibbles”.

The get together in November also involved two property inspections.

Ken Holden from Howard Avenue was one of the hosts who demonstrated to his neighbours the sprinkler system he has installed at his home.

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED TAP INTO FIRE SAFETY

The professional and dedicated volunteers for Riding for the Disabled in Port Lincoln were given a golden opportunity to practice their Bushfire Survival Plan recently when the Lincoln CFS arrived at their base unannounced with “lights and sirens”.

The group has been working closely with Community Education Officer Therese Pedler for a couple of years and this dress rehearsal allowed them to assess how their horses would react to all the audio and visual interruption from a fire truck.

The horses were all let loose, the volunteers moved calmly to their nominated place of shelter and when the CFS left they were pleased to note the signs on the gates that are used during the Fire Danger Season.

**WINNER**

This month's winning photo was taken by Kristin McEvoy of CFS during a training exercise using a diesel tray fire during a Cadet Activity Day at Brentwood.

CONGRATULATIONS!



The Burnside pumper providing back-up support at MFS HQ during the Wingfield fire incident in December. Photo: Kathryn Broadwood



A rare sight in Rundle Mall. The Happy Valley pumper assisting MFS by responding to call during a busy period when emergency services resources were focussed on flooding incidents north of Adelaide. Photo: Andrew Van Ek



Warooka Brigade supervisor, John Taheny instructs Brentwood cadet, Sebastian Murdoch on a hose drill during the Cadet Activity Day at Brentwood. Photo: Kristin McEvoy

TO ENTER

Simply send in your 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 where the photo was taken.

Post photos to: CFS Corporate Communications, 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:** corporatecomms@cfs.sa.gov.au

When emailing photos please do not reduce the size. Sometimes Microsoft Outlook asks if you want to keep the original size or send smaller.

If the file size is reduced, the quality can be compromised and therefore the photo may not be published in a large size.

The winner receives a \$50 gift voucher of their choice.

ALAN PFEIFFER

By: Keith Cowley
Captain Mudla Wirra CFS



Alan Pfeiffer (Former Lieutenant) of Mudla Wirra (CFS) sadly passed away on 19 November 2010 aged 70 years, after battling cancer for several years but remained positive in his outlook even though physically he could not keep up.

Alan was a very keen and active member of the Mudla Wirra Brigade for over 30 years.

Alan was also a dedicated training officer of the Brigade based in Roseworthy College with a number of his students who later moved to other parts of Australia after completing their studies, inheriting the benefits of his skills.

Alan also put up his hand for what many consider is a less than desirable job as a member of the State Occupational Health Safety and Welfare Committee. He also brought that enthusiasm to the Light Group and our Brigade.

Last year he was pleased to be able to walk up and receive his 30 year service medal.

When Mudla Wirra 24 arrived in front of his home to deliver a framed photo record of the event he was impressed.

Alan has left a legacy of standards which the Brigade will endeavour to maintain in his honour.

CASEY STOPETIE 29/5/56 – 14/7/10

By: Tristan Baldock
CFS Lower Eyre Peninsula Group



To anyone who met Casey Stopetie they stood in amazement at the sheer size of this big man. To anyone who new Casey, they marvelled at his even greater aura of life.

Casey joined the Country Fire Service in July 1999 at the White Flat Brigade, situated at the foot of the Tod Reservoir on the Lower Eyre Peninsula.

A regular attendee, Casey was an

integral member of the Brigade and the White Flat community. A jeweller by trade, Casey could turn his hand to most things and found himself pursuing another trade as a carpenter, which he was well known for.

In February 2002 Casey transferred his membership to the North Shields brigade where he held the position of Brigade Lieutenant and Communications Coordinator. Casey attended many significant fires both in the area and outside, including the Tulka fires of 2001 and the Sydney fires of 2002.

Casey's darkest hour was by far the devastating Black Tuesday fires which ravaged the Lower Eyre Peninsula on January 11, 2005. After crewing the North Shields appliance on the Monday night, Casey returned home to get some rest ready for his next shift. Casey awoke as the fire knocked at his back door and he found himself running for his life.

Casey lost his home and all his

ROSS CHARLES JOHNSON



Ross Johnson who was a long-serving member of the Bordertown CFS Brigade passed away aged 73, on 28 December, 2010.

The former 4th Lieutenant of the CFS was a well respected member of the Bordertown community who provided an exemplary service as volunteer.

Ross joined the CFS in 1973 and maintained an enthusiasm for his local Brigade for 33 years.

In 1995 he was awarded a National Service Medal and in 2007 was honoured for his service by the CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson by being awarded Life Membership of the CFS.

Ross' generosity and commitment to volunteer service often extended beyond local and regional communities by having taken part in CFS deployments to Victoria in 2003 and Kangaroo Island in 2006, as an Occupational Health and Safety Officer.

He will be sadly missed by his many CFS colleagues and workmates who benefitted from his mentoring and good wisdom over many years in Bordertown.

belongings that day and vowed to rebuild but during this period he suffered a significant back injury which prevented him from working. Despite this, Casey's determination and strong mindedness saw him successfully rebuild his home.

In 2007 Casey transferred back to White Flat brigade where he remained a member until his passing in July 2010.

Casey is survived by his wife Trudy, and daughters Elena, Hanna and Tammy.

He is sadly missed and will always be remembered by the members of the Lower Eyre CFS as the big man with a generous soul who would go out of his way to help others. Be at rest now.

CONTACT DETAILS

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STATE TRAINING CENTRE (BRUKUNGA)

6 Pyrites Rd, Brukunga SA 5252
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VOLUNTEER STRATEGY AND SUPPORT BRANCH VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

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REGION 5

South East
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REGION 6

Eyre Peninsula and West Coast
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 T: 08 8682 4266
 F: 08 8682 6569
 E: cfsr6@cfs.sa.gov.au

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