

VOLUNTEER

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADES ASSOCIATION

SAVFBA - Vol. 75 December 1996

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**Bushfire
assault on
the first
day of
summer!**

January forum
to address
concerns of
volunteers in
emergency
services



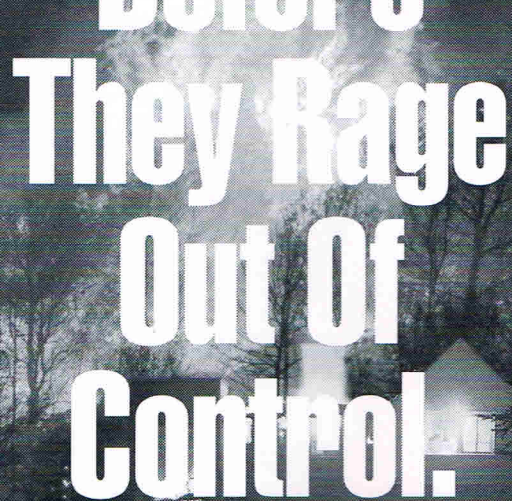
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COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

CFS volunteers dampen a hot spot near Truro on December 1. More than 50 fires raged around South Australia on the first day of summer.

Picture courtesy *The Advertiser*

VOLUNTEER

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADES ASSOCIATION

185 Fullarton Road Dulwich, SA 5065
 Telephone (08) 364 3832
 After Hrs. (08) 388 8396
 Facsimile (08) 364 3847
 President – Cam Stafford
 Vice-President – Russell Branson
 Executive – Bill Prideaux, Philip Parker and Tim Cooper
 Executive Officer – John Forster
 SAVFBA representatives on CFS Board – Brian Wilson and Laurie Collins

COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE

Headquarters
 20 Richmond Road
 P.O. Box 758 Marleston SA 5033
 Tel: (08) 204 3333 Fax: (08) 204 3410

CFS HOTLINE

Metropolitan Adelaide (08) 297 1000
 Country Areas (008) 188 100

REGIONAL OFFICES

Region 1 Mt. Lofty Ranges/Kangaroo Island
 6 Druids Avenue
 PO Box 197, Stirling SA 5152
 Tel: (08) 339 6700

Region 2 Mt. Lofty Ranges/Yorke Peninsula/Lower North

2/29 Adelaide Road
 PO Box 656, Gawler SA 5118
 Tel: (085) 226 088

Region 3 Murraylands and Riverland

6 Third Street
 PO Box 1371, Murray Bridge SA 5253
 Tel: (085) 326 800

Region 4 Mid North and Pastoral Areas

21 Victoria Parade (Highway 1)
 PO Box 2080, Port Augusta SA 5700
 Tel: (086) 422 399

Region 5 South East

Arthur Street
 PO Box 8, Naracoorte SA 5271
 Tel: (087) 622 311

Region 6 West Coast

25 Washington Street
 PO Box 555, Port Lincoln SA 5606
 Tel: (086) 824 266

Training

State Training Centre, Brunkunga (08) 388 6565
 South Coast Training Centre (085) 567 250

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4 President's Report: An unwavering commitment to serving our volunteers

Stuart Ellis appointed after an outstanding military career

5

6 Letters & Opinion: David Hunt applauds emergency services

Concern over fire bomber threat to ground crew safety

7

8 OH&S representatives have a key role in your well-being

Insights into why people volunteer to serve the community

9

10 Board News: Management of the Mount Lofty fire tower

Henny Dowsett a pioneer as first female brigade Captain

11

12 Try the three tiered approach to training – it works!

A-class foam can be an effective weapon in structural fires

13

14 Beware the danger of BLEVE in burning vehicles

Coping with 'logjams' and calling for some 'gellignite'

15

16 CFS experience gives you 'the edge' in employment prospects

An unswerving commitment to serving our volunteers

The SAVFBA is enshrined in legislation as the body to represent the interests of CFS volunteers.

These interests may be at the local level or on a Statewide basis.

Structures and systems are in place to ensure that the concerns of an individual member or brigade are properly addressed.

From time to time, volunteers become frustrated about delays in matters they want pursued. Unfortunately, they do not always understand that the SAVFBA also has to contend with problems out of its control.

This edition of Volunteer magazine features an article on "logjams and gelignite" (See Page 15) which identifies a number of issues of concern to our executive.

The article appears to provide some insight into the efforts of the SAVFBA to serve volunteers in the most effective manner, but sometimes with considerable frustration.

Pride in our achievements

Ofcourse, there are many achievements about which the SAVFBA can take great pride.

One is the tireless, but successful effort to ensure that volunteers are adequately covered for occupational health and safety along with satisfactory rehabilitation and compensation standards.

A representative of the SAVFBA will be on a working party with the CFS and WorkCover to establish performance indicators for occupational health and safety of volunteers.

Although it may be misunderstood in some brigades, the new occupational health and safety guidelines will result in positive outcomes for every volunteer, if only in peace of mind.

The SAVFBA is unswerving in its commitment to ensure that the welfare of volunteers is paramount.

This position is always clearly presented in our dealings with the CFS and the Emergency Services Minister, Mr Wayne Matthew, who has recognised that volunteers "do not easily fit into the normal worker category."

In our regular meetings with Mr Matthew, we have always found him to be most appreciative of the CFS and its volunteers.

Indeed, the Minister has agreed to officially open a forum for volunteers in emergency services in Adelaide on January 18 when a range of occupational health and safety and legal issues will be addressed. (See Page 6)

The forum will involve volunteers from a range of organisations including CFS, SES, St John, Red Cross and the Salvation Army. The outcome will be reported in detail in the next edition of Volunteer magazine.

Public profile

We have also discussed with the Minister the importance of elevating the public profile of the CFS and its volunteers.

With the Minister's encouragement, the SAVFBA is exploring a number of options that will create improved public appreciation and understanding of CFS volunteers.

Women in the CFS

Ofcourse, this process will also help to recruit new volunteers with a particular emphasis on attracting more women into the service. On that note, I would like to record my appreciation of Karen Fredin-Bladh for her efforts in serving the SAVFBA as its first female Vice-President.

It is also pleasing to hear that the CFS has appointed its first female captain and, on behalf of the SAVFBA, I congratulate Henny Dowsett of the Mount Compass Brigade.

Russell Branson of Cummins CFS has succeeded Karen Fredin-Bladh as SAVFBA Vice-President and I look forward to working with him.

Fire Season

While firefighting represents only a proportion of CFS volunteer activity, the new fire season will place a major focus on this aspect of our work.

It is very pleasing that volunteers around the State have made such a strong commitment to training so that they are adequately prepared for the potential dangers of the summer.

As many volunteers are aware, the CFS is also revising its Standards of Fire Cover and will develop a new document called the Standards of Fire and Emergency Cover. This will determine minimum standards for and capabilities of urban and rural brigades.

Farewell to David Hunt

On behalf of all CFS volunteers, I wish to acknowledge the outstanding service of the Commissioner of Police, Mr David Hunt, who will retire at the end of this year.

In a letter to CFS Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stuart Ellis (See Page 6), Mr Hunt noted that a "unique relationship exists between those involved in emergency services."

The SAVFBA certainly agrees and believes the cooperation between police and



Cam
Stafford

emergency service personnel in this State is in no small measure the result of Mr Hunt's leadership. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

Season's Greetings

As Christmas approaches, we are all looking forward to a period of celebration, reunion, goodwill and good cheer.

As volunteers, I believe that we extend goodwill and good service all year round and, again, this is something about which we can all be very proud.

However, at this special time of the year, I extend best wishes to all CFS personnel, volunteers and their families. I sincerely hope that you have a very happy Christmas and a safe and successful new year.

Cam Stafford

New Vice-President

Cummins CFS Captain Russell Branson is the new SAVFBA Vice-President.

Mr Branson, 47, succeeds Karen Fredin-Bladh as the deputy to State President, Cam Stafford.

A CFS volunteer for 31 years, Mr Branson served in Riverton, Cleve, Quorn and Peterborough before joining the Cummins brigade more than 10 years ago.

He has been Captain for the past nine years and has served the SAVFBA in a range of capacities including President, Vice-President and Administration Officer of the Association's Eyre Peninsula branch.

Mr Branson is proprietor of a hardware business in Cummins. His wife Bev and their sons Garry, 23, and Troy, 19, are also members of the local brigade.

"My priorities are to continue looking after the interests of volunteers particularly in regard to safety issues and working conditions," Mr Branson said.



Ellis appointed CEO after an outstanding military career

Mr Stuart Ellis, AM, is the new Chief Executive Officer of the Country Fire Service.

He succeeds Mr Alan Ferris, who retired prematurely earlier this year to care for his sick wife.

Until his appointment, Mr Ellis, 39, was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Australian Army. He achieved a distinguished 21 year military career, including an exchange posting with the British SAS for two years. He gained a Bachelor of Arts (Military Studies) at the University of New South Wales, a Graduate Diploma in Management Studies and a Graduate Diploma in Strategic Studies.

Mr Ellis was the Commanding Officer and Chief Instructor at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, where all Australian Army officers are trained in leadership,

management and command. In the 1995 Queen's Birthday Honours List, Mr Ellis was recognised as a Member of the Order of Australia for exceptional service to the Australian Army.

He is South Australian born and spent his formative years in Yankalilla.

In June 1996, he was placed on the Board of Inquiry for the Black Hawk helicopter investigation.

The Emergency Services Minister, Mr Matthew said: "Undoubtedly, Mr Ellis will bring a wealth of experience and management ability to his new position.

"His credentials and qualifications speak highly of his ability and dedication to his career.

"I am confident he will bring a fresh and innovative approach to the CFS"

CFS leader's bold new battle plan



Mr Stuart Ellis in Canberra yesterday... "search and rescue" plans.

By MATTHEW GENHOLM
in Canberra

The Country Fire Service in South Australia faces a bold new direction, chief, a former SAS commander.

Mr Stuart Ellis, 39, will become the youngest man to run the CFS and has a new battle plan for the 18,000 volunteers.

"A change of name may be appropriate," he told *The Advertiser*.

"People still see it as a country fire service but it does a lot of work around Adelaide.

"And 25 per cent of its time is spent on motor vehicle accidents, which can affect anyone.

"The CFS has been... already takes up about 5 per cent of its work.

He also wants to see greater rewards for volunteer firefighters, while shying away from the issue of salaries.

Mr Ellis is retiring from the army after a 21-year military career, including postings with the Australian SAS.

A Lieutenant Colonel in command of his command in Duntroon College in Duntroon.

He was born in Yankalilla.

He is currently a major in the army.

The Advertiser report of Stuart Ellis' appointment as new CEO

First impressions of new man at the helm

I am grateful for this opportunity to raise some issues in the final edition for 1996.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge Chris Dearman's role as acting Chief Executive Officer/Chief Officer. On behalf of you all, I thank Chris for his considerable efforts over recent months.

It is never easy "standing in" on a temporary basis and I know Chris and the staff have been very committed during this period.

First impressions

To date I have had little opportunity to see much of the CFS, but I have been impressed with the core values and commitment of CFS volunteers. I look forward to gaining a much broader and deeper understanding over the coming weeks and months.

The scope of CFS activities and the quality of the service provided is impressive and I am keen to ensure the people of South Australia continue to gain a clear impression of what CFS members do for them.

I am looking forward to meeting each of you and hearing your views on how the service is functioning.

A clear direction

I am keen that we all become familiar with key aspects of our Corporate Plan.

I suspect many see this as 'Bumph from

CFS HQ' or paper work unrelated to volunteers in emergency response, but I do not think this is the case.

I believe we can all relate to the dangers of fighting a fire without a clear strategy or plan and I place the CFS Strategic Plan in a similar view across the Service.

The plan outlines where we want to go and how we are going to get there. It will be ineffective if you are not aware of and involved in the broadest sense with its contents.

'Prior planning prevents poor performance'

I would not expect volunteers to be aware (or perhaps even interested) in the detail, but we should all know our Mission (what we do) and our Vision (where we want to go). I will endeavour to ensure this is clearly enunciated in the near future across the Service.

I encourage you all to become familiar with these matters and comment on them where applicable.

Preparation and planning

From monitoring Press articles over recent months, I know of the efforts volunteers make to promote community awareness regarding fire prevention and planning for an emergency. It is our duty to continue to

do this and I emphasise the priority we should place on prevention.

We need to ensure our own planning for any emergency response is constantly reviewed and practised. Prior planning prevents poor performance and that planning is reliant on practising drills and reviewing procedures.

We also need to be very aware of "lessons learnt". It is such a valuable way of learning, and although the community as a whole often appears reluctant to reflect on previous disasters, it is our duty to do so.

With the start of the fire season, I ask you all to reflect on how fires have started in recent years and how they were best suppressed. What went wrong and how can we improve?

As a young army officer, I was told very clearly: "You can make a mistake, but only make it once!"

Enthusiasm and dedication

In conclusion, I wish you and your families the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

It is up to us all to work with our communities to ensure a safe summer. I recognise all your efforts throughout the year and encourage you to maintain your enthusiasm and dedication.

Stuart Ellis

Forum to address concerns of volunteers in emergency services

Two workshops were conducted this year at the Australian Emergency Management Institute, Mount Macedon, to discuss issues of concern to volunteers in emergency service.

Three conclusions became apparent from these workshops:

- there is a remarkable level of agreement among emergency service volunteers about the principal issues;
- emergency service volunteers and their managers have some difficulty in identifying strategies to address the issues; and
- discussion about these issues should not exclude volunteers who may be involved in emergency situations.

Both workshops addressed threats to the volunteer ethic in Australia with organisations generally experiencing difficulty in attracting and retaining volunteers.

Workshop participants also expressed concern about:

- increasing community expectations;
- increasing levels of hazard; and
- the complexity of training.

There is also a growing focus on providing adequate protection for volunteers in an increasingly complex working environment. Concern has been expressed about the extent to which State and Territory legislation provides appropriate levels of indemnity or protection and compensation

for volunteers and their families.

Adequate training and resources to ensure the safety of volunteers in emergency service workers is also a key issue.

A major recommendation of the second workshop was "that State forums be considered as a means to facilitate further discussion on the issues and to generate a more comprehensive understanding of the needs of volunteers in emergency management."

As a result, a forum will be held in Adelaide in January for volunteers in emergency services to discuss issues of mutual concern.

The Emergency Services Minister has accepted an invitation to open the forum.

It will be held on Saturday January 18 at 9.30 am. at the South Australian Research and Development Institute Aquatic Sciences Centre, 2 Hamra Avenue, West Beach.

SAVFBA Executive Officer, John Forster, said the forum would also be attended by Mr Alan Hodges, Director General of Emergency Management Australia.

It is being sponsored by the SAVFBA, the SES Volunteers Association and St John.

Mr Forster said volunteers around the State were encouraged to attend this event.

For registration or further information, contact John Forster at the SAVFBA on (08) 8364 3832 or facsimile (08) 8364 3847.

Ferris: 'Sincere thanks'

To our many friends and my colleagues in the CFS, both volunteer and permanent staff, who attended Susan's funeral service and/or sent their condolences and support via cards, letters, flowers or telephone calls, please accept my heartfelt thank you on behalf of myself and my two daughters, Elizabeth and Katherine.

I trust that our paths cross again in happier times in the future.

Alan Ferris

Hunt: 'Mutual endeavour'

The following letter was sent to Mr Stuart Ellis, Chief Executive Officer, CFS.

As you are aware, I have announced my intention to retire as Commissioner of Police at the end of this year.

It is a position I have held with pride and enjoyed very much indeed, particularly as it has provided the privilege of extraordinary interaction with the wider community.

Many people have played a part in this, but I feel a unique relationship exists between those involved in the emergency services and I take this opportunity to thank you and your officers for the outstanding level of cooperation and support given to the South Australian police at all levels in areas of mutual endeavour.

I feel the community of South Australia is well served by all our emergency service personnel and I have no doubt this will continue to be so in the future.

D. A. Hunt, Commissioner of Police

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Concern over fire bomber threat to ground crew safety

The SAVFBA has expressed concern about possible danger to ground crews if Canadian fire bombing aircraft based in Adelaide are utilised during the fire season.

The manufacturer, Canadair, has based the CL-215 aircraft in Adelaide to help promote their capacity as a frontline firefighting weapon.

On Thursday, November 21, the two aircraft were involved in a demonstration of their fire bombing capabilities before an invited group of onlookers at South Para Reservoir.

Earlier in November, SAVFBA Executive Officer, Mr John Forster, wrote to CFS Acting CEO, Chris Dearman, in which he stated:

" Earlier this year, when the CL-415 aircraft was demonstrated in South Australia, we understood that the use of such aircraft in areas such as the Adelaide Hills, where there is a high concentration of ground fire fighting forces, requires a high degree of coordination between ground and air operations.

"We are concerned that the sudden announcement of the possible availability of these aircraft within one month of the start of the fire danger season in this area will create an urgent need to arrange adequate training for volunteer fire fighters and the crews of the aircraft in view of the possible danger to ground crews.

"It was also our understanding that the Australian Fire Authorities Council considered that the use of such aircraft was not warranted in Australia.

"Can you please advise the association of the CFS views on this matter."

Following is the response to the letter from Chris Dearman, Acting Chief Executive Officer, CFS

These aircraft are not part of our fire bombing contract for this fire danger season. However, they may be used in the event of a major wildfire in the Mt. Lofty Ranges (Minister's statement to Parliament and media release).

Although these aircraft have a larger payload than our existing contract aircraft, I



The CL-215 demonstrating its firebombing capacity

am advised the safety issues for all bombing aircraft are the same, i.e. within the bombing impact zone, broken tree limbs can fall onto firefighters.

To assist with advice to volunteers in the safe practices during aerial fire bombing, CFS has undertaken to distribute safety posters on fire bombing to each Brigade within the Mt. Lofty Ranges bombing response zone.

These AFAC produced posters should be available in early December and will be distributed via regional offices.

Aligned with this, CFS is developing a fire ground practice for firefighters within a fire bombing impact zone. I anticipate this will be available in mid-December.

The Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment will be releasing a safety video on fire bombing and, following evaluation, I will consider its possible release as well.

The AFAC position paper of 1994 on fire bombing does not discount water scooping aircraft, other than saying they are no more effective operationally than current modes of fire bombing and their cost effectiveness is less.

The Country Fire Service is committed to protecting its members from unacceptable risk to their health, safety and welfare.

For further information, telephone Country Fire Service O H & S Coordinator, Judy Arthur, on (08) 204 3333



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Remember CFS volunteers are entitled to a 25% discount on advertising.

OH&S representatives have a key role in your well-being

Occupational health and safety representatives have a very important role in assisting with the health and well-being of employees within organisations.

They act as the first point of contact for employers consulting on OH&S issues. Employees also must make their representatives aware of issues of concern.

A Health and Safety committee or work group allows joint consultation between management, representatives and other employees.

The OH&S Act gives representatives legislative rights and functions.

CFS volunteers have 10 elected OH&S representatives.

How work groups are formed is a matter of agreement between the employer and a group of employees, or their nominated facilitator.

In the case of the CFS, it was agreed between the SAVFBA and the CFS some time ago that the 10 SAVFBA Branches would form work groups. The representatives act on behalf of members, not the SAVFBA on OH&S issues.

Consequently, the CFS has 10 elected volunteer OH&S representatives who are elected at their VFBA Branch annual general meeting for a term of three years.

OH&S representatives are often confused with OH&S liaisons elected by brigades and Groups. Liaisons do not have legislative rights and functions. They do, however, provide a very important function in supporting officers in OH&S matters.

OH&S representatives do not have any legal liability for their actions or lack of actions in their role. However, if they are found guilty of using their powers or obtaining information for improper purpose, they may be fined up to \$5,000.

They are entitled to:

- inspect the workplace at any time after giving reasonable notice to the employer;
- inspect the workplace immediately if there is an accident or a dangerous occurrence or if there is imminent danger or risk to a member of their work group;
- during an inspection, discuss OH&S matters with any employee at the workplace and carry out investigations;
- be accompanied by an approved consultant in a workplace inspection;
- accompany an inspector from the Department for Industrial Affairs (DIA) during an inspection;

- investigate OH&S complaints in the work group and raise OH&S issues with the employer;
- have access to information about OH&S risks from work processes, plant and substances;
- have access to information about an individual's OH&S issues, with the individual's consent;
- if requested by employees, be present at interviews about OH&S between employers, employees and the DIA;
- be consulted about proposed changes to the workplace and legislative requirements which may affect employees' OH&S;
- be consulted about policies, procedures, work practices and any changes to them;
- issue a default notice to require action to be taken to resolve an OH&S problem;
- direct that work cease if there is an immediate threat to the OH&S of an employee of the work group, until adequate measures are taken to protect the employee; and
- be provided with facilities and assistance to perform the role effectively.

Because of the diverse nature of the CFS and the broad geographic location of brigades, it has not always been possible to use OH&S representatives as totally as the legislation intended.

However, they:

- represent their work group and raise OH&S issues through appropriate channels;
- participate on the Volunteer State OH&S Committee;
- form part of the consultative process and assist in the formation and review of policy, procedures and work practices;
- receive reports of accidents/near misses or notifiable injuries;
- participate in workplace inspections;
- receive complaints/concerns from volunteers;
- can issue default notices;
- can direct that work cease if there is an immediate threat to the health and safety of a member of their work group;
- can have access to approved training; and
- can have assistance from the SAVFBA and CFS.

The OH&S representatives and liaison



By Judy Arthur
Coordinator OH&S

personnel within brigades and groups play a very significant role in the CFS and this role will increase as more members understand their function.

To be effective, the representatives will need to have regular contact with members of their work group. To facilitate this contact, the SAVFBA and the Coordinator OH&S will be setting up a more definite consultative mechanism within the groups and brigades in each region in the near future.

The elected volunteer OH&S representatives are:

*Mike CANAVAN, Mt Lofty Ranges Branch
(085) 856 3035

Peter BELL, Kangaroo Island Branch
(0848) 22 619

Alan PFEIFFER, Lower North Branch
(085) 824 8152

Marie PRIDEAUX, Yorke Peninsula Branch
(08) 88521 171

Don PATTEN, Murraylands Branch
(085) 832 2248

John SEGNERI, Riverland and Districts Branch
(085) 841 2881

*David DALY, Pastoral Areas Branch
(086) 873 7116

*John MILLER, Mid-North Branch
(086) 842 0681

Graham KOCH, South-East Branch
(087) 854 2068

Trevor RODDA, Eyre Peninsula Branch
(086) 828 2541

* Denotes elected 1996.



Insights into why people volunteer for service to community

A National Survey of Voluntary Work conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in 1995 has found the number of people aged 15 years and over who participate in voluntary work in Australia is 2,639,500.

The highest participation rates were recorded in the age group 35 to 44 years and the lowest in the 15 to 24 years age group.

The highest number of hours worked was recorded in the 65 to 74 age group. Without this participation among older people, many community services would not be provided in our community.

The ABS survey also asked why people participate in voluntary work.

Responses varied from personal satisfaction (59.4 per cent), social contact (38.3 per cent), helping others/community (29.6 per cent) and doing something worthwhile (24.4 per cent).

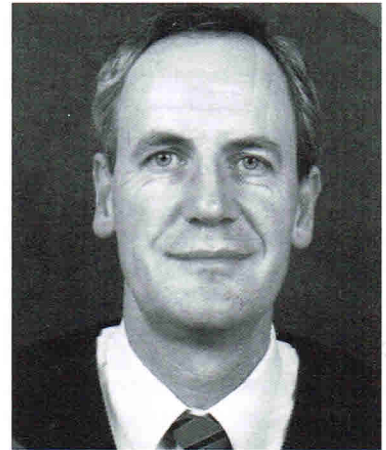
A review of the survey by Mr Adam Jamrozik (1) noted that the "data indicates the spirit of voluntarism in Australia is still strong, but there are also signs that this spirit might be evaporating in line with an ever increasing busy lifestyle."

At the same time I was reading the ABS survey, a strategic paper prepared by Paul McGill (2) of the New Zealand Fire Service arrived. Some of the findings from this paper entitled "Preparing for the Future" were:

- 1) The typical New Zealand volunteer firefighter is male, has a high school education, is employed in a practical occupation and gives long service to the brigade.
- 2) Membership numbers overall are still strong, but recruitment is becoming increasingly difficult with day staffing being the primary concern. Some of the reasons given for recruiting difficulties were:
 - small communities that simply do not have the population to draw on for recruits;
 - people unavailable for day staffing. It appears to be a growing problem in smaller communities where people travel daily out of their community for work. It is also a problem in the satellite dormitory suburbs of larger cities;
 - the reluctance of some brigades to recruit women;
 - employers reluctance to release staff;

- downturn in employment opportunities;
 - rural decline; and
 - training too involved.
- 3) Most volunteer firefighters appear to be motivated equally by:
 - altruistic reasons, namely the genuine desire to help others and give community service;
 - reasons whereby they receive a return for their work, namely a feeling of personal satisfaction, and opportunities for social interaction and learning.
 - 4) Volunteers find practical operational activities and social activities to be more satisfying than pro-active, planning and administrative activities.
 - 5) Most volunteers are coping well with the demands of the service but some (especially those at stations with more calls) do find the workload excessive and too time consuming.
 - 6) The overwhelming majority of volunteers are satisfied with their role as a fire service volunteer and virtually all enjoy a sense of pride and belonging.

I am sure the New Zealand findings will strike a cord with CFS volunteers and this is one reason why the CFS has a wide network of information on which to benchmark our service.



Daryl Regan

The CFS Board has requested a human resource plan to address the many issues being raised.

References

- (1) Jamrozik A, "Voluntary Work in the 1990's" *Australian Journal on Volunteering* Vol 1 No. 2, August 1996 pages 15-19.
- (2) McGill P, "The Volunteer Service – Preparing for the Future" *New Zealand Fire Service* 1996.

Daryl Regan
CFS Human Resources Services Officer



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Review of ownership and management of Mt Lofty fire tower

The Board endorsed staffing of the tower by local groups on a volunteer basis for the 1996-97 fire danger season and that the CFS and NP&WS review ownership and long term management of the tower.

Indemnification of members for legal liability

The Board resolved:

That it is the intention of the CFS that the respective liabilities of the CFS and members (voluntary workers) of the CFS be the same as they would be if the CFS were the employer and the member were the member and section 27c of the Wrongs Act applied. If a CFS member is sued for a

wrongful act which occurred in the course of performing his or her duties, that member would be indemnified by the Board in respect of any liability that might arise, and the Board would meet the costs of approved legal services. These provisions do not apply where legal action results from what a member has done, is alleged to have done while acting in private capacity (that is, not in the course of CFS duties) or where the act constituted serious and wilful misconduct by the member. The CFS will not indemnify the member when the member is entitled to be indemnified by some other person pursuant to a policy of insurance or contract of indemnity.

Southern Yorke Group

The Board approved the following recommendations:

1. That the Board supports the dissolution of the Southern Yorke Peninsula and Minlaton CFS Groups; and
2. That the Board registers the new Southern Yorke CFS Group.

Woolumbool CFS Brigade

The Board approved the change of name from East Woolumbool CFS Brigade to Woolumbool CFS Brigade and the necessary administrative changes to be implemented.

Guidelines on tax deductibility for CFS items

Where a volunteer makes a cash donation of \$2 or more to the CFS, a deduction is allowable under Section 78 of the Income Tax Assessment Act.

In order to attract deductibility, the donation must be made voluntarily and no advantage of a material character can be gained as a result of having made the donation.

The CFS uses the funds to purchase equipment and/or protective clothing and makes these items available for the volunteers to use in carrying out their duties.

An arrangement with the Australian Taxation Office allows volunteers to effectively claim purchases of equipment and protective clothing as tax deductible gifts under Section 78, subject to certain conditions.

Claims may be made for the following:

- official CFS uniform protective clothing and accessory items; and
- CFS approved communications equipment, including pagers, radios and listening sets.

Mobile telephones may not be claimed.

The conditions which must be satisfied for CFS volunteers to obtain deductions under Section 78 are as follows:

- the equipment is not at any time to be used for private purposes, or for non-CFS use;
- the donor has no rights as to how the equipment is to be used, nor can the donor purchase or acquire the equipment at a later date;
- the decision as to what equipment is purchased always and ultimately rests with the CFS.

- as ownership and control of the items remains with the CFS at all times, and the equipment must not be used for private purposes, no material benefit is considered to have been derived by the volunteer;
- the purchases must genuinely exist for the benefit of the CFS, and should not be seen as a scheme set up to allow volunteers to obtain tax deductions.

Where donations are made to a brigade under these arrangements, the brigade must issue a brigade receipt and staple to it a declaration (see below).

The receipt can then (if required) be used for the volunteer to substantiate the



Chris Dearman

deduction in his/her personal tax return for that financial year.

G. A. Dearman
Acting Chief Executive Officer

VOLUNTEER DONATION

I, a volunteer of the Country Fire Service (CFS) do hereby donate/have donated \$..... on the day of 19..... to the CFS and accept the following conditions for the provision of clothing/equipment as described below.

CONDITIONS

1. The equipment in question shall not at any time be used for private purposes or non CFS use;
2. I, the donor volunteer, can attach no conditions as to how the equipment will be used nor can I purchase or acquire the equipment at a later date; and
3. The decision as to what equipment is purchased always and ultimately rests with the CFS.

Signature of volunteer:

Dated / /19.....

A personal tax deduction is available for the above donation upon being signed as received by a duly authorised officer of the CFS. The deduction is available under Section 78 Sub-Section 1 (a)(ii) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936 (as amended).

Signature of Receiving CFS Officer:

Dated / /19.....



First female Captain says she loves working in the brigade

The new Captain of Mount Compass brigade, Henry Dowsett, jokingly claims her pioneering appointment acknowledges her as "the bossiest person in the team".

"They probably thought they should make it official," she said.

They are modest words from the woman who has become the first female Captain in the CFS.

A lieutenant for four years, Henny, 44, has served with the Mount Compass brigade for the past 13 years. She joined the CFS 16 years ago when her husband, David, a member of the McLaren Vale brigade, came home from callouts complaining there were not enough firefighters.

"I thought, I can do that," Henny recalls.

"I do not believe there is such a thing as men and women in the CFS – as far as I am concerned, we are all simply members.

"If you cannot do the job, you are not in the team, so there is no difference between men and women."

Henny said she had big shoes to step into – those of the previous captain of the Mount Compass brigade, Ray Gardiner, who has resigned due to work commitments.

"He is one of the best people I have had the pleasure of working with," she said.

"We always worked together wholly and solely as a team.

"My main aim as captain will be to ensure

that the brigade continues to work efficiently and as a team.

"We are a well equipped station which enjoys 100 per cent support of the community and it has a great relationship with the District Council of Port Elliot and Goolwa.

"The community spirit at Mount Compass is very strong.

"Most people are in the area to stay and we have never had problems recruiting people into the CFS.

"I have had many positive comments from the community in regard to my new position, including a very supportive letter from the local policemen.

"I was really tickled to be elected captain." Henny – who is called 'Mum' and her team 'Mum's boys' – has fought in a number of major incidents, including the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires, the New South Wales fires two years ago and a blaze which began in the Mount Compass area after a plane crash.

The Mount Compass Brigade comprises about 26 firefighters – who are aged between 18 and 50 years – plus a strong auxiliary of seven people and two cadets.

Henny works three days a week with special needs children at Strathalbyn Primary School.

She has three daughters, one who still lives at home and attends school.

Family Support Unit created

The CFS has established a Family Support Unit in recognition of the role that families play in the support structure for volunteers.

The unit is an extension of the CFS Stress Prevention and Management Program and is designed to offer psychological and practical assistance to families.

Coordinator Mrs Trudy Maddock said the objectives of the unit were to:

- provide practical support and assistance for families at the local level;
- identify the needs of CFS families;
- provide families with information about operational incidents and the safety of CFS volunteers;
- provide information to CFS families about local resources; and
- maintain confidentiality at all times.

"There is a clear recognition that family life and special events can be disrupted by call outs," Mrs Maddock said.

"Critical incidents affect whole families and they can often be left out of the decision making process.

"The objective is to ensure that CFS families receive information, education and support when necessary."

Members of the Family Support Unit are partners of CFS volunteers representing brigades, groups and regions.

Family support delegates

Region 1

Lorraine Hancox, Chris McComas

Region 2

Vicki Wheeldon, Marie Prideaux, Wendy Sullivan

Region 3

Helen Barnett

Region 4

Marj Spencer, Christine Longmire, Viv Hector

Region 6

Annette Hutt, Valmai Crosby, Terrill O'Doherty, Lynda Smith, Rosemary Pocock

The Family Support Unit has no current representation in Region 5. Delegates are being sought. For further information, contact Trudy Maddock at CFS headquarters on (08) 8204 3308.



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Try the three-tiered approach to training – it really works!

A problem facing CFS Brigade Training Officers is finding something on regular training nights that maintains people's interest and makes for beneficial training.

Well organised brigades may have a program outlined weeks ahead. Others may organise training when the members turn up. Then there are brigades that may train infrequently, and some where the training lacks a sense of purpose.

The fact remains that training in the knowledge and skills required to do the job is absolutely essential for all brigades. It does not matter whether the brigade responds to a vast range of incidents dozens of times a year, or only to a few rural fires. Firefighters need to know and perform the required skills, safely and efficiently.

That can only come about by training.

A systematic approach to training at brigade level adds value to the training undertaken. The three tiered approach can be adopted whether a brigade trains every week, monthly, or only through the fire danger period.

This approach to training is as follows:

1. Identify the necessary knowledge and skills to do the job of the brigade, then learn/practise them. ("SKILLS").
2. Drill the knowledge and skills by a combination of activities designed specifically for that brigade's needs. ("DRILLS").
3. Exercise the knowledge, skills and drills in a larger scale exercise within the capabilities of the brigade. ("THRILLS").

Let's look at the three tiered approach using rural firefighting as a case study.

1. Skills

Obviously, there are a range of skills and knowledge required by personnel when undertaking grass or bush firefighting. They can be listed from the Level 1 and 2 manuals and the Fire Ground Practice manual.

Some examples are featured above:



1. Pumps and Pumping

Knowledge

- The workings of the appliance's plumbing system

Pump's engine

Physics of draughting water

2. Rural Fire fighting

Knowledge

- Fire spread, flame characteristics
- A Class foam – application and effects on fire and the environment.

Skills

- Operate the valves to
 - draught water
 - deliver water through fire hoses.
- start/stop/maintain engine.
- couple suction hoses
- use priming pump.

Skills

- deliver water stream using variety of hoses and a variety of travel conditions.
- operate foam applicator at correct settings in knockdown, mop up.

Training Officers can easily make up their own lists and ensure by practise that members can perform each of the skills (backed up by knowledge) listed.

2. Drills

Once people know and can perform all the skills required as per the Training Officer's list, the next step is to drill them.

By drilling, I mean putting several skills together to form an obvious movement. Practise the movement until its right: quick and efficient. Let me use the examples in the 'skills' to illustrate what I mean.

Set up a drill for a team of say four firefighters to do the following movement:

Pumps and pumping

- Draught water from a creek or dam using suction lines.
- Run out the rubber side hoses.
- Pump operator energises the water to produce a fire stream.

Rotate the members and drill it again. Put in a time component if you wish. Obviously there are many variations open to this drill scenario.

Rural firefighting

- Operate the pump and foam applicator settings.
- Operate sidelines from a moving appliance applying water to a simulated fire line using lengths of rope/bunting etc. as the fire edge.

Once again, rotate crew members performing the same drill.

These and other drills will certainly occupy one or more training nights.

3. Thrills

When the Training Officer is confident that people know what they are doing in the relevant skills, organise an exercise.

Do this by exercising the fundamental skills and then combined drills into a single, large scale activity. In this case, a controlled burn could be the tool to use.

A controlled burn can be utilised to ensure that crew members draught water, operate side lines, both static and moving, apply water streams and operate the pump and foam applicator. The task of the burn off then becomes a tool of training. The end product is careful, systematic training.

Summary

The three tier principle can be used for any training field, whether it be structural firefighting training, road accident or hazmat response training. The principles remain the same:

1. Identify, learn and practise each skill that the job requires. These are your building blocks.
2. Combine a range of like skills into a series of drills where a team of people can be rotated to practise getting the drills right.
3. Only when crew members are confident in the fundamental skills, and have practised them by drilling, can the exercise of these aspects be put to the test in a large scale activity, giving meaning to 'thrill' training.

Try the three tier approach. It does work.

Tony Wege
Project Officer, Curriculum



'A' class foam can be an effective weapon on structural fire

From time to time, newsletters and journals of other fire services pass across my desk. It is interesting and very educational to read of events in organisations such as the Tasmanian Fire Service, Conservation and Land Management WA and the Country Fire Authority in Victoria

I would like to highlight a leading story in the September 1996 edition (No 83) of the CFA's publication, BRIGADE.

Headlined *A Class Result*, the report tells of a blaze at the Energy Brix coal brickette plant in Morwell and the use of significant quantities of 'A' class foam in what technically was a structure fire.

The CFS is moving rapidly along the path of 'A' class foam. Dozens of appliances are fitted with a foam delivery system. However, many volunteers may incorrectly perceive that 'A' class foam will only be used in wildfire.

If water is considered to be the prime medium of fire attack, 'A' class foam will enhance the combat efficiency of that water. This type of foam is an efficient wetting agent that reduces the surface tension of water, thus enabling much better penetration of the water into the fuel.

Additionally, by regulating the mix of aeration of the concentrate and water, the foam produced can be quite runny or sticky. Likewise, it can be aerated to produce an expansion type foam.

Depending on the job demanded of it and the delivery systems and branches of the appliance, a form of 'A' class foam can be "dialled up and delivered".

The Energy Brix incident offers another perspective to the use of 'A' class foam in structure type fires.

Briefly, the scenario went like this. In August this year a fire burnt in the coal of five major coal dryers in one of the three operational factories at the complex in Morwell. Coal dust spread the fire through several levels.

The local brigades, having had past experience, knew full well that a coal dust explosion was the major risk. Spraying large quantities of water around was, in the eyes of the firefighters, to "court disaster".

The strategy for the fire fight was determined as follows:

1. All attacking firefighters to wear BA.
2. Wash down the interior walls of the factory with 'A' class foam. This greatly reduced the chance of a dust explosion as a property of this foam is the

attraction of carbon particles to it. This tactic left the walls clean of dust.

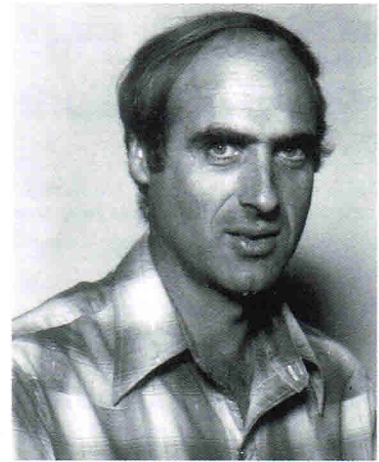
3. Assemble full resources, including 120 firefighters from 12 brigades and gather large stocks of 'A' class foam on site.
4. Fill the coal stacks using medium expansion 'A' class foam while at the same time treating burning material with 'A' class foam using normal applicators.
5. Release the hatches of the coal stacks and cover the released coal with "A" class foam to totally extinguish the fire.

The process from start to finish took 14 hours, but the actual fire attack lasted some two hours and 40 minutes. It consumed 660 litres of 'A' class foam.

The officer in charge, Gary Harker, said: "The use of 'A' class foam meant a far more efficient and economical medium was available to fight this fire.

"In the past, water and 'B' class foam have been used to fight similar coal fires, but 'B' class foam is not as an effective wetting agent as 'A' class foam." ('B' class foam is designed for application on 'B' class fires)

Although it is most unlikely that CFS personnel will fight a similar fire to the Morwell incident, it does highlight the fact that 'A' class foam is a very effective weapon on all 'A' class fires, whether wildfire or not.



Tony Wege

'A' class foam offers an improved and effective weapon when used in the manner for which it was designed.

Tony Wege
Project Officer, Training

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Beware the danger of BLEVE in burning vehicles

SAVFBA Executive Officer, John Forster, a member of a Hills brigade, recently experienced the danger of boiling liquid expanding vapour explosion, known as BLEVE.

Rounding a corner on his way home at 5pm, John came across an accident involving two vehicles with one – a station wagon – nose into a bank and burning from end to end.

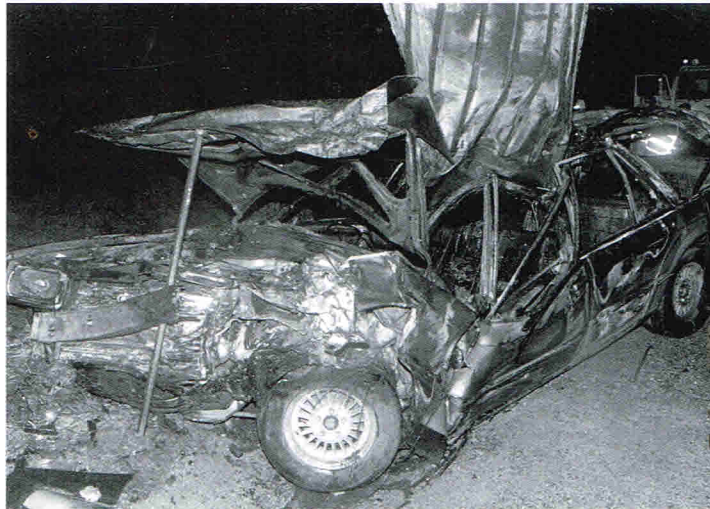
John was quickly warned that the burning vehicle was gas-powered.

Having established that nobody was injured and that emergency services were alerted, John was dramatically reminded of the danger of approaching a burning LPG-powered vehicle.

Suddenly there was a "fizzWHOOOMP" and a ball of flaming liquid and vapour ballooned 15 metres into the air.

"Fortunately, the gas tank had ruptured across the top and the force of the BLEVE blew open the roof vertically as if it had been three-quarter opened with a tin opener," John said.

"The time between the fizz of the relief valve operating and the BLEVE was a fraction of a second, so you don't get much warning!



The burnt-out vehicle

"This was a lesson to me to be very wary of approaching a vehicle that is on fire, as the heat can cause the LPG to boil, causing an instant expansion within the cylinder which is then pressurised beyond its designed strength.

"Another point worth noting is that I could not see either number plate and, without being warned, I could not have known that the car was powered by LPG."



The offending LPG container

Access benefits of 4WD Owners Card

CFS volunteers who own four wheel drive vehicles now have the opportunity to access the 4WD Owners Card at reduced rates.

Card holders simply present their membership at more than 2100 participating dealerships throughout Australia to receive discounts of between 10 per cent and 45 per cent and entitlement to many other privileges.

Dealer outlets include:

- Goodyear Auto Service Centres;
- McLeod Tyres;
- Repco Auto Parts;
- Flag Inns;
- Big 4 Holiday Parks;
- Ultra-Tune;
- Marshall Batteries;
- Novus Windscreen Repairs;
- TJM Products;
- Natrad Radiator Specialists;
- Mongoose Alarms;
- Midas Mufflers;
- Worldcare 4x4 Rescue; and
- Follow Me 4WD Tag-Along Tours.

CFS members can become card holders for \$49 instead of the normal entry fee of \$69.

For further information contact 4WD Owners Card Director, Mr Rodney Schipp on (07) 32199577.

Volunteer Magazine

Circulating to South Australia's 18,000 CFS volunteers.

Your articles and photographs will be considered for publication.

Contact SAVFBA Executive Officer John Forster



Coping with 'logjams' and calling for some 'gelignite'

From time to time, the SAVFBA finds some project or specific need is blocked rather like a log jam in a river.

In Canada and other countries where logs are floated down rivers and a log jam occurs, gelignite is used to clear the blockage.

In our case, for example, gelignite is needed for the following jams:

- For years the SAVFBA has been pushing for red, white and blue warning lights on CFS appliances. This combination of these colours is universally accepted as the best to provide maximum visible warning in all weather conditions. JAMMED!

- A maximum speed limit in the vicinity of an emergency on the road would provide better safety for emergency service workers. JAMMED!

- Since January this year, the CFS Board and the SAVFBA have expressed concern about the inspection and maintenance of fire hydrants in CFS areas of responsibility, and liability for those hydrants.

The then CFS Chief Executive Officer, Mr Alan Ferris, wrote to SA Water Corporation Chief Executive, Mr Ted Phipps, on January 10 and February 28



John Forster

seeking information on inspection, maintenance and liability issues. At the time of publication, there was still no official response from SA Water. Mr Ferris alerted the Emergency Services Minister, Mr Matthew, of the issue at a meeting on May 15. Mr Matthew has since asked the Minister for Infrastructure, Mr Olsen, to pursue the matter with his Department. STILL NO NEWS!

If you have any comments about log jams and gelignite, please send them to Executive Officer John Forster, SAVFBA, 185 Fullarton Road, Dulwich SA 5065

Lord Mayor's Bushfire Appeal

One hundred and eleven fortunate Australians will soon travel overseas on 1997 Churchill Fellowships.

You could follow in their footsteps in 1998 and find excitement and challenge as doors open to you in a way that other travellers never experience.

On your return, you will have acquired skills and knowledge necessary to add richness to our society.

Churchill Fellowships are available to all Australians from any walk of life who wish to go overseas to improve their skills or undertake an investigative study where the opportunities overseas are not fully available in Australia.

Churchill Fellowships last about three months and air fares, fees and a living allowance are paid. The average value of a Churchill Fellowship is about \$15,000.

Of particular interest to those working in the area of fire services will be the Lord Mayor's Bushfire Appeal Churchill Fellowship "to foster study into ways to combat and reduce the impact of bushfires."

This is a perpetual biennial fellowship established to give opportunity to those whose purpose is to defeat bushfires in whatever way.

Applications close on February 28, 1997. For an information booklet and application forms, send a stamped self-addressed envelope (approx. 24x12cm) to:

Application Forms
The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust
218 Northbourne Avenue
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CFS experience give you 'the edge' in employment

At this time of year, with the end of school and university, many of our younger members start seeking full time employment or plan further studies.

In our view, CFS volunteers have "the edge" over other job applicants or students.

Involvement in the CFS gives members many qualities that are sought after by potential employers. Regardless of the type of position they are offering, employers look for people who can work under pressure, are decisive, have self confidence, communicate effectively, work well in teams, interact positively with unknown people, show initiative and commitment. These are all skills that develop through involvement with the CFS.

Many are concerned about gaining the relevant experience for the job they want. However, it is likely that they already have it to some extent through the CFS or can access it within the service, even if its means going outside their "home" station.

For example, the Lofty Tower Unit was very successfully operated during the last bushfire season. Working the tower ensured the crews were decisive, remained calm under pressure, were confident in what they reported, communicated quickly and clearly, worked well in a team situation and remained diligent and committed to their task.

Every activity in the CFS, when explained and presented properly to potential employers, will prove that you have the personal qualities they seek.

Obituaries

Errol Newell

Errol came to Waitpinga after World War II and set about establishing a dairy farm out of the scrub.

He was always there when needed. It was men like Errol who established the Emergency Fire Service in our district. They raised the funds, bought the vehicles, built the appliances, established training routines, and put out the small fires before they became large fires.

Lionel James

Lionel lived and worked in the Waitpinga and Parawa districts for most of his life.

He was a practical man, but he did not lack vision.

This article was written by Nick Warwick, formerly of Burnside CFS and the State Promotions Unit. Nick is business integration and information technology consultant for Andersen Consulting based in Brisbane. He gained this position as a direct result of the work he performed for the CFS and SAVFBA through founding and constructing the CFS Promotions Unit. The unit was his final year design project for his electronic engineering degree at the University of South Australia.

Another volunteer, Simon Mazurek (also Burnside CFS), is now working as a design engineer for Gerard Industries, manufacturers of Clipsal products.

Simon designed and built the ERGUIDE State Map featured in the CFS Promotions



Nick Warwick

Unit. The map, also a final year electronic engineering design project at the University of SA, significantly assisted in gaining his employment.

Volunteers furthering their studies can also gain experience by merging their studies with their CFS involvement. By looking around the CFS, they will find an area that can be applied to their studies.

The prime example of this is the CFS Promotions Unit, which represented a final year engineering design project for two students.

Volunteers gained the practical experience they needed, with support from the CFS and SAVFBA, while at the same time the CFS and SAVFBA gained the Promotions Unit and displays. The students involved have since gained top employment positions as a result of their involvement with these projects.

So how do you give yourself "the edge" and make your personal career benefit from your involvement from the CFS?

Firstly, take the initiative and look around for something that particularly interests you.

Get involved. Find projects where you can apply your studies and seek out the support you need from the appropriate places (Group Officers/Regional or State HQ/SAVFBA).

Present your involvement in the CFS in a positive light to employers, highlighting what you have done, and how that will make you a good employee.

You have "the edge." Go and make the most of it.

Lionel was like many in our district who farmed through the 1950s and worked so hard to establish livelihoods, family and community.

He and others established the pattern of small quick attack vehicles housed throughout the district.

Lionel was a fire control officer and later the Senior FCO, a rank which is equivalent to Brigade Captain.

He served as a councillor with the Encounter Bay District Council, which later amalgamated with the Victor Harbor Corporation.

The massive shake up of the CFS in the 1980s saw the retirement of Lionel. This did not mean that he retired to obscurity. His

wisdom, vision and vast experience were invaluable to the younger volunteers who succeeded him.

Lionel is survived by a widow, two sons and grandchildren.



Pictured for posterity while publicising the CFS

The Promotions Unit has been at it again! If your Group or Region is presenting an event, there is a good chance that a few images will be recorded for prosperity, or more likely to adorn the pages of Volunteer magazine.

Let's start with the Light Group's Field Day. One of the activities was hide and seek. Here we see breathing apparatus being used to catch those hiding. **(Picture 1)**

Now you would have to feel sorry for the guy who parked in the wrong place. In this case, I think he would have preferred a

\$15.00 parking ticket! **(Picture 2)**

The Light Group day was successful with at least nine appliances attending. **(Picture 3)**

The Promotions Unit then had the Royal Adelaide Show to attend. Thanks to all who helped with this highly successful promotion. Featured are some of the crew from the last day at the Show. **(Picture 4)**

Arrossan was next on the list as it was host to the Region 2 Field day.

The many activities included posing for pictures. **(Picture 5)**

The latest promotions event was the Leisure Day in the Park.

Here we saw the MFS and CFS put on a "tin opener" display. **(Picture 6)**

This display was popular and had up to 1000 onlookers.

Remember, if you are in uniform, near an appliance or just wandering around, you too may be published in the Volunteer.

Greg Liddle, Photographer, CFS Promotions Unit





Region 1

Mt Lofty Ranges,
Fleurieu Peninsula and
Kangaroo Island

CFS crews were among those congratulated by the Minister for Emergency Services for their part in responding to a blaze which gutted the old News building on North Terrace, Adelaide.

Emergency Services Minister, Mr Wayne Matthews, said the way in which emergency services had responded, coordinated and undertaken the task of tackling the incident was a credit to themselves and the emergency service agencies they represent.

"All South Australians can be secure in the knowledge that they have one of the best trained, best resourced emergency service forces in all Australia, if not the world," he said.

In addressing Parliament on November 14, the day after the fire, he said: "I now take the opportunity to place on the record formally the Government's congratulations to those many officers who obviously worked hard through yesterday's incident and through the night and who are now taking a well deserved rest."

CFS crews from Belair, Blackwood, Eden Hills, Athelstone and Tea Tree Gully acted as back-up crews at suburban stations – with one crew attending a fire alarm at Thebarton – while Burnside CFS was called to assist the MFS directly at the scene.

In all, 40 CFS officers and firefighters were involved.

The MFS was alerted to the vacated News building fire at approximately 4.50 pm by a 000 call and, on arrival, found it well alight and threatening the adjoining Grosvenor Hotel. It was contained within 50 minutes, with crews maintaining a vigil at the site overnight to ensure it did not re-ignite.



Region 2

Lower North,
Adelaide Plains and
Yorke Peninsula

Minlaton

Minlaton and District and Southern Yorke Peninsula CFS groups have amalgamated. Elections for the combined Southern Yorke CFS group resulted in the following:

Group Officer

Rob Tonkin, Curramulka brigade

Deputy Group Officers

Greg Butler, Yorketown brigade

Damien McEvoy, Marion Bay brigade

Keith Nankivell, Brentwood brigade

Group Admin Officer

Steve Cornwell, Port Vincent brigade

Group Training Officer

Adrian Gutsche, Yorketown brigade

Group Comms Officer

Bill May, Yorketown brigade

Group Equip Officer

Ray Wain, Stansbury brigade

O.H.S. & W. Liaison

Marie Prideaux, Yorketown Brigade

The forming of this group will have no effect on the way brigades respond to local incidents. It will simplify procedures for responding to major incidents.

Steve Cornwell

Kadina

The Northern Yorke Peninsula Group Centre celebrated its first year of operation in August.

Since the centre was commissioned by the Emergency Services Minister, Mr Wayne Matthew, improvements have been carried out including landscaping, purchase of office equipment and automatic doors.

Kadina, Cunliffe and Paskeville units recently attended an air show at the Copper Triangle Airport to honour Sir Richard Williams, father of the RAAF.

The Governor, Sir Eric Neale and Lady Neale attended the air show and expressed their appreciation of the splendid job performed by the CFS.

Freeling

The Freeling CFS 50th Anniversary Ball was held in the Freeling Institute on October 26, with about 100 people attending the event. Guest of honour was Mr Vic Eckermann, one of the Freeling brigade's original members. Mr Eckermann presented a number of awards to members including Life Memberships to Mark Schuster, Dennis Handke, Ray Schulze and Neville Kernich.

Twenty-year service awards were also presented to Mark Schuster and Dennis Handke.

Ten-year service awards were presented to Bryon Schuster, Graeme Seymon, Neville Kernich, Geoff Meaney, and Roger Green.

The Freeling EFC was formed in February 1945, and the fire station first opened in October 1946. Freeling CFS has recently become the Light Group Base.



Region 4

Mid North and
Far North

Crystal Brook

Crystal Brook CFS attended three serious vehicle accidents in August.

On the August 1, a tanker transporting liquid oxygen overturned on Highway One six kilometres north of Crystal Brook. Damage to the tanker resulted in a major vapour leak.

As a result of the accident, one person died and another suffered injuries.

Hazmat brigades from Jamestown and Stirling North attended along with units from Warnertown, Gladstone, Narridy, Napperby, Redhill and Port Pirie MFS.

Region 4 Comms Brigade attended and set up communications for incident control. Highway One was closed for 20 hours, traffic was diverted through Crystal Brook onto the Gladstone to Port Pirie road.

On August 9, a single vehicle roll over occurred on the Crystal Brook to Gladstone road. One adult and four children were occupants in the station wagon. One person was flown to Adelaide in Rescue I.

While negotiating an escorted wide load, a prime mover drove into the rear of a utility



The tanker roll-over on Highway One



on August 29 seven kilometres south of Redhill. The driver of the utility died as a result of the collision.

Highway One was reduced to one lane of traffic for seven hours.

On a brighter note, Crystal Brook CFS has received a donation of \$1,040 from the Crystal Brook Apex Club. The donation was part of the proceeds from the annual Lions/Apex auction.

The funds will be used for purchasing training aids for the brigade.

Graham Gulin



Region 5

Upper and Lower
South East

Lucindale

Lucindale brigades were recently represented in a group training day hosted by Woolumbool Brigade.

The exercise helped crews sharpen their skills prior to the fire season.

All crews competed in an adrenalin-pumping finale to the day – a hose drill – prior to a barbecue which was appreciated by all.

In October, more than 40 volunteers from the Lucindale Group joined Kingston CFS and SES in a search of scrubland in Avenue Range for a missing person.

Ten minutes into the search – organised by the Major Crime Task Force and Lucindale police – the skeletal remains of the missing person were found.

Port MacDonnell

Chubb Fire and Angus Foam recently demonstrated fire fighting equipment and Class A foam.

It was a very worthwhile demonstration which attracted many CFS personnel and representatives of forestry companies in the region.

Bordertown

A local resident was lucky to escape fire which destroyed two rooms of his rented home.

The fire started after the resident decided to cook chips on the stove and fell asleep.

Units from Bordertown, Mundulla and Wolsely attended the fire, which caused about \$100,000 damage.

Meanwhile, shortly after becoming the HAZMAT brigade in the Tatiara group, Bordertown attended a hazardous substance incident near Willalooka.

A tanker containing hazardous material rolled over.

With support from Naracoorte, Willalooka and Padthaway brigades, the accident area was cleaned up without further incident.

Special recognition should go to Willalooka Captain Rex Hall for his leadership in this incident.



Region 6

Eyre Peninsula and
West Coast

Cummins

Cummins brigade used the local agricultural show in October as a forum to display the use of fire blankets.

Other activities included an exhibition of road accident rescue equipment.

Wudinna

The inaugural Region 6 Field Day at Wudinna in August attracted 120 personnel from the West Coast and Eyre Peninsula.

Eighteen appliances, four Group Command vehicles and six communications and logistics vehicles were involved in the exercises in the Wudinna area.

Exercises included water drafting from the historic Mount Wudinna tank, an alarm race, tyre change, structure fire, motor vehicle accident, HAZMAT spillage, LPG fire and first aid.

Appliance movements, resource requests and issue resolution were all managed by the incident management team at the Le Hunte Group Centre.

Following the event, Regional Commander Neil Ellis gave a short demonstration on Class 'A' foam before participants gathered for dinner.

The event highlighted the need for brigades to maintain basic map reading skills and the importance of providing a suitable situation report on arrival at all incidents.

Lower Eyre Peninsula Group Training Day

About fifty members staffed eight CFS units – seven from the LEP Group, comprising Mount Hope, Yeelanna, Kapinnie, Coult, White Flat, Wanilla and Karkoo – and Mount Wedge from the Elliston Council area for the annual training day in the Mount Hope area.

All CFS units and brigade members assembled at the Mount Hope oval at 0900 hours.

The group training sub-committee and the Mount Hope brigade planned and set up this year's exercises, which enabled different brigades, units and members to brush up on required skills and use of equipment.

Robert Maddern and Jann Chambers operated the incident command system in the Mount Hope Hall and all activities on the day were logged.

Two members from the communications brigade in Port Lincoln set up base radios outside the Mount Hope Hall and monitored messages sent to and from base.

Five exercises, each attended by two units, were set up in different locations around Mount Hope.

Each group of two units was given a grid reference and a sector channel on which to operate. On arrival at the incident, monitors explained the situation and what was expected from the brigades.

Exercise "Charlie" under the guidance of Robert Chambers turned out to be a dangerous substance incident which involved the spillage of a S7 (UN3016) chemical (Gramoxone), which can be fatal if inhaled, absorbed through skin or swallowed.

A DS brigade should be called to handle an incident of this nature. Protective clothing and breathing apparatus should be worn. On a small spillage, water spray should be used to disperse vapours and sand should be spread on the spillage.

Exercise "Delta" found Ray Sims supervising units drafting water out of a well. The units had to be reversed between fence posts laid on the ground to the well.

It was valuable in terms of learning how pumps have to be primed and operated to get water out of a well and into the unit's tanks. Some hose fittings were in need repairs.

Exercise "Golf" was a gas fire which showed that many members had little or no experience in handling this type of incident.

Under the guidance of monitors Greg Hurrell and Bill Stephens, units were shown how to set up the hoses to combat a gas fire.

Exercise "Sierra" was monitored by Peter Smart. It tested the four wheel drive capacity of units in sand dunes along the coast near Point Drummond.

Luckily all units survived this exercise, some more easily than others!

Exercise "Victor" again tested the reversing skills of drivers, and was conducted under the watchful eyes of Terry Vigar. Each unit then had to change a front tyre, and show how to remove the spare tyre from the unit. All lockers and equipment on the units was inspected and knapsacks had to be operated. Some were seized, but eventually worked.

Monitors came from the Coffin Bay, Port Lincoln, Mount Hope and Yeelanna brigades. Edillie took its unit to the exercise, but was not required. Coffin Bay also took its unit as support for the gas fire exercise.



Season's
Greetings

With the approach of the Festive Season
it is a pleasure for all of us at

CMI-HINO

To extend Season's Greetings and
Best Wishes for the New Year

569 South Road, Regency Park

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