

SOUTHERN EMBERS NO.13 – June 2017

TASMANIAN VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADES ASSOCIATION *"Representing volunteer fire-fighters throughout Tasmania"*

Welcome to the thirteenth edition of Southern Embers, we hope you have all had a safe and not too busy autumn and are ready for the winter ahead. The Southern Branch of the TVFBA has had a busy four months dealing with issues and concerns on behalf of volunteers at various levels over the fire season.

Upcoming Events

State Conference – Country Club Casino 15th July 2017

State-wide Exercise – 15th October 2017

St Florin's Day Service

On Thursday 4 May, firefighters and TFS personnel paused to mark International Firefighter's Day, also known as St Florian's Day. The day provided an opportunity for the community to honour the sacrifices that firefighters have made around the world. Fifteen Tasmanian firefighters who passed away on duty were also remembered at a service held in the Old Hobart Fire Station. Chris Arnol told the people gathered that "We should remember all firefighters who have lost their lives, including the 15 Tasmanian firefighters who died while on duty between 1859 and 1997".



(Photo: Warren Frey, Hobart Fire Brigade)

We would like to hear from you

The Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association is here to support you, we are volunteer firefighters just like you who are working to make sure that we collectively keep every volunteer firefighter safe in working to keep Tasmania safe.

If you have any ideas or stories about what's going on in your brigade or district please send your ideas via the association website at:

www.tvfba.org.au/contact-us/



First Aid Training - From Scott Vinen, Acting District Officer - Operational Training, Southern Region

As you may be aware Operational Training were requested to stop delivering the old first aid and advanced resus courses last year due to them being superseded by the new codes.

Operational Training have sourced a provider Australia First Aid, they can supply all material required for us to achieve the desired outcomes in relation to first aid and advanced resus while providing equivalent level 2 first aid certificates. The consultation process has taken place with Australia first aid and materials adapted to suit TFS, trainers have been identified state-wide and preliminary work to conduct training has commenced.

This option alleviates falling behind when future updates are required as this will be conducted by the provider. A pilot course has been conducted in the Southern Region and final adjustments are being made to enhance the course delivery, a second course is scheduled for end of May at Cambridge, further to this we have 8 First Aid and 5 Advanced Resus courses already in our training calendar for the Southern Region.

Once the training package is complete train the trainer courses will be conducted in both the North and North West and courses for participants rolled out after this. We are fully aware that suspending courses last year will cause a backlog this year, we will endeavour to provide as many courses as possible with resources available.

The new codes are:

- HLTAID 003 Provide First aid
- HLTAID 007 provide advanced resuscitation.

Speed Limits at Emergency Incidents

One of the biggest safety factors we are challenged with at a variety of emergency incidents is road users who fail to slow down and approach an emergency incident with due care and attention. In a situation where firefighters and ambulance officers are at a motor vehicle accident and working to extract or provide lifesaving first aid medical attention on a highway which may have a speed limit of up to 110kph, there is no onus on other road users to slow down as they approach the incident. There are many times where police, who provide traffic control, may not reach an incident until sometime after the first emergency response crew have arrived and as such there is a large exposure to the potential risk from vehicles travelling past an emergency incident at speed.

In South Australia the legislation has been amended to align the speed limit when traveling past an emergency incident, i.e. when emergency lights are activated and an appliance is parked on a road, to the same speed limit for road works. In Tasmania we currently have a 40kph speed limit for workers on and beside road ways. The TVFBA are currently advocating that this same level of safety should be extended to the thousands of volunteers who also work in, at times even more dangerous situations, within a much higher pressure context.

Please assist us in advocating change for the safety of every volunteer firefighter in keeping Tasmania safe and allow us to continue to provide the excellent emergency response that we do by educating the broader community and any politician that you run into.

For those interested, a copy of the letter which the TVFBA sent to every Local Council in Tasmania is available at the following link:

<https://tvfba.org.au/speed-limit-for-emergency-incidents/>



Fire Fighting Water Supplies in Bushfire-Prone Areas – New Identification Markers

Static Water Supplies

The location of static water supply connection points in new residential development will be identified via an approved sign. This requirement is not retrospective, however existing properties are encouraged to adopt this standard as part of their bushfire preparedness. These signs will aide firefighters to quickly identify static water supplies for firefighting, thereby improving firefighter safety and operational effectiveness. The sign will be located within 1 metre of the outlet, or remote off-take, of a static water supply dedicated for firefighting (minimum volume 10,000 litres). The approved sign is approximately 300mm x 300mm, coloured red with a white retroreflective logo.

Reticulated Water Supplies

Fire hydrants connected to a reticulated water supply are identified with yellow markings and blue cat's eye in accordance with Water Code requirements. There are many instances where fire hydrants connected to a reticulated water supply do not meet Water Code standards for pressure and volume (250 kPa and 10 L per second). Substandard pressure and flow can have implications for firefighting operations and firefighter safety. Fire hydrants that fail to meet Water Code requirements, but provide a minimum pressure and volume of 150 kPa and 5 L, will be provided with additional markings on the yellow fire hydrant indicator post or yellow fire hydrant lid. The fire hydrant marking is a 100mm x 100mm red retroreflective logo. These additional fire hydrant markings will better inform firefighters of the capacity of a fire hydrant prior to connecting to it. Fire hydrants with a pressure and volume less than 150 kPa and 5 L will not be identified by any markings.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.fire.tas.gov.au>Show?pageId=colBuildingForBushfire>

Manager, Strategic Projects and Engagement - Leon Smith (Alfy)

When asked whether I would be willing to write an article for the Volunteer Association Newsletter, then sitting down to do so, my mind automatically goes to trucks (the best in the world), pumps, CAFS (once again the best in the world) and all things fire and mechanical related, things that are in the forefront of my mind after 15+ years, proudly working within Engineering Services within the TFS. For those that are not aware, in November last year, I left the Fleet and Engineering Business unit which had been integrated into BES within DPFEM earlier in the year and commenced the position of, Manager, Strategic Projects and Engagement, back within the Tasmania Fire Service, working from SHQ, in the Office of the Chief Officer, reporting to the DCO.

After 15 years, it is fair to say that it was quite confronting for me personally, moving out of an environment that I knew intimately and had participated in building up with the wonderful Engineering Team of tradesmen with the support of the TFS. Now having 5 months in the new role, I am starting to find my feet and beginning to contribute to the provision of some good outcomes for our people and our organisation.

My new position is one of engagement, liaison and participation in strategic project management in the interest of the establishment of long term organisational capability and efficiency. I am enjoying the challenges of the role and am looking forward to building upon my already established relationships and to work with you to enhance the already exceptional work that you do.

Very proudly, we have recently completed a project to roll out Office 365 to all of our Volunteer Members, every member will now have an @v.fire.tas.gov.au email address as well as access to all of the Microsoft suite of apps for use on their private devices for home use. Speaking to both Associations, it is clearly evident that the rollout of this capability will enhance organisational communication which is a great benefit. I look forward to catching everyone around the traps at some point and maybe even talk trucks or CAFS, take care, Alfy





The NSW Rural Fire Service and Tasmania Fire Service fighting the Tasmanian fires in early 2016. Photo: Mick Reynolds, NSW RFS

What if an earthquake hit central Adelaide? A major flood on the Yarra River through Melbourne? A bushfire on the slopes of Mount Wellington over Hobart? ‘What if?’ scenario modelling by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC is helping government, planning authorities and emergency service agencies think through the costs and consequences of various options on preparing for major disasters on their infrastructure and natural environments and how these might change into the future.

The CRC research is based on the premise that to reduce both the risk and cost of natural disasters, we need an integrated approach that considers multiple hazards and a range of mitigation options. The Decision support system project, led by Prof Holger Maier at the University of Adelaide, is completing a case study for Adelaide, and commenced further case studies for Melbourne and the whole of Tasmania.

Taking into account future changes in demographics, land use, economics and climate, the modelling will be able to analyse areas of risk both now and into the future, test risk reduction options, identify mitigation portfolios that provide the best outcomes for a given budget, and consider single or multiple types of risk reduction options, such as land use planning, structural measures and community education. CRC partners, along with local governments, have been engaged in the entire process, from direction on the hazards to include and feedback on process, to advice on how the modelling will be used when complete and by whom.

The modelling for Adelaide will be completed in 2017 and incorporates flooding, coastal inundation, earthquake, bushfire and heatwave, as well as land-use allocation. Melbourne and Tasmania will follow next, incorporating bushfire, flood, coastal inundation and earthquake risk in Melbourne, and bushfire, coastal inundation and earthquake risk for Tasmania.

This is the only approach that compares different natural hazards and their mitigation options, while also taking into account long term planning. The ultimate aim is to develop a decision support framework and software system that is sufficiently flexible to be applied to large and small cities around Australia, helping planners from local councils through to state treasury departments answer the vital question on mitigation options that balance cost and impact: ‘what is the best we can be doing?’

To find out more visit: <http://www.bnhcrc.com.au/research/policy-economics-hazards/230>



Message from Regional Chief South – Jeremy Smith

The 16/17 fire season was relatively quiet, however there were a number of fires that did have the potential to impact on communities, assets as well as taking a long time to control. Quick responses by crews and weight of attack continue to be our focus in reducing potential fire spread and subsequent damage.

Several staff movements have occurred within the District Officer positions in the Southern Region. These movements include Stuart Males to South West, Rod Sherrin to Hobart District, Mark Klop to East Coast and Neil Brooksbank to State Operations. I am hoping to finalise the Midlands and Hobart Fire Brigade District Officer positions as soon as possible.

Paul Salter and Greg Butters have been promoted to Deputy Regional Chief roles in Southern Region and Operational Training Statewide respectively.

The fuel reduction program continues to reduce fuel loads across the state. This financial year 22 fuel reduction burns were undertaken across the southern region with approximately 1540 hectares fuel reduced.

Thank you to all volunteer brigades that assisted with the FRU burning and the patrolling to ensure fires are kept within the identified boundaries.

Dates for district pre-season briefings will be identified in August and communicated to brigades as early as possible.

Stay safe

Regards

Jeremy Smith
REGIONAL CHIEF SOUTH

Don't Forget: With winter ahead of us a useful one for all incidents: RECEO.

Rescue, Exposure, Containment, Extinguish, Overhaul

If you have anything you wish to hear more about or have any issues where your local volunteer rep may be able to help, please contact the southern branch via email at southernbranchpresident@tvfba.org.au

