



SESVA

from the Presidents desk...

Gordon Hall
SES Volunteers Association



June 2017

Overview

The SES Volunteers Association is very active and after a short break the newsletter is back and will be compiled on a monthly basis.

The purpose of the newsletter is to update the SES Volunteers and others on a wide range of matters in the SES and associated environments.

AIDR Scholarships

The AGD has allocated \$1M nationally for scholarships in the emergency management field. Volunteers from any emergency service agency are eligible to apply for these grants, with the application closing date being 25 August 2017.

All training must be accredited training such as vocational by TAFE or RTOs or higher courses such as degrees.

The applications will be judged by a panel.

There is a tight timeframe with results to be completed by August 2019.

NOTE: Money is only payable for approved applicants on successful completion of the course. For more information email enquiries@aidr.org.au or go to www.aidr.org.au

WAFES Conference

The annual conference will commence on Friday night September 8 and conclude at 1pm on the Sunday. There is a wide range of speakers including the Director General of EMA, the Coroner's Office and Robyn Moore, a voice-over artist and sought after speaker.

Registrations are now open and will close on 3 July. There is an allocation of two persons per unit, the Local manager and one other – preferably someone who hasn't been before. The SESVA will compile a "wait List" for other interested Volunteers.

The SESVA will have their AGM on the Sunday morning, followed by an open forum for SES Volunteers.

The conference official opening will include the Commissioner's farewell as he will be retiring soon after.

Units need to be aware that the parking at the conference location has height restrictions and does not accept large vehicles or personnel carriers.

AVL Issues

The AVL project is rolling out and is already proving effective during operations.

All vehicles that do not have a battery isolator or trickle charger become disabled after 7 – 10 days due to the current drain of the AVL. This has caused a number of flat batteries to utes, ATUs, and buses.

We advised DFES of this issue more than five weeks ago. We have discussed the matter again with DFES and the project team have advised the installers to wire the AVL unit main power to the vehicle ignition switch. DFES advise that these new instructions will be applied to new AVL installations and retrospectively applied to existing installations.

If you are having issues please send the Association an email (Please email sesva.secretary@gmail.com) and we will escalate the matter.

Operational Efficiency payments

The VFRS and FES Units receive annual payments for meeting certain criteria within their brigades during the year. The SESVA wrote and presented a paper to the Commissioner on this matter four years ago. The Commissioner has been very supportive of this initiative and the final proposal has now been presented to the Corporate Leadership team for their action

It is hoped that we will hear some news on this before the end of June.

HBF Corporate Rates

Over the past few years the SESVA has been assessing different benefits for SES Volunteers. The SES Volunteers Association has signed an agreement with HBF Health for corporate rates for SES Registered Volunteers.

SES Volunteers in WA can now get up to 12% off HBF Health insurance.

This takes effect immediately and is active whilst the SES Volunteer remains a part of an SES Unit.

For further details, including discounts on other insurances, please go to the link below <https://www.hbf.com.au/CorporateHealth/sesva>



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SES Units that have a number of SES Volunteers interested, can contact Mandy Weir at HBF direct for further details on 9265 8638.

NDRC Update

The NDRC training squad has now been formed and all eight Volunteers have commenced training. There is a reserve pool of eight SES Volunteers who will also join into the training. This is a composite team with team members from a number of SES Units in the metropolitan area. The Team Manager is Phillip Petersen (Gosnells) and the Coach is James Hines (Northshore). SES Volunteers from Country North and South will be selected for the next NDRC (2019).

WOW Day

The 2017 WOW day was very successful with a number of radio interviews in the regional areas as well as a number of SES Volunteer gatherings. 250 SES Volunteers gathered at the Belmont SES Unit for a networking session, meet the Minister, Commissioner and other staff. All those attending enjoyed a great night.

Local Managers Development Workshop

One of the issues that is continually brought to this Association is the lack of training and support for most local managers. Part of this is a result of certain DFES staff not having knowledge of or an understanding of the FES act and in particular Part 3A and how it applies to the SES.

This Association is developing a workshop that can be conducted over a weekend to give the local managers attending, information that will assist them to carry out their role as well as a number of management tools.

We have a team of very experienced Volunteers who will assist in this.

We need feedback from SES Local Managers as to their interest and if they would participate. Please email sesva.secretary@gmail.com if you are interested or have any comments.

Training

There is still a lot of information about training that comes to us which is inconsistent with what we are being advised by DFES. Below are two examples.

Trainer/Assessors do not lose their qualifications for a course if they don't deliver the course within a twelve month period. In most cases courses need to be delivered within a 3 year period.

If a Unit has a need for a particular optional course to be completed and the optional course fits the unit profile, if the Unit Manager agrees, then the unit needs to apply to the DO who will seek the Superintendent's approval. If approved the course can be attended whether the pathway is completed or not.

Local Managers and Training Managers are welcome to email their questions or concerns to sesva.secretary@gmail.com

Internet in the Country

Many of the issues we receive from SES Volunteers are about the connectivity, speed and data allowances of the internet. This is resulting in them not being able to access the eAcademy and the portal in a manner that DFES expects them to.

We need feedback from local managers on this matter so we can present the issue to DFES.

Please email sesva.secretary@gmail.com

Request for SES Assistance

We are hearing reports on a number of changes to the community requesting SES assistance through the 132500 number, where Comcen is making the decision on what an SES unit will or will not do. We need to hear of more examples any SES Volunteers know of, so we can take the matters up with DFES.

Please email sesva.secretary@gmail.com

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