



SES Volunteers Association of WA (Inc)

One Association - Many Values

September 2021

Newsletter

From the President

One of my highlights was to participate in the Lower South West Leadership Forum organised by Leon Gardner. A great day for those that attended, including WASESVA Vice President, Alan Hawke and myself. We shared the drive down and back from Margaret River. It was great to catch up with all attending SES Volunteers and some DFES staff members. These events provide the Association the opportunity to have a face-to-face forum to continue to advocate for the current values that are driving our service and deliver these to you. Remember, we are here working with you to advocate on behalf of all units across the state.

To do that we frequently engage with Unit Management on a number of subjects that are raised through out contacts and or through requests from DFES for a consolidated response. So, when a committee member and other representatives of the Association contact the unit, it's part of our shared vision that all units are fairly represented. That, for many, will always be a work in progress but we are committed to the task.

Many may have seen that the Association elections have and are being held across the state. Thank you so much to those Volunteers who have nominated to be an advocate on behalf of all SES Units in WA. As per our Constitution, the results of the elections will be shared at the Association AGM on 12th September at Burswood. This is the Sunday morning after the WAFES Conference. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Recently a meeting was held with DFES Deputy Commissioner Craig Waters on a number of strategic issues that will provide some answers to questions that have remained long term issues. We are told that the issues are being addressed. The proof will be in the actions taken and of course this will be shared with you in the not too distant future.

Important issues being raised and addressed through VA working groups are:

- Working at Heights
- Regional Exercises
- Association Strategic Plan
- SES Training including quality, availability of trainers and capability development with volunteer services to deliver our own packages.
- Work Health and Safety Legislation and the impact on SES Volunteers

Whilst that article allows only a same insight into our activities, the more we talk with each other the better the mutual result. Many of us look at a great orange sun set daily. Me, I like the orange sun rise for new opportunity, SES ow and in the future.

Take care all and I look forward to see many of us the WAFES Conference.

Greg Cook
President



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FROM YOUR TEAM AT THE SESVA

Transfer of Funding Control

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We have had several Units comment on transferring funding control from Local Govt to DFES and requesting details of what is involved and what are the ramifications of a transfer.

We quote below from section 3 of the DFES SAP 5.5 covering unit Finances.

"In the event of Transfer of Control to DFES, finance accountability will come under the purview of DFES policy and guidelines, as in all purchases, accounting and financial responsibility will fall under the Financial Management Act and Treasury Instructions and also the internal DFES financial policies to be adhered to.

Furthermore, Emergency Management expenditure will also fall under the DFES financial management process and adhere to the guidelines laid out in SAP 3.1.1 and DFES financial guidelines of Chapter 18."

This means total financial control will be vested in DFES, with the Unit having to request anything they want and DFES approving it - similar to the funding process for VFRS Brigades and SWORD Units.

Height & Safety PAT

With just a little over 2 weeks away before their next meeting, the User Needs Analysis work is being done and completed, plus the SES Team is pulling together samples so they can workshop with the PAT options for improvement to the Roof Safety System on the 28th August.

Other things are happening through fellow team members within the HSS Team, and elsewhere.

A contributors group has been set up in the SES space which is a great example of innovation for consultative and communication purposes using present technology

Information pages are now available on the Volunteer Hub:

<https://volunteerhub.dfes.wa.gov.au/home/news-circulars/news/news-details/2021/08/02/height-safety-project-advisory-team#news-article>

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.



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Meekatharra Search

We have been advised SES Volunteers from Geraldton, Eneabba, Tom Price, Newman, Northam, Merredin, and Metro Taskforce assisted in the search.

Search area 36 Sq kms approx.

A few photos we have been supplied are below.



Merchandise & Apparel

As we creep out of Winter, remember before you know it it will be time for Christmas parties and presentations.

We have a variety of gifts and apparel available to suit that special member or supporter.

- * Presentation plaques
- * Cups
- * Multitool in presentation box.
- * Hoodies
- * Scarfs & Beanies
- SES Presentation badge (if you want to make your own plaque)
- * Water bottle holders
- * Teddy Bear- in overalls
- * Bucket hats & backpack- (coming soon)

Remember, we have the WASES conference coming, so order prior and we can arrange pickup at the conference.

See our website for pricing, ordering and payment options.

Trainer/Assessor Endorsement

We have been asked to clarify why only one trainer/ assessor can be trained during a course.

We have been advised the decision to restrict training to one new TA per course was made to ensure the following:

Maximise student outcomes.

We need to ensure that students aren't disadvantaged by being taught and assessed by multiple assessor with limited experience either in training or the subject.

Ensure appropriate supervision of developing TAs during the training so that they also get the best outcomes out of the process.

At this stage, this part of the TA endorsement process is not being reviewed.



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Employment Opportunity

Expressions of interest are invited from suitably qualified personnel wishing to be considered for a period of approximately four months from August 2021 to 17 December 2021.

The successful applicant for this job opportunity will work exclusively on the development of State Emergency Service Training Products including:

SES Search Commander;
Storm Damage Operations;
Chainsaw Operator;
SES Vertical Rescue Team Leader;
SES Team Leader;
SES Local Manager;
SES General Rescue;
SES Training Manager; and
Storm Damage Team Leader.

In addition to being an SES volunteer with currency and competence in these skills, applicants should possess the following attributes:

- Extensive practical experience in the command and control of SES Operations.
- Demonstrated high level verbal communication and interpersonal skills.
- Demonstrated technical writing skills, suitable to produce procedural content within required timeframes.
- High level word processing skills and experience with computerised office software packages.

Desirable.

Certificate IV TAE Training and Assessment
Qualified and/or experience as a Level 1 Incident Controller.

Applications from personnel not possessing the full range of competencies and attributes may still be considered.

For further information about the position contact
Greg Penney, Superintendent Operational Delivery
0400 982 848
or via email
greg.penney@dfes.wa.gov.au.

(Not to be contacted for assistance with lodging your application).

TRK Update

We have been advised the expected dates for finalisation of the following products:

- * SES Search Commander - ready for publication Monday
- * Storm Damage Operations - Due 17/8
- * Chainsaw Operation inc Competency Maintenance Drill - Due 19/8
- * SES Team Leader - Due 23/8
- * Operations Officer Team Member - Due 31/8
- * SES Vertical Rescue Team Leader - Due 31/8
- * SES Local Manager - Due 3/9 dependent on scope (currently underway)
- * General Rescue - Due 15/11
- * SES Training Manager - Due 1/10
- * Storm Damage Team Leader - 15/11

Promotional Stuff

Remember the SESVA have SES based promotional giveaways for when your Unit is out in your community.

It's another powerful tool to help you and your members in

- * Recruitment
- * Community engagement/education for
 - o Seasonal events such as cyclone season
 - o all year events such as search

Remember you can help prepare your community through education and interaction, this then potentially helps reduce the amount of jobs your members need to attend.

Contact the SESVA office
sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au
for further details.

Sticking to Our Promises

24 years ago the President at the time briefed the then Emergency Services Minister on the purpose and vision of the SESVA.

As you can see from that letter below, the SESVA still adheres to that vision today.

BRIEF TO THE MINISTER

The Hon. John Day MLA
Minister for Police and Emergency Services

VOLUNTEERS' ASSOCIATION

WA STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE





SES VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION - WA

(Incorporated as The WA Volunteers Emergency Services Association)

The Hon. John Day MLA
Minister for Police and Emergency Services
13th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6008

Dear Sir,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

We appreciate the opportunity to meet with you today.

We represent the SES Volunteers in WA, and our vision is to be an independent and effective body that is truly representative of all the Volunteers in the State Emergency Service in Western Australia.

Our Association, in being truly independent, represents their views and concerns to the Community, the Government and the State body of the SES.

In the past we had a very good working relationship with the previous Minister, and we are sure this will continue with you. We make the offer that our Association is only a phone call away.

Please find attached brief notes on the situation.

If you wish to discuss any matters that may affect SES volunteers, or otherwise, please feel free to call us,

Yours Faithfully

John Capes
President
24 February 1997

VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION
WA STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

THE ASSOCIATION

As the WASES is changing so the needs of the Volunteers is also changing.

The Association has seen a need to have a change process in place to continually reflect the Volunteers' needs.

To reflect this our Association has the following as the main objectives;

- *representative of SES Volunteers*
- *independent*
- *effective*

WHERE WE FIT IN

EXISTING ORGANISATIONS

In Western Australia there are three organisations involved with the State Emergency Service.

These bodies are,

WASES,
the State Government Department with paid employees led by the
CEO,

VCC,
a consultative committee in an advisory role to the CEO and Minister,
and

THE VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION (Incorporated as WAVES),
an association representing the SES Volunteers.

VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION
WA STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

THE FUTURE

THE VISION

To have an independent and effective body that is truly representative of all State Emergency Service Volunteers in Western Australia.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Must be representative of the volunteers.
- Must only have volunteers on the Board.
- Must be independent of all Emergency Service bodies and associated Government departments.
- Have a structured State Board.
- Have a powerful name and positions with Directors' portfolios.
- Communicate regularly with members, via delegates and other means.
- All Board members are current SES volunteers at time of election or appointment.
- Review the constitution

WHERE TO FROM HERE

We have a team planning the future mode of operation to meet the new objectives of the Association.

We will be advising you of the details of the plan including;

- our structure
- method of representation
- effective communication with the Volunteers
- membership