



SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

December 2020

Newsletter

From the President

Seasons greetings to everyone

Where has our year of 2020 gone?

Christmas and New Year is again so close.

Many of us have lived a life this year that we never really planned for, or even foresaw on our future horizons.

I think we could all agree that it is really great to live in one of the most isolated states in Australia, and in the world, and separated for our good health. I know there must be many mixed feels in regards to the state-wide lockdown, then the border shutting to the rest of Australia, and to those from around the world.

The message for me really only was emphasized recently at Perth Airport in Terminal 2 where eastern states passengers were again welcomed, but they were managed into WA. Baggage handlers were in head to toe PPC and RPC. Passengers were being managed by military and WAPOL and to put a real dose of reality, the AFP were on the floor clearly visible carrying automatic weapons. We are not messing around.

Did I land back in Australia I was thinking? Well it is just a demonstration of our governments managing the risk of COVID 19 and how serious this could have been for us. We only need to look around the world at its impact.

In WA, we should be retrospectively grateful for distance and a pugnacious government, that enables most of us to enjoy Christmas and New Year with our families or those that you chose to be with.

Leadership is and has been so important to us all.

So as SES Volunteers and community leaders in our own right, how are you?

Did we really ever stand down, or has it been a flow of varied tasks to assist our communities? How many of us spent hours assisting WA Health, Police and partnering with the military in our road blocks early in the COVID response cycle?

Then when those activities declined, you may have been involved in Storm, Flood, Car v House Accidents, Search for missing people, Cliff Rescues, Road Crash Rescue, Skills and Knowledge Training preparing for Earthquakes, Tsunami and Cyclone incidents.

Being an SES member is just not boring !

I do recognise the dedication it requires to train and skill our volunteers. The countless courses and training maintenance that enables local, district and state responses to the larger natural disasters we are vulnerable to in WA.

We do ask ourselves, what is the likelihood of that one big disaster this year and what could the possible consequences be?

We as a group of SES volunteers now enter with open arms and wide eyes for what the Dept. calls the "High Threat Season". Our combined determination to be of service to our communities is really an all year round activity in reality. Fires occur state-wide all year and now we have cyclone season to add into the Christmas stocking.

From your Western Australian State Emergency Service Volunteers Association, each and every volunteer representative that works hard to continue to improve our standing in the Department and in Government,

***We wish you a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.***

Take care all.

Greg Cook
President



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FROM YOUR TEAM AT THE SESVA

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Merchandise

It's that time of year for Christmas parties and presentations.

We can supply plaques and gifts such as Teddy bears to make that presentation a little bit more special.

Or if want to give your members a thank you for the end of year we have key rings, sunshades and mugs

Order now to make sure you don't miss out, payment can be made either cash, credit card or direct debit.

Contact Bella on

sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

SESVA Christmas Hours

The SESVA Office will close from COB 18th December 2020 and reopen on Wednesday 6th January 2021.

If you have any urgent matters during that time please contact

sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au

Overpants

Below is an article from our April 2019 newsletter. From comments received we are interested to determine if all Units received their allocation of overpants in the past 12 months.

Please contact the Secretary if you have not received your expected allocation.

sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au

DFES have advised they will be providing SES units with a 'pool of various sizes' of wet weather overpants.

This pool will consist of 20 pairs for a Profile 1 unit, 15 pairs for a Profile 2 unit and 10 pairs for a Profile unit.

The District Officers will arrange for their respective units to order sufficient quantities of wet weather overpants to establish a 'pool of various sizes' and, where existing stocks exist, the shortfall is to be covered by the initial order.

Units will then continue to order individual sets of wet weather jackets and overpants, authorised by the DO, as required and dependent on different requirements/conditions.



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Meet Your Regional Representative

Region: Upper Great Southern

Mauritz Oberholzer

0457 785 078

sesva.uppergreatsouthern@ses-wa.asn.au



Mauritz is the Local Manager of Narrogin SES and has been a member of SES for two and a half years.

Mauritz has been the Local Manager of Narrogin SES Unit for just over a year, and is trying to increase the Narrogin Unit's membership..

Mauritz volunteered to be the SESVA Regional Representative for the Upper Great Southern region. to ensure he was able to participate and contribute to assisting his Unit and the Region to be an active part of the SES in Western Australia, and to ensure the Upper Great Southern region has a voice in maintaining the high standards of the SES in Western Australia..

Vacancies

At the present time the SESVA have vacancies for Regional Representatives for the South Coastal and the North Coastal regions.

Being an SESVA Representative for a region is a very rewarding experience.

If you are interested in becoming involved in assisting and advocating for your fellow SES Volunteers, and are a member of an SES Unit in either of the above regions, contact the Secretary to discuss.

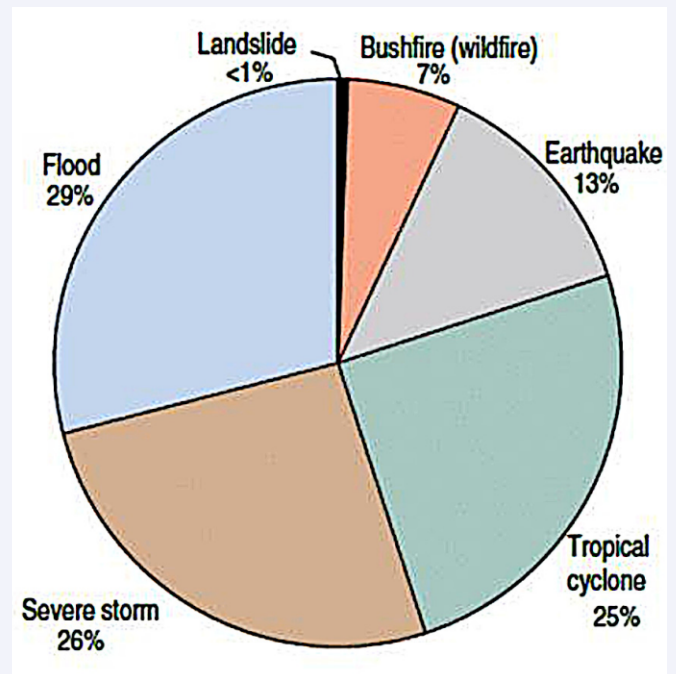
0428 612 480

sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au

Cost of Natural Disasters

Ever questioned the ever increasing cost of fire response when the facts indicate the staggering cost of Natural Disasters.

Why are we not addressing this?



Training Ideas

The SESVA is expanding the training initiative we commenced at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We produced some training ideas for Unit Training Managers to help them with Unit Members training during the lock down period..

Now, we are expanding this initiative and hope to include many new ideas for training.

The start is a selection of Team Building exercises.

These can be found at

<https://ses-wa.asn.au/ses-volunteer-training>

If you have an idea for training, and wish to share it with other SES Volunteers, please contact the Secretary

sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au



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Christmas Gift Idea

Are you stuck for a gift for presentations this year?

We have a great practical gift idea

Just arrived - a SES Multitool.

Engraved with 'SESWA' and made from anodised high grade stainless steel and includes pliers, wine cutter, large & medium slotted screwdriver, large & small knife, phillips screwdriver & saw.

Supplied with nylon carry pouch & presented in a gift box.

There is space on the handles to have a message or a name engraved by your local engraver.

Contact Bella at the Association's office to order.

sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au



Result of Vehicle Livery Survey

The results of the survey of conducted by Regional Representatives with Unit Local Managers in October is shown below.

The surey was conducted via your Regional Representatives asking your Local Manager for your Units preference for new vehicle livery from the 5 images available, or alternatively making a suggestion on tthe livery.

The overwhelming response was image #4 - shown below.

Thank you for your responses, as this now gives the SESVA a clear direction in discussing vehicle livery with DFES.



Website

The SESVA website has been upgraded and improved.

Check it out!

If you have any questions, comments, improvements please contact our webmaster

John Capes sesva.webmaster@ses-wa.asn.au

facebook

Just a quick reminder the SESVA is on facebook.

Western Australian SES Volunteers Association

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/42218868165>

Follow us to get all the current information affecting SES Volunteers.



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Grant Writer

The SESVA are looking for someone to assist us with grant application writing.

Funding to operate the SESVA so we can effectively advocate for the SES Volunteers of Western Australia is always a problem, and in order to assist us overcome and/or reduce the issue we are asking for assistance from someone who has a professional background in grant writing.

If you would like to discuss further, please contact our Secretary Lin Booth on
0428 612 480

or email

sesva.secretary@ses-wa.asn.au

Results of October Unit Survey

The results of the October survey of Unit Local Managers by their SESVA Regional Representatives to obtain the views of SES Volunteers in their Unit, are as follows:

Should we have the word "Volunteer" on SES shoulder patches?
Result was a clear YES

Should we have "SES" on the back of the inner wet weather jacket?
Result was a clear YES

Should the letters on the blue SES undershirt be orange or white?
The result was a clear WHITE

Are the gaiters recently issued too small or have other issues?
The result was a clear too small-not fit for purpose.

The questions regarding the pugaree style and colour.
The result was clearly we should have a pugaree, but the style and colour were undecided.

More work will need to be done in this area.

SES Scenario Working Group

The Simulation & Exercise Capability (S&EC) Unit, based in Belmont, is looking for assistance in developing credible Natural Hazards based scenarios from Level 1 – 3, that would provide relevant training opportunities to SES units, DFES Regional Operations Centres and the State Operations Centre.

The intent is to have a Project Manager guide the formation of these scenarios across the prescribed hazards of Earthquake, Tsunami, Flood, Collapse, Storm, Cyclone, Land SAR as well as Marine SAR.

The S&EC Unit seeks skilled personnel to assist through active involvement in Working Groups (WG) to develop these scenarios. We will also need a highly skilled member in that prescribed hazard to act as the WG Team Leader to manage these teams.

The idea is to have 6 to 8 WG members and 1 Team Leader to develop each of the scenarios, with the Project Manager providing guidance and strategic oversight to manage the process.

The Project Manager starts in January 2021, and the project starts in February 2021, with the initial focus to be on the prescribed hazards of Storm and Earthquake. The other hazards will follow throughout the course of 2021, finishing in 2022.

Send an email to

dosimcen@dfes.wa.gov.au

if you want to be part of this extremely important project.

Further detail will be provided as the project proceeds, but this will be the initial stage of identifying the level of availability of personnel interested in being part of these WG.

It is only through the involvement from the highly skilled members of the SES and other subject matter experts that this project will succeed.



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Merredin Unit Equipment upgrade

We often hear news about people going missing or their journey going horrible wrong, whether it is on outback travels; camping / hiking expeditions and even boating trips.

We quite often hear emergency services personnel giving encouraging advice on what to do and how to prepare.

In recent times we hear how some people have been saved due the fact they had Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) or prepared their travels and used Global Positioning Systems (GPS). Technology has grown over the years and we now have personal trackers and Satellite Phones.

Thanks to support from the Shire of Merredin, through local government grants, Merredin SES was able to upgrade the long out dated land navigational equipment with more up to date vehicle and handheld equipment.

This new equipment has the ability to link into some Garmin In-Reach personal trackers as well as using SMS communications technology. Not only does it use GPS technology but has the added advantage of GLNSS – GLOBal Navigation Satellite System & Galileo Support – which provide horizontal and Vertical position measurements within 1-meter precision.

Local Manager Mark Briggs Says “this new equipment will make life easy as at times, when attending search’s we may need to go to small areas, sometimes in remote Wheatbelt, which can be troublesome when all the directions we receive are the red gum tree next to the gate post on Red Gully Road, and have to focus and use road maps. With this new equipment, we can now go to an exact location anywhere using the GPS system”.

At a recent training day all unit members were introduced to the new equipment. They were given theory and practical training before being let loose in the region tracking and locating targets as set out by the units Training Manager, basically navigating to a site using GPS’s only and retrieving an object (a small plastic key tag) placed there by the TM.



Merredin Unit members receiving training on the new equipment

Streamlined reporting for Incorporated SES Units

The following information was in the November Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety Newsletter.

It tells of one more red tape task which has been removed.

Clubs and associations incorporated in Western Australia no longer need to lodge an annual information statement with Consumer Protection if they already report to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

Consumer Protection and the ACNC have entered into an agreement that now reduces the reporting burden. The exemption applies immediately to those organisations with a financial year ending on or after 30 June 2020 and which have lodged an AIS with the ACNC.

You still need to lodge an information statement with Consumer Protection if you are not registered with the ACNC or have any returns still to be lodged for financial years ending prior to 30 June 2020.