



SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

July 2021

Newsletter

From the President

The rewards SES volunteers receive when serving our communities is a point of motivation for many new and experienced members. Have you ever asked the question why you do what you do and who you do it for? Why the SES? Why do we as SES volunteers find it difficult to recognise each other's dedication at times? Of course, this is in an incredibly positive way.

Its true that we do not seek the publicity, well most of us anyway. Is it just simply the sense of being in a team and unit of well meaning, trained, and focused on doing goods things within our many communities that keeps us coming back?

We are all volunteers in the SES. There are no career staff anymore now that a department that was formed several years ago, removed the name career SES and called them Natural Hazards. So as an SES volunteer, we have a conduit to the Department through your hard-working District Officers and through your SES Volunteers Association.

Recently your SES Association put forward an idea to the department to add an award to the three current recognized being by the members: individual over all SES member award; a youth award and a team award. This would be to nominate a DFES staff member that should be acknowledged for going above and beyond the call to assist SES Volunteers and Units. I do hope that you too will support recognising our partners in service delivery.

Our volunteer awards, this from our peers to recognize those that go over and beyond the normal asking of a volunteer. It is also not a single act but that of consistency in delivery with our units and community. We have from our ranks, many worthy nominations and I along with many of you look forward to seeing who has been recognised at the SES Awards presentation at the WAFES Conference this year.

The conference is being held at Burswood again over the 10 and 11 Sept 21. Friday and Saturday. DFES along with your SES Association are seeking your thoughts on what would you like to see and hear at the SES stream half day of this event? The Association enables you to respond on our Facebook page, so let us hear what you want?

A question for you, did you see the recipients of the Queen's Birthday Awards in Western Australia for the Emergency Service Medal? Please look and find out.

So many of us simply love what we do but we continue to have challenges placed in front of us that are a reaction with a well thought out preplan missing. Please help us to help you to continue to advocate for positive recognition and considered change when required.

Stay happy and take care. We are out there with and amongst you serving our communities, we do get it and are not removed from the coal face.

Greg Cook
President

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Civil Defence History

As you may be aware, the SES takes its formation roots from the Civil Defence Organisation created during World War II.

It is interesting to see how little has changed over the years - natural disasters still create major catastrophes, and it is Volunteers who respond in the largest numbers.

Below is excerpt for the Australian Civil Defence Handbook- General Information. Directorate of Civil Defence-1972.

CIVIL DEFENCE ORGANISATION

Introduction

2.01. The essence of dealing with any disaster or emergency is to bring the situation under control. Obviously, circumstances and conditions will vary widely but some or all of the following problems may arise :

01. Casualties must be collected and given medical care
02. Trapped persons must be rescued
03. Survivors need to be cared for and controlled
04. Fires must be brought under control
05. Damaged buildings need to be cordoned off
06. Supplies of food and water require conservation and control
07. Disaster relief organisations must be coordinated and applied to maximum effect
08. Community life must be restored as soon as possible.

2.02. Certainly in the event of modern war most of these problems would be on an enormous scale, with figures for damage, destruction and casualties beyond anything previously encountered. In addition, the use of nuclear weapons could bring the hazard of radioactive fallout which would not only cause a grave danger to life but would also also drastically. It is from a recognition of hamper relief operations.

2.03 It is from a recognition of these problems that all States and Territories have agreed to base their Civil Defence organisations on common principles. These principles are aimed at ensuring a concerted effort from all, in a controlled and coordinated manner. The framework of organisation which has thus been developed serves a twofold purpose. First, it enables the necessary Civil Defence Services to be recruited and trained, and emergency plans to be laid. Second, it enables these same Services to be committed to relief operations as and when necessary.

Civil Defence History Cont'd

- 2.04. The basic organisational unit is established in the municipality or shire. In each municipality or shire a Local Civil Defence Controller will be appointed and a Local Civil Defence Headquarters established.
- 2.05. Rural municipalities and shires are grouped into Sub Regions (if required) and Regions into Areas. Cities which may be the object of attack are organised as Zones and may be divided into Sub-Zones and Groups, the municipalities and shires within them still being the basic units. Each will function under a Controller.
- 2.06. Each of these Controllers will have his Headquarters. Reports will come upwards from Local Headquarters through Regions and Areas to State Headquarters and similarly from Zones and Zones to State Headquarters, and of course, will be passed from higher headquarters down to Local Headquarters.

Regional Exercise Submission

Your SESVA has formed a committee to prepare a business case for the Commissioner to provide funding to enable a Regional exercise to be conducted in every region each year.

The members of the committee are:

- Trevor Patton - Karratha Unit
- Steve Cable - Kalbarri Unit
- Robert Palmer - Mundaring Unit
- Sergio Bottacin - Merredin Unit
- Jane Hamilton
- Chris Knight - CSU
- Mark Wyncoll - Nannup Unit
- Kirsten Beidatsch - Mt Barker Unit
- Greg Cook - CSU
- Lin Booth - Mundaring Unit

If you have any suggestions/recommendations/comments please contact and discuss with any of the SES Volunteers above.



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Natural Hazard EOI

The EOI's for the Natural Hazards Scenario Project - Cyclone and Marine Search & Rescue are now open.

They will close on 5/7/21 so there is a short time frame for people to express their interest in being involved.

To find out more and apply click this link:

<https://www.getfeedback.com/preview/iJzag5KO>

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.

Merchandise

Don't forget the SESVA has a range of items that can help with recruitment campaigns and promotion of your Unit.

Just contact Bella at the SESVA office.

sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

Task Force Photo's

If you were part of taskforce or a group during the Seroja cyclone deployment the SESVA would love to get copies of your group photos to be part of our historical collection.

If you could send to us with the following formation (electronic and High Resolution preferred).

Taskforce/ Group Name
Dates of Deployment
Names of members in the photo (if possible)
Were the Taskforce / Group was based.

Photos can be sent to either

sesva.treasurer@ses-wa.asn.au

or posted to

PO Box 3218 Belmont WA 61

Historical Photo's

Don't forget the SESVA are looking for photos, video's, slides and/or film from the Dawn of Time to create a visual history of our great organization.

Copies can be sent to us in a digital format - just ensure the scan is high resolution (at least 300dpi).

Just send them to Bella at the office.

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". (SESVA WA) and are on Facebook.

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.



Our Ref:032201-003 21/106480
Your Ref:

Mr Greg Cook
President SESVA
PO Box 3218
BELMONT WA 6104

Dear Greg

DEBRIEF NOTES, STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE – GINGIN AND WOOROLOO

Thank you for your email dated 16 April 2021 which outlines the debrief notes from debriefs undertaken by the SES Volunteers Association post the Gingin and Wooroloo bushfires.

DFES undertakes debriefs and reviews of operational activities in accordance with the Operational Lessons Management Directive 3.19. This directive identifies when and how a debrief will take place.

I would like to thank the SES Volunteer Association for its assistance in debriefing and collating the information provided to DFES and I acknowledge that the SES has capability that can be utilised in a more effective means going forward.

While I understand your frustration about SES not managing themselves at an incident, the appointed Incident Controller has ultimate responsibility for all persons at an incident and stepping away from this is not in line with AIIMS or Incident Management principles.

It is my understanding that all SES tasking during incidents should be coming from the respective chain of command. During a Level 3 incident, this should originate from the Incident Controller or delegate, requests for resources are facilitated through the respective region to the SES units. I understand that SES volunteers are more than willing and able to help, but during an incident, a clear chain of command is vital to the operation.

Details outlining SES support activities are currently available to all staff in SOP 3.5.16. I will endeavour to promote this to all staff reminding them of capabilities that can be provided by the SES. Each SES unit should be capturing their non-operational hours through the NOAR system. This has been implemented to capture these hours as it has been previously identified that a significant amount of work was not being recorded or recognised.

Utilising the SES buses, both LG and SESVA owned, will still nominally be for the support of crew changes for firefighters. Having the buses at a central point instead of their nominated home units only adds additional burden on volunteers in accessing the vehicles, especially if left at an incident control point, with the intention being to transfer one crew in and return one crew from the incident back to their original departure location. SES crews who have worked a 12-hour shift should be utilising this transport where fatigue management concerns are raised.

Your suggestion about utilising pre-formed teams is well received and DFES is highly interested in understanding your thoughts on how best this could be achieved, noting that it would require "buy-in" from all units in the Metropolitan area, so as not to impose too great of a burden and share the responsibility across the service.

I acknowledge that welfare provisions for operational staff is an ongoing issue and DFES is working with contracted suppliers to alleviate issues being confronted by operational staff. It is in the best interest to provide the correct welfare to its operational staff to ensure duty of care. Ensuring volunteers have updated their individual requirements through the Volunteer Hub will be the best way to ensure the IMT is aware of these requirements when organising welfare.

I do have some concerns around the point you raised that "SES volunteers have at time going toward the fire front". Given the SOP the Department has for SES/VFES Support at Bushfires, I would like to bring to your attention section 12 under Safety which states "At no time will personnel enter the fireground, unless deemed safe to do so by the Incident Controller and agreed to by the direct line manager of the personnel". If the direct line manager is unavailable, a District Officer responsible for SES/VFES units may provide approval.

An opportunity to upskill the SES could be presented in upgrading chainsaw qualifications from trim and cut felled trees to a form of advanced tree felling to assist in the clearing and re-opening of roads for the community once the fire has passed if required.

I agree that there are items for DFES and the SESVA to work on to increase the SES capabilities at major bushfire events and invite you to meet with the Chief Superintendents in the first instance to discuss your concerns and work towards an agreeable outcome.

Yours sincerely



**DARREN KLEMM AFSM
COMMISSIONER**

11 June 2021

OPERATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT



Newsletter // May 2021

// Monthly Highlights

What has been happening?

- Light Tanker lighting and priority response driving workshop.
- 4.4 Broadacre Tanker in field user validation mobility trials.
- 1.4 Tanker vehicle practical evaluation and design review.
- Road Crash Rescue Equipment PAT status review meeting for rescue gloves.

Next Steps

- 1.4 practical evaluation of firefighting pump options and design review.
- Urban Pumper Type 1 lighting and vehicle handling workshop.
- Urban Pumper Type 2 locker layouts, vehicle handling and in-field validation activity.
- General Rescue Utility remote configuration recommendation selection and finalise baseline specifications.

4.4 Broadacre Tanker Mobility Trials

Project Advisory Team (PAT) members travelled from as far as the Kimberley, Midwest Gascoyne, Goldfields Midlands and Great Southern to participate in a User Validation Workshop for the 4.4 Broadacre Tanker.

Volunteers and Career Staff were eager to trial the four different cab chassis options (Isuzu, Iveco, Tatra and Volvo) including single cab and crew cab configurations.



Many PAT members described the 4.4 Broadacre Tanker mobility trials held at Whiteman Park as a "great exercise". Anthony Mort (BFB Cuballing) is pictured above trialling the off road capabilities of a 4.4 Broadacre Tanker variant.



DFES
Department of Fire &
Emergency Services



Operational Research and Development

Newsletter //

Status Update May 2021

Asset Design and Delivery Model



Fleet Project Stream	Current Status	Next Steps
Concept Design		
Heavy Tanker PAT Chair: John Carter	Concept development workshop held 18/1/21.	Proof-of-Concept weight and packaging. Concept acceptance
CFRS Urban Tanker PAT Chair: Adrian Hamill	Concept development workshop held 10/8. Operational Concept Document (OCD) edits undertaken and concept options identified. Concept Safety Risk Assessment (SRA) held 7/11. PAT participation in 4.4 Broadacre mobility trials held 14/5.	Refine concept in OCD for PAT acceptance.
Incident Control Vehicle PAT Chair: Gary Baxter	Concept development in-progress. OCD draft revised. Discussions with ICT/Operational Communications held to begin collaboration in this stream.	SRA and Proof of Concept (PoC) Activity.
CAPA PAT Chair: Stuart Wade	Concept acceptance meeting held 2/3. Follow up PoC activity identified to refine concept.	Additional PoC activity. Concept acceptance
Livery Developments	For limited evaluation through GRU First of Type builds. Design options provided by supplier. SESVA have consulted SES members and have advised consensus preference.	PoC livery prototype.
Bushfire Fleet Mobility PAT Chair: Brad Delavale	Central Tyre Inflation (CTI) PoC evaluation undertaken. Super singles prototype modifications seeking road approvals. Evaluation and trial period extended to June 2022.	CTI PoC report and PAT review. Super singles PoC testing.
Acquisition		
Medium Logistics Truck	Functional specifications completed. Request published inviting supplier offers.	Request response evaluation.

Fleet Project Stream	Current Status	Next Steps
Asset Acceptance		
Light Tanker PAT Chair: Andrew Spry	User validation workshop held 10/12. Improvement opportunities identified and baseline specification updated. User Validation follow up activity: lighting and priority response driving held 10/5.	DORM revision. PAT Acceptance.
1.4 Tanker PAT Chair: Murray McBride	Practical evaluation of cab chassis options held 26/5.	Practical evaluation of firefighting pump options and design review.
4.4 Broadacre Tanker PAT Chair: Phil Hay	First of Type builds of all cab chassis options completed. In-field user validation of all cab chassis options together held 14/5.	User validation report update. Improvement opportunity analysis. PAT acceptance.
General Rescue Utility PAT Chair: Jon Kirk	Asset acceptance of urban GRU configuration. Allocation to SES Units underway. Country North and South in-field user validation report completed for remote variant. Improvement recommendations under review.	Remote GRU configuration improvement recommendation selection and specification baseline.
General Rescue Truck PAT Chair: Matt Reimer	Asset acceptance activity underway. PAT meeting held 4/3 to review improvements and accept finalised vehicle.	Complete asset acceptance and begin vehicle allocation.
Flood Rescue Boat PAT Chair: Graham Sears	User validation report drafted and recommendations identified. Issues: 1) Bimini structure unsuitable for on-going production. First-of-type bimini also require revision 2) Documentation to support vessel operations is not clear. To be reviewed with Marine Services to determine deliverables.	Finalise baseline specification.
Urban Pumper PAT Chair: Warren Male	Bodywork specification finalised and first-of-type vehicle being revised.	User validation follow up activity: lights, vehicle handling (June). Update DORM. PAT acceptance.
Urban Pumper Type 2 PAT Chair: Andrew Wright	User validation report drafted and improvements identified. Relevant UP locker changes identified for adoption.	Follow up validation activity: locker layout, vehicle handling. Determine in-field validation activity.
2.4 Broadacre PAT Chair: Torben Bendtsen	First of Type Build in progress. Completion delayed and now scheduled for July '21. Issues: 15/12/20: Build slippage to July 2021. Escalated through to Strategic Procurement.	Inspection and controlled testing.



A very successful and interactive 1.4 Tanker cab chassis practical evaluation was held at Driver Risk Management.

For further details or feedback on this update, please contact the team
ORD@dfes.wa.gov.au New ORD [DFES Intranet](#) & [Volunteer Hub](#) coming soon.



Operational Research and Development

Newsletter // May 2021

Equipment Project Streams

Below please find a snapshot of active equipment developments

Equipment Project Stream	Current Status	Next Steps
Concept Design		
Road Crash Rescue Equipment Coordinator: Nathan Wilcock	Functional specifications drafted.	Review and endorsement of functional specifications from PAT.
Road Crash Rescue Working Platform Coordinator: Nathan Wilcock	Mobilisation options provided to Operations Command for endorsement.	Implement agreed mobilisation solution.
Portable Pump Coordinator: John Manocchio	Update to be provided at next Urban Structural Firefighting Equipment PAT meeting.	User needs analysis to be scheduled.
Ventilation Equipment Coordinator: Matt Wakeling	Structural Firefighting Equipment PAT formed. Reviewing equipment.	Recommendations on removal of equipment to allow addition of PPV.
Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Coordinator: Matt Wakeling	Asset Development Proposal to be formalised.	User needs analysis to be scheduled.
Fog Nail Coordinator: Matt Wakeling	Update to Urban Structural Firefighting Equipment PAT.	Proof of concept trial to be widened.



Light Tanker Lighting and Priority Response Driving

PAT members participated in many activities throughout the day and night. This involved controlled testing with measured outcomes and recorded data on the driving track (skid pan), followed by off road driving and night light testing.





SES Merchandise

WINTER APPAREL RANGE

Rug up in our new winter casuals - perfect for these chilly mornings & nights.



Warm knitted acrylic beanie with roll up cuff
\$20.00



Stylish cable knit acrylic scarf with tassels
1800 x 200mm
\$20.00



Super warm fleecy Hoodie with kangaroo front pocket.
Logo also printed on back.
Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL
\$55.00

• **These items are not PPE and should not be worn in training or operational conditions**

- Prices include GST
- Postage & handling extra (see below)

Postage & Handling

Small parcels	\$14.00
Large parcels	\$18.00

or collect from the VA Office by appointment

Payment Options

- Credit Card
- Direct Debit
- Cheque
- Cash on collection (exact amount only - no change kept on premises)

To place an Order:

email sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au

Queries: phone 0499 619 287

Postage will be advised on enquiry. Orders may be collected from the SESVA office in Guildford by special arrangement.