

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The month of October saw a very busy Association Committee dealing with many SES issues.

The time put in by Committee members is quite high, however they do this for the betterment of the SES Volunteers and the role they carry out.

The Association is working with DFES on the replacement of the Toyota Personnel Carrier.

This requires assessment of the equipment carried for the response on the many roles that SES Volunteers are involved in, as well as consideration for a crew of 4/5 to be transported to the jobs.

SES Volunteers from the North, South and Metropolitan area recently participated in a seven-hour workshop detailing the requirements necessary for a replacement of the Personnel Carrier, to carry out their roles in the urban, rural and remote areas. The work being done will not only cover the current replacements, but also provide the basis for the next 20 – 30 years

As many know DFES is having issues with provision of the SES dress uniform (khaki) and have been looking at other options.

The Association has been working with DFES on this matter and it is expected that DFES will have a survey in November, going to SES Volunteers asking for their input and comments, for a future replacement of the dress uniform.

If you require further information on this, please speak to your regional office or your SESVA representative.

The Association is still receiving feedback from SES Volunteers about their issues and the lack of attention to these.

In May, the Association did a pitch to the FES Commissioner about a requirement for an SES Chief Officer. This only required a minor change, whereby the SES would have a management structure similar to the other seven states and territories.

In WA, this would be an Executive Director with three Directors, covering the Metropolitan area and the North and South of the state. The SES District Officers and training persons would then report to these Directors. This would not only resolve many of the issues we currently receive quickly, but also provide an effective operational structure serving the communities.

Gordon Hall ESM
President

FROM YOUR TEAM AT THE SESVA

SES BUILDINGS

We recently asked DFES what is the current building program for SES Units.

The answer is:

The building program for SES Units is application driven through the Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGGS).

Local Governments apply on behalf of SES Units for new facilities, facility modifications and refurbishments, as well as replacement of larger equipment items.

Examples of recent new facilities for SES Units funded through the LGGGS include Bunbury, Wanneroo, Mandurah and Kalgoorlie, with Geraldton and Harvey approved for funding.

In the 2018/19 LGGGS capital funding round, \$3.075m was approved for SES new facilities, modifications/extensions and refurbishments.

DFES Operations Regional Superintendents are in regular contact with Local Governments to encourage submission of applications for funding for these replacement or upgraded facilities.

HARDSHIP SCHEME

The WA Emergency Services Volunteers' Hardship Assistance Scheme was launched in October 2015.

Its purpose is to provide emergency services volunteers, including those from SES units, with financial assistance during times of hardship.

The Scheme is managed by a representative from all the volunteer associations within DFES, including the SESVA.

More information about the scheme, including an explanation of what 'hardship' means can be found here:

<https://waesvhas.org.au/eligibility/>.

Up to \$5,000 of assistance can be provided to an eligible volunteer to meet certain expenses.

A decision can usually be provided by the HAS to an application within 3-4 weeks.

If you have any queries about the scheme,

contact your local manager or

the SESVA representative on the HAS, David Worth

sesva.vicepresidentworth@ses-wa.asn.au.

SES VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES

This is your opportunity to talk to us about your experiences as a volunteer for the State Emergency Services.

The Strategic Volunteer and Youth Programs Team is working closely with researchers from the University of Western Australia to conduct a study of SES volunteer experiences, expectations and motivations.

This research is supported by the SES Volunteers Association of WA, and we ask that you do complete the survey.

You could be a winner!

The UWA Researchers will be randomly selecting four survey participants and awarding them a \$100 gift voucher each.

SES UNIT BONUS

The SES Unit with the most survey participants will receive a \$500 Bunnings voucher.

The SES Unit with the second highest number of survey participants will receive a \$250 Bunnings voucher.

if you would like further information about this project then please contact, Darja Kragt - UWA Researcher.

Email: sesresearch@uwa.edu.au

Phone: 0458 497 746

TRAINING MATTERS

DFES have agreed to the development of a leadership course specific to SES at the Team Leader level, as there is currently a gap in this area since the removal of the SES Generic Leadership Course.

The Academy will be reviewing the current leadership courses such as Leadership Fundamentals, Sector Commander and Crew Leader and incorporating some of the content of these courses into the SES course for consistency.

However, the intent is to utilise some of the practical activities and assessments from the previous SES Generic Leadership course as these were more tactical and relevant to the SES Team Leader role.

SES WORK DRESS UNIFORM SURVEY

The survey of SES volunteers is a chance for ideas to be shared with DFES about the SES work dress uniform for today and tomorrow; to help decide what a replacement uniform will look and feel like.

The work dress is an additional uniform worn by SES volunteers for Unit activities and DFES events when the SES Orange PPC is not required to be worn. It can also be worn as a deployment uniform when travelling to an out-of-area incident or when PPC is considered inappropriate while performing representative duties, such as meetings, official functions and on ceremonial occasions.

The SES in WA moved away from the traditional Civil Defence blue and orange colours in the 1980s and 90's when SES was a division of WA Police. Police officers in WA's north also wore khaki at the time so this meant that supply and costs savings were able to be optimised.

However, there are now unacceptably long delays in filling orders for khaki uniforms along with supply assurance issues associated with the khaki colour. The preferred solution is a uniform colour change.

The survey, which includes a question about colour preferences, will be sent to SES volunteers before the end of October. A link to the on-line survey will be emailed to SES volunteers who have their email address registered with DFES, while hard copies will be sent to SES units and regional offices for return by post, fax or scanned to email.

You can email your ideas, suggestions or questions to ses@dfes.wa.gov.au or call Allen Gale 9395 9481 during office hours.

HOW TO KEEP INFORMED

Don't forget we have a website which keeps you informed of what is happening across the state in SES land.

We also have "the App".

And also, if you would like our newsletters, other relevant information etc forwarded direct to your email, just contact the SESVA office (sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au), and advise your details.