



A Rescue to Remember: Thanking Our First Responders

A single misstep can change everything. For one tourist exploring Karijini National Park, it led to a 12-metre fall into a rocky gorge—leaving him unconscious, face down in the water, and suffering a fractured spine.

The rescue was captured on camera and, on 10 June, **Thank a First Responder Day**, the Parks and Wildlife Services shared a moving video which highlighted the incredible teamwork between the Park Rangers, St John WA, and **Tom Price SES** volunteers in a remote and challenging environment.

The injured tourist, US Police Officer Antonio Fanning, had been hiking when he fell into the rocky pool below. Fortunately, nearby hikers quickly stepped in to provide first aid and raise the alarm. What followed was a highly coordinated, five-hour operation, as emergency services worked together to stabilise and safely extract him from the gorge.

Since his recovery, Officer Fanning and his community in Auburn, Alabama, have shared their heartfelt thanks to the first responders involved—highlighting the global impact of the work our volunteers and partner agencies do.

See how this dramatic rescue unfolded in Joffre Gorge:
[60m Cliff Rescue at Karijini National Park, Western Australia](#)



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Hello to you

I'm taking some time this month to look at important information in our sector and how it may affect us now and in the future.

DFES appoints a new Deputy Commissioner Operations

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) welcomes Jon Broomhall AFSM as Deputy Commissioner Operations, commencing 3 August 2026.

Jon Broomhall brings more than 30 years of experience to the role. This includes nearly a lifetime of dedicated service in WA Surf lifesaving and an understanding of the volunteers' work ethic. We warmly welcome Jon and look forward to creating many positive outcomes for the State Emergency Service Volunteers.

National Test for AusAlert

AusAlert will be ready to use in October 2026, but before it launches, the system needs to be tested across Australia. In a disaster, an AusAlert will tell you the type of emergency, where it's located, how serious it is and what to do.

On Monday, 27 July 2026, a test alert will be sent to all mobile devices in Australia. This includes most smart-phones, smartwatches, and tablets. The test alert will be sent at the same time across Australia, at 12:00 pm (AWST) in Western Australia.

H5 Bird Flu

Australia's first detection of H5N1 Avian Influenza (H5 Bird Flu) was confirmed on Saturday, 20 June in a migratory bird in the Cape Le Grand area, east of Esperance. A second bird found in the area has also tested positive for Bird Flu, with another suspected detection and a confirmed case in South Australia on 24 June.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is the Hazard Management Agency leading the State Bird Flu response, in collaboration with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and the Department of Health, with national coordination led by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).



Key messages from DPRID and DAFF for the community:

- Avoid contact with sick or dead birds or wildlife
- Record what you see
- Report it to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

For more information on H5 Bird Flu, visit: [Avian Influenza](#).

Upcoming changes to Fire Weather District boundaries

The SES is advised that updated Fire Weather District (FWD) boundaries are expected to be introduced in mid-August 2026 as part of the ongoing refinement of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS).

These changes incorporate improved scientific analysis, local knowledge, and stakeholder feedback. The updated districts are intended to improve how fire weather information and fire danger ratings are communicated. View the changes here: <https://arcg.is/15C4j50>

Thank you once again for doing what you do for whom you do it.

Regards,

Greg Cook
President, WA SESVA



The World Police and Fire Games (WPFG) are coming to Perth in March 2027 and will be spanning 10 days of competition.

[Scan the QR code or click here for more information and to register.](#)





SES Volunteer’s Association of WA (Inc.) Notice of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

9:00 am Saturday 12th September 2025

Lecture Theatre, DFES North East Regional Office, 91 Leake Street, Belmont

Unit delegate nomination forms are being emailed direct to each member SES unit.

Call for AGM Agenda Items

WA SESVA AGM Agenda items should be submitted by 9:00 am Thursday 6th August 2026

SESVA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ELECTIONS 2026 NOMINATIONS CLOSE— TUESDAY 14th JULY 2026

Click the link or QR code below to access more information and the nomination form.

Each DFES Region has an elected SESVA representative who is part of the SESVA Management Committee.

The regional representative’s role is to be the local person to work on any matters for the SES Units and to assist where issues have not been resolved by the Regional Office or DFES head office.

More information about their role is on the next page.

Nominate a SES volunteer
by 14th July

[Elections-2026-Call-for-nominations-FILLABLE-](#)



REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

SES Units are invited to nominate their SES volunteers for positions becoming vacant in their region. These are:

- Kimberley Region
- Pilbara Region
- Midwest-Gascoyne Region
- Great Southern Region
- Upper Great Southern Region
- Lower South West Region
- South West Region
- North Coastal (Metro) Region
- North East (Metro) Region

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

The following SESVA Executive positions become vacant in September:

- Vice President North
- Vice President Metro

ALL Units can nominate SES volunteers for election as Vice President.

The role of the Vice President includes acting as the Chairperson at meetings in the absence of the President and carrying out other duties, including support of the elected regional representatives.





Role of SESVA Management Committee members The Regional Representatives

The Management Committee members are essential to the effective functioning of the SESVA. The role of the Regional Representative is fulfilling, worthwhile and rewarding and is extremely important in representing and communicating with SES Volunteers in Western Australia.

The SESVA Management Committee is a deliberative body. The general management of the affairs of the SESVA is vested in the Management Committee.

The Management Committee consists of 12 Regional Representatives, plus a President, three Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The principal task of the SESVA Management Committee is to do all things necessary to support and represent the interests of SES Volunteers in WA.

Regional representatives are elected for a two-year term in alternate years. SESVA Management Committee members can have a positive impact on the development and growth of the SES community. They are also afforded the opportunity to develop themselves both professionally and personally while gaining valuable insights and unique experiences through their service to SES volunteers.

Regional Representatives are the SESVA's conduit with SES units. The SESVA responds to SES Unit volunteers through the Regional Representative and the Unit Manager. Management Committee members are generally expected to:

- Provide guidance and represent SESVA, supporting effective governance and advocacy
- Actively participate in meetings, prepare in advance, and contribute with independent judgment
- Maintain professionalism, integrity, and protect SESVA's reputation with all stakeholders
- Liaise with Units appropriately, report insights, and support SESVA advocacy effort
- Show commitment and enthusiasm for the SES.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Secretary – SES Volunteers Association of WA (SESVA)

Voluntary Executive Council Role

SESVA is seeking a motivated and organised individual to join the **Executive Council** as **Secretary**.

This key governance role supports Association communications, meetings, records management, newsletters, and the supervision of a paid staff member.

The Secretary works closely with the President and Executive Council to support and represent members of the SESVA.

Skills sought:

- Strong organisation and communication skills
- Attention to detail and reliability
- Interest in governance and volunteer advocacy
- Meeting administration experience desirable

- ✓ Make a real difference for SES volunteers
- ✓ Gain leadership and governance experience

To apply: Submit a brief Expression of Interest outlining your skills and motivation.

Enquiries: Greg Cook 0418 403 960 sesva.president@ses-wa.asn.au





ANNOUNCEMENT



2026 WAFES Awards finalists

This year's Peter Keiler Award and SES Team Award finalists for the 2026 WAFES Awards have been announced along with the winner of the SES Young Person of the Year Award.

The finalists represent the very best of our emergency services community, demonstrating exceptional dedication, skill and commitment in supporting and protecting their communities.

Their achievements reflect countless hours of service, resilience in challenging situations and a strong spirit of teamwork and leadership.

Winners of the SES individual Award, the SES Team Award and the inaugural WAFES Young Person of the Year Award, will be revealed at the WAFES Awards Gala Dinner on Saturday, 5 September 2026 at Crown Perth. Visit the [WAFES Awards website](#) for further information.

Peter Keillor Award (Individuals)

- Ben Whittle, Albany SES
- Carl Aitken, Exmouth SES
- Daniel Lansom, Wanneroo-Joondalup SES

SES Young Person of the Year Award

Zac Hill, Karratha SES
Zac and three other young People also now go forward to be considered for the inaugural the inaugural **WAFES Young Person of the Year award**, with the winner announced on the night.

SES Team Achievement Award

- SWORD SES Logistics
- Tom Price SES
- Exmouth SES and Karratha SES

Emergency Services AFL Match Days

Planning to head along to this year's emergency services-themed AFL match days? It's a great opportunity to celebrate and support the incredible contribution of volunteers across Western Australia.

If you're attending, you're encouraged to **arrive early** to take in the pre-game atmosphere. There will be **activations, displays and opportunities to see emergency services in action**, showcasing the important work volunteers do across the state.

While some volunteers may be involved in on-field activities, these roles are being coordinated separately through DFES and regions.

For those attending as spectators, there's no need to wear your uniform – we suggest you wear your SES hoodie and beanie to show you are part of the orange family! ❤️

Whether you're cheering on the Eagles or Freo, it's a great chance to connect with fellow volunteers and see our emergency services community recognised on the big stage.



Saturday 18 July: West Coast Eagles 'Nex Gen' -

Highlighting young people in emergency services



Friday 31 July: Fremantle Dockers 'Light and Sirens' match—

Recognising the broader contribution of volunteers



Keep warm at the footy—and show you are part of the orange family!



Leadership Recognised at Regional Forum in Northam

Three local SES leaders were recognised at a recent regional forum, with Superintendent Garth Civil presenting Leadership Manager appointment certificates to Lin Booth (Northam District SES), Dani Parkin (Merredin SES) and Lisa Ford (Kalgoorlie-Boulder SES, Acting).

The acknowledgment highlighted the strength of leadership across the region and the important role volunteers play in supporting communities.

The event brought together SES and emergency service volunteers from across the Goldfields–Midlands together with DFES staff, providing an opportunity to share knowledge, strengthen cross-service relationships and reinforce a common commitment to serving the WA community.

SESVA Vice President Ross Jones was present and participated in sessions that covered topics including deployment processes, safety and PPE awareness, leadership development, and inter-agency cooperation.

Throughout the day, SES representatives connected with colleagues from neighbouring units, sharing experiences and promoting the vital contribution of volunteers. The recognition of Lin, Dani and Lisa was a standout moment, celebrating their dedication and leadership within their respective units.



Above: SES and emergency service volunteers from across the Goldfields–Midlands with DFES staff and guest presenters.
Top Right (L–R): Lisa Ford, Lin Booth and Dani Parkin following their appointment presentations.



Do you know of a flexible and supportive employer/workplace that allows volunteers to take time off work to respond to critical incidents and training?

Or perhaps a volunteer who is self-employed, often sacrificing their own working hours during emergencies.

Well... Nominations for the **2026 Volunteer Employer Recognition Awards (VERA)** are now open!

VERA acknowledges the important role employers and self-employed volunteers play in our emergency services across Western Australia, where more than 95 percent of emergency services are volunteers.

Submit your nomination before 9am Monday 27 July 2026:

[Volunteer Employer Recognition Awards](#)

Have Your Say ...

The 2026 Annual Volunteer Satisfaction Survey is now open, and **your feedback matters.**

If you haven't already responded... click [here](#) or go to the DFES volunteer hub.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

WA SES 70th Anniversary (2029) - Working Group MEMBERSHIP

The WA SES Volunteers Association is calling for **Expressions of Interest** from committed SES volunteers to join a dedicated **WA SES 70th Anniversary—Working Group**.

In 2029, the SES in WA will celebrate a **70 year of milestone**. Planning is underway now to ensure a well-coordinated and impactful program.

About the Role

Working Group Members will play an active role in planning and delivering a statewide anniversary program, which may include:

- State and regional commemorative events
- Volunteer recognition initiatives
- Community engagement and public awareness activities
- Development of legacy projects such as publications, digital archives or storytelling initiatives
- Supporting sponsorship and partnership engagement

Who We're Looking For

We invite Expressions of Interest from SES volunteers who are:

- Passionate about recognising SES history and achievements
- Interested in contributing to a **statewide project**
- Able to work collaboratively as part of a team

Commitment

The Working Group will operate from late 2026 through to 2029, with flexible levels of involvement depending on project needs and individual availability.

Register Your Interest

[Click here](#) or Scan the QR Code to complete an EOI to join the working group.



Help shape the celebration of 70 years of the SES in Western Australia.

[Join the Working Group and make a difference.](#)



RAFFLE #11
DRAWN: 28TH AUGUST 2026

FIRST PRIZE
\$1,500*
COLES MYER GIFT CARD*





David MacLean, Acting District Officer Training Development Support and Compliance SES and Marine Rescue, has provided an update from the Operational Delivery section of the FES Academy:

“We ran the SES Training Program workshop on 13 June with representatives from the SES volunteer body, the SESVA, District Officers, Training Products and Publications and Trainer Assessor coordination. It was a very intensive day with discussions ranging from which courses were still relevant to what a new training program should look like. It has left me with a nice chunk of work and the new Training Program should be a more accurate reflection of training progression for our SES volunteers.”

1. **General Rescue**—updates have been completed. These are mainly focused on nail gun conventions following ERAP 02/2026.
2. **Next up:**
 - **A full review of the Communications courses.** One topic that the Training Program PAT was very clear on is that the communications courses are needing a lot of love. If there is volunteer or two who are enthusiastic about the radio work...please contact DOsesmracademy@dfes.wa.gov.au. We would like a couple of Project Advisory Team members
 - **Storm and Water Damage Operations (Ground and Roof)** need a few little tweaks to reflect the RSS changes.

It is fantastic to see so many courses being run at the moment and all the new trainers getting endorsed!

Metro volunteers are answering the call to support regional training with volunteers heading up to the Kimberley to help with a Chainsaw Operator course in a few weeks.”

The Association thanks David for his ongoing support of SES volunteers in WA!

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Association Training Advisory Group - State Emergency Service MEMBERSHIP

This is an opportunity for SES volunteers to make a difference by participating in a forum for the communication of training information between DFES and SES volunteers.

Several vacancies currently exist for membership of the Association Training Advisory Group - State Emergency Service (ATAG - SES).

The ATAG – SES is a consultative group established under the authority of DFES. The group will usually meet two (2) times per year. Next meeting is Saturday 19th September at 10:30am.

Membership includes at least six SES regional representatives and one SES Volunteers Association representative.

Regional representatives are responsible for;

- Disseminating and communicating the minutes of the ATAG – SES to their subgroups and SES volunteers.
- Actively seeking input into deliberations of the ATAG – SES through their respective committees and networks.
- Providing a report to the ATAG – SES.

If you are you interested, send your Expression of Interest to the ATAG – SES Chair, Superintendent Operational Delivery, Matt.Wakeling@dfes.wa.gov.au



UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

Tue 14 July	Nominations Close—SESVA Management Committee membership	18—21 Aug	AFAC2026 in Melbourne
Thu 23 July	SESVA Management Committee mtg	22-23 Aug	Midwest-Goldfields Forum (venue TBC)
Sat 18 July	West Coast Eagles 'Nex Gen' match	04—05 Sep	WAFES Conference & Awards
Thu 30 July	SES Volunteers Advisory Committee Meeting	Sat 12 Sep	SESVA AGM
Fri 31 July	Fremantle Dockers 'Light and Sirens' match	Thu 24 Sep	SESVA Management Committee mtg
Thu 6th Aug	Agenda items for AGM - submit by 9am	Thu 26 Nov	SESVA Management Committee mtg
		Sat 05 Dec	International Volunteer Day

Help us promote YOUR achievements!



SESVA wants to celebrate the dedication, hard work and achievements of our member SES Units and Volunteers.

Send us a couple of paragraphs and 2 or 3 photos and we'll turn it into an article.

Download a simple template [here](#) or email sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

Next deadline 23 July

SES Travel Mug

Quality insulated mug with screw on lid.

\$20 + pp



Download the SESVA merchandise catalogue



The SES Volunteers Association of WA Inc.

acknowledges the funding from the

Department of Fire and Emergency Services of WA

USEFUL LINKS

[SES Volunteer's Association of WA \(WA SESVA\)](#)

[WA SESVA Facebook Page](#)

[Buy tickets in the WA/ TAS SESVA Raffle](#)

[NSESVA Yearbook 2025.pdf](#)

[DFES Volunteer Hub](#)

[State Emergency Management Committee](#)

[Home - Volunteering WA](#)

[Fortem Australia Wellbeing Hub](#)

