



February 2018

Overview

The annual Christmas reduced activity period for the SES has come to a close and the SES Units have returned back to their normal mode of operation.

This year should be very interesting with a number of new opportunities and challenges.

Below I have outlined some matters and updated on others, in particular the training.

Bunnings Barbecue 2018

The Bunnings annual Emergency Services BBQ was conducted on 20 January 2018. The thirty second TV commercial starring three emergency service Volunteers, SES, VFRS and BFS, was seen by many people and the comments received by us were very positive.

Over \$75,000 was raised in Western Australia and over \$530,000 raised nationally for the emergency response services. That is a fantastic result!

When the SESVA receive the monies from Bunnings, the relevant amounts will be transferred to the participating SES Unit bank accounts.

Every cent received from Bunnings goes to the participating SES Units.

The SESVA committee puts a lot of effort to ensure this fund raising is successful for the SES units.



AIDR Scholarships

These are rolling again this year and in WA, DFES are supporting these.

This includes the Volunteer Leadership Program (AIDR) which DFES have now agreed to recognise and manage for WA – previously the SESVA managed these.

Please direct all enquiries or requests for further information or assistance to your regional office.

The SES National Raffle

The SESVA raffle commenced in WA on 8 January. Further information can be found via a menu tab on the SESVA website. www.ses-wa.asn.au

All profits will be used to benefit the WA SES Volunteers.

Scouts

As part of the scouting movement, scouts can learn about and gain experience in a number of areas. As part of their achievements they receive badges for those particular areas.

An SES Volunteer (Belmont SES) came up with the idea of scouts learning about SES, what they do and to learn some of their skills. As a result of this the scouts who complete the assigned tasks can receive a scouts SES badge - as below.

This has now been endorsed by the FES Commissioner as well as the Chief Commissioner of Scouts WA. There will be an official launch sometime in the near future



Volunteer Fuel Card

There are still 10 SES Units that have not applied for their Volunteer Fuel Card and the cut off time is closing very quickly. If your unit has not applied please encourage them to do so. It is \$1000 of fuel for very little work!

Operational Debriefs

This Association is a great believer that formal debriefs for all operations that involve more than one SES unit or agency, whether it is our HMA role, combat role or a support role must be conducted between two and four weeks after the operation. Hot debriefs are still relevant but to assist in continual process improvement we need to have the post debriefs 2-4 weeks after the operation.

This has been posted on the DFES P2P portal and SES Volunteers are welcome to go online and support this.



SESVA

from the Presidents desk...

Gordon Hall
SES Volunteers Association



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Future SES Structure

As has been mentioned in past newsletters and emails to SES Units, the Association has been advocating for a Chief Officer for the SES, who would come from an SES background. A person from the SES would then have the empathy and understanding of the culture and requirements of the SES to deliver their service to the community. If this happens the training issues, support issues and others would be easily solvable.

We are told that the FRS staff can only report to an FRS trained person. The opposite should apply where the SES staff should also only report to an SES trained person.

The Association is involved in an Alliance that is promoting this for bushfire and SES. SES Volunteers have started the conversation and this needs to keep going so the law makers know how you feel.

Training Matters

The SESVA have been very busy working with DFES as the training issues reduce in some areas and increase in others. The staff assigned to this are listening and working with us where the gaps exist. Please keep you emails going to the Secretary on the issues. Further to this we find that there is often inconsistency in the message between the regions and, along with many courses cancelled last year, has made it difficult for units to meet their unit profile's TNA.

Training Pre-Requisites

The matter of training pre-requisites is on the agenda and currently being discussed with DFES. These need to be looked at again as in many cases they should be a co-requisite, not pre-requisite, for different pathways. Some of these are the major reasons that courses are being cancelled.

Induction Training

This matter has been bought up by DFES and the Association has discussed at length the need for the essentials to be part of this and anything else will come later. This is still being negotiated.

Trainer Assessor (TA) Currency

A number of Volunteers have advise the SESVA that their TA qualifications have been taken away. The Association met with DFES on this matter and outlined below is what the regions have been advised, through their Chief Superintendents.

TAs who had not delivered a specific training course for a period of 2 years were highlighted as being at risk of losing their currency.

Each of the regions was provided (through the Chief Superintendents) a report of who these TAs were with the instructions to:

- Review the spreadsheets provided to determine which TAs are still actively involved in training. The spreadsheets indicated those TAs who had currency issues and required attention (highlighted).
- Indicate on the spreadsheet which TAs they still require to deliver courses and what action will be taken to ensure they maintain their currency. Please note: scheduling these TAs to deliver training when planning for the 2018 training calendar is sufficient.
- Also Indicate those TAs who are no longer required i.e. TAs who are consistently not available when offered training delivery.

As part of this process, the intent was for the regions to work with the TAs who were at risk of losing currency to schedule them on a course in the upcoming 12 months to maintain their currency.

This will be an annual process.

Clearly TA quals cannot be taken off a trainer without further discussion and an opportunity to deliver within the above time frames.

Please feel free to call and discuss this matter with SESVA Secretary Lin Booth.

Cheers

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