



VOLUNTEER FIRE
BRIGADES VICTORIA

Newsletter

July 2010

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How many people really know what CFA Volunteers do and how we do it?

For community members who grew up in a CFA family or have friends or workmates in CFA, there is a good chance they may know a fair bit. Similarly, if they come from a rural community, the local CFA is probably a very visible local institution and local CFA volunteers are active in all manner of local clubs and associations. But what about the many, many thousands we serve in the suburbs and provincial cities and towns, particularly those who came from the metro fire district, interstate or overseas?

For many people in urban areas it comes as quite a shock to find that the firefighters they see dealing with house and industrial fires or road accidents are unpaid volunteers, let alone the training and effort volunteers put in to achieving the highest levels of professionalism or to running local volunteer brigades. Many people in the community, including politicians and community leaders, aren't aware of the training and qualifications of volunteers, that our performance and service is the same as that from paid firefighters. This lack of knowledge about what we do and how we do it is an increasing threat to CFA Volunteerism! It is fertile ground for the UFU bosses and their fellow travellers to run political scare campaigns that volunteers aren't up to the job and must be replaced by paid staff on 24 hour rosters.

The UFU strategy is simple. In addition to their industrial agreement negotiations with CFA and Government they use their financial and organizing resources to whip up public scare campaigns to pressure the government through local voters to fund new paid staff, regardless of any real need.

Despite repeated requests by VFBV, CFA have refused to actively oppose this UFU scare campaign. They have refused to promote public awareness on the effective role played by Volunteers in providing professional standards of fire and emergency services in our suburbs, provincial cities and towns and rural communities, lest it upsets UFU bosses.

Well, VFBV is fighting back for local volunteers. In the days and months ahead VFBV will be organizing a mass public awareness campaign to inform the public on what we volunteers do, how we do it and what we need to do it even better.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We need you to help us spread the word and educate people, particularly those in community leadership positions, about what volunteers do; about the quality and professionalism of the services we provide; and about our capacity to continue to service community needs into the future, even in communities experiencing growth and population expansion. You can help by demanding to be involved in decision making about matters that affect you locally and by ensuring CFA is focused on providing you with the support you need.

Our campaign will be positive. VFBV has been depicted by some (for their own reasons) as being opposed to paid firefighters in CFA. This is far from true. We welcome the support and contribution of paid firefighters who work with and support volunteers at 31 of CFA's 1200 plus brigades. This integrated model of service is one of CFA's strengths in serving the community. Resource decisions must be decided by CFA and driven by the Chief Officer determined after consultation with local volunteers not by industrial pressure. The appointment of paid firefighters should never be made because of industrial agreements.

MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN VOLUNTEER CAPABILITY MUST BE CFA's PRIORITY

VFBV recognises that some brigades require paid fire-fighter support to supplement volunteer capacity, whether this be day time, weekday or rostered around the clock, VFBV acknowledges the provision of such support where it is required. But there are many other ways busy brigades need to be supported and paid firefighters are not the only solution.

The CFA Board and management have committed to the principle that retaining and building volunteer capability is of highest priority and to the principle of providing support to brigades along a variety of options.

This should mean providing targeted support such as recruiting more volunteers through to basic administrative help for brigades; additional resources for training or community education; promotion of leadership skills etc; and only after these efforts have been exhausted, to consider supplementation with paid firefighters perhaps day time weekday, perhaps 24 hour roster depending on local brigade need.

For this regime to work, CFA needs to ensure you at brigade level understand the range of support options available and needs to work diligently with you to maintain and build volunteer capacity as the highest priority. If you are not sure what support options should be available to your brigade or if you are not being given the assistance you need please raise this with VFBV. You have a right to be consulted – if this isn't happening make sure we know about it.

VFBV - advancing the interests of *all* Victorian fire brigade volunteers...

FAREWELL 'THE CHIEF'

Congratulations to CFA Chief Officer Russell Rees AFSM who retired at the end of June following a distinguished career as an officer of the CFA. Russell's many friends and colleagues have taken the opportunity to catch up during June at numerous events across the State, where many stories and past battles were fondly recalled and embellished.

The VFBV Board and all its members warmly and sincerely congratulate Russell on his outstanding contribution to the preparation of and protection of Victorian communities, his strong leadership of the CFA and wish Russell, Bernadette and family good health and prosperity into the future. We look forward to again greeting Russell at the annual State Championships, events that are dear to his heart and where old friends can maintain their acquaintances.

Some volunteers have raised concern directly with VFBV that we have not always been vocal enough in support of our CFA Chief Officer Russell Rees, particularly in recent times. Be aware that we have on numerous occasions spoken up publicly in support of the Chief, including at the press conference where he announced his resignation.

We had hoped that VFBV President Gary Lyttle would have been able to pass on the best wishes of CFA's 60,000 volunteers directly to Russell Rees at his recent farewell.

Despite Gary having been invited to speak on your behalf and having prepared some fitting words to our outgoing Chief, CFA's Board Chairman decided on the night that Gary would not be given the opportunity to speak on behalf of the CFA volunteers.

We apologise Russell, you were well regarded by CFA volunteers and a volunteer yourself, and you understood what really drives a successful volunteer based organisation. Our farewell to Russell will be posted on the VFBV website.

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDALS

Congratulations are extended to the recipients of the Australian Fire Service Medal awarded in June's Queens Birthday Honours. This is the highest award available in our fire service and is well deserved recognition of outstanding contributions by these members.

Our congratulations to:

- Group Officer Peter Rice AFSM (Alexandra)
- Ex Captain Ian Board AFSM (Lara)
- Group Officer Rod Holland AFSM (Diamond Crk)
- Ex Captain John Gerrand AFSM (Stradbroke)
- Ex Captain Ian Walter AFSM (Dooen)

VACANCIES ON VFBV BOARD

The terms of office of Board Members Ian Nash and Nev Jones (Rural) and Quentin Turner and Rob Waterson (Urban) are to expire on the 1st October 2010. Quentin Turner will retire on the expiration of his term on 1st October 2010; Ian Nash, Nev Jones and Rob Waterson are eligible for re-appointment.

A Role Statement can be obtained from the VFBV office or www.vfbv.com.au; applications close 27th August 2010.

2010/11 VFBV AFFILIATION FEES

The VFBV Board approved the waiving of separate affiliation fees for Junior Brigades and Auxiliaries as from 2010/2011, with all Junior Brigades and Auxiliaries now being automatically covered by their Brigade's affiliation payment. Also approved is a 5% increase applying to all categories of VFBV membership, the first such increase in Brigade affiliation fees for a number of years.

WELFARE FUND FEES SET FOR 2009/10

The Welfare Fund Brigade contribution fee for 2010/11 will remain at the same level as last year - \$85.00 per Brigade, in line with VFBV's principles of keeping fees as low as possible for all Brigades.

VFBV BEGINS SEARCH FOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Executive Officer Bob MacDonald has indicated his intention to retire later this year and the process has commenced to attract a suitable experienced volunteer to fill this important role. For details check the VFBV website.

CSESP – HOW WILL THIS WORK IN THE FUTURE?

Soon to be conducted will be a survey of all Brigades seeking their feedback on how, or what the future of the Community Safety Emergency Support (CSESP) program should look like. Conducted by the Department of Justice, the online and telephone survey will focus on the future program and the types of initiatives that would be valued by Emergency Service organisations.

CSESP 3 Round 4 announcements recently have shown a change in emphasis on the types of equipment and vehicle typologies supported, and the upcoming survey will gather valuable information that will allow Government to fine tune future funding initiatives and provide advice to potential applicants. VFBV will provide information on the details for the survey to all Brigades with a information sheet in the July VFBV mailout.

VFBV LISTENING SET & SCANNER STOCKTAKE

TIME'S ALMOST UP! ACT NOW

The stocktake results from every Brigade are due at **the end of JULY!**

Help us give CFA a shock!
We believe these are operationally justified and there are tens of thousands of them!

When our radio communications switch to digital
THROW AWAY YOUR LISTENING SETS & SCANNERS

New radios are about to replace the old Motorola mobiles and portables. This changeover will be complete in late 2012. At the same time, CFA is upgrading its dispatch channel network to a digital network right across the State.

Digital Radios/Digital Network equals
No Analogue transmissions, thus no signals for analogue listening sets or scanners

Has your Comms Officer completed the survey and faxed it to VFBV?

DEADLINE is 31st Julv

VFBV TAKES NEW DIRECTION IN DISTRICT 2

In the past local VFBV meetings, and before that VUFBA and VRFBA meetings, have been held at an area level but with the pending change of boundaries for some regions it has created the opportunity to review the process.

District 2 has opted to trial Brigades and Groups meeting in their four local Government areas (LGAs) of Greater Bendigo, Mt Alexander shire, Macedon Ranges shire and Central Goldfields shire for the next six months. Each LGA will have an executive group made up of a Chairperson, Secretary and State Council representatives who will meet with the other three LGA executive groups to discuss the matters raised by the four groups and determine issues to be referred to the Board and State Council.

Further changes will be made as required to ensure functional representation for district 2 at both local and State level is achieved for all volunteer Brigades. District 2 believe their model gives fairer representation for Brigades at a local level and minimises the distance brigade representatives have to travel to VFBV meetings. Another feature of the model is that it replicates the CFA structure in District 2. Should the trial prove successful then it is probable it will be adopted by other Districts who have a similar structure to that of District 2.

NEW STATE COUNCILLOR

Newly elected member Gary Fitzgerald attended his first State Council meeting. Gary was elected by Regional Council 12 on 30th May 2010 and replaces retired member Barry Pyke. President Gary Lyttle presented Barry Pyke with a Certificate of Appreciation and thanked him for his contribution as a State Councillor for Region 12 over the past 9 years.

Also welcomed to the meeting was Erika Lind, State Councillor Phil Lind's daughter, attending as an Observer as part of the VFBV Leadership course she is undertaking.

NEW VFBV LIFE MEMBER

At the State Council meeting, former VUFBA Executive Member Bill Pressey AFSM was nominated and approved for VFBV Life Membership for providing outstanding service to the Association. Bill will be presented with a VFBV plaque at the 2011 State Urban Championship.

STATE COUNCIL MEETS

ITEMS TO BE RAISED WITH THE CFA INCLUDE:

Issues referred to the Association by Regional Councils and discussed by the State Council, which are to be raised with the CFA include:

- request CFA hold changes to RPC's until the Brigade Classification project is implemented, and uniformity with its implementation across the State;
- as a high priority, the Acquisition and Operation of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) project be completed within three months;
- resolve the coverage issue for the Dartmoor Group to ensure an acceptable radio coverage to ensure firefighter safety;
- investigate a re-chargeable option for the next generation of pagers;
- clarification of CFA policy of issuing PPC to members with fireground safety qualifications;

- encourage re-employment of OH&S project officers;
- commence a review of the CFA discipline process;
- seek a review of SOP 12.08 to allow Brigades to be involved in community activities;
- provide a timeline for the funding program for fire station toilet facilities in regional areas be provided;
- negotiate with DSE resolution of issues in regard to camp fires and issue of DSE response on a Statewide basis;
- new CFA Chief Officer should have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the importance of the volunteer culture of CFA, how CFA functions, to avoid any disruption to the volunteer effectiveness; also a full knowledge and understanding of weather patterns and volatility of fuels in SE Australia;
- the Minimum Skills assessment package provided by the Gippsland Region be considered in the current training review strategy;
- every CFA member on completion of minimum skills training be issued with a pager or other communication device eg. SMS, along with PPE;
- ensure Coast Guard Fire Brigade initiative is implemented with appropriate support from CFA and Government.

2010 VFBV OPEN FORUM

Over 140 volunteers representing approximately 90 Brigades, attended the 2010 VFBV Open Forum held Saturday 26th June. CFA CEO Mick Bourke's attendance provided a great opportunity for CFA members to meet the new CEO, hear his views and discuss a wide range of issues which was greatly appreciated by VFBV and all in attendance.

As part of his address, Mick Bourke spoke of CFA's 7 key areas: volunteers, operational training, expertise, stakeholders/people, business infrastructure, performance standards and sustainable funding for the organisation. Mick also stated what drives volunteers is their contribution to the community to keep it safer, the desire to protect lives of those communities, and having a say in how that happens.

The Open Forum facilitates the "having a say" and with CFA Board members Michael Tudball and David Gibbs, and the majority of State Councillors in attendance, issues from the floor were able to be raised, discussed and in many instances answered.

REVIEW UNDERWAY of STANDING ORDERS & SOP's

CFA is seeking input from volunteers on some important additions and changes to the Chief Officer's Standing Orders, SOP's and Policies in the run up to the 2010 Fire Danger Period. VFBV have established a small working party and will canvas feedback to ensure volunteers provide a consolidated response to CFA by the end of August. CFA Operations has launched a new web page to improve access to draft policies, procedures, Standing Orders and SOPs. The web page aims to increase the exposure of these operational documents and in turn increase the feedback received by those who use them, helping to develop accurate and relevant documents.

The web page is located on both the CFA Intranet and Brigades Online under: *Operations > Operations Manuals > Operational Policies and Procedures – Feedback.*

REVIEW OF FIRST AID TRAINING

Q. Does your Brigade value First Aid training?

Q. Do you have an opinion on how CFA should provide First Aid qualifications, to whom, how many, where and when?

You can contribute to a review of current First Aid Training by requesting your Brigade or Group delegate raises your concerns at Group and VFBV District Council meetings. VFBV has a Working Party preparing a response to a "FIRST AID in CFA" Discussion Paper and we need your comments and feedback on your preference for the options offered. The "First Aid in CFA" Discussion Paper can be viewed or downloaded from the VFBV website or from CFA's Brigades On-Line (BOL) site. Comments or submissions can be forwarded to Allan Monti at the VFBV office: vfbv@vfbv.com.au

DARLEY / VFBV 2011 VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

Expressions of interest are being called by all VFBV District Councils for interested volunteers to be considered for a scholarship place in our 2011 Volunteer Leadership Program. VFBV, in conjunction with our generous sponsor Darley Australia, has provided 25 scholarship places in the inaugural 2010 program currently underway. Our first graduates will complete their studies in November this year and will receive their qualification, the nationally recognised Certificate 4 in Frontline Management.

Volunteers interested for 2011 can view details of the program on the VFBV website and should contact their VFBV District Council Secretary to lodge their details for consideration for a scholarship place.

Expressions of interest close on **30th September 2010**.

2010 AUXILIARY CONFERENCE, FISKVILLE

The 2010 Auxiliary Conference will be held at the CFA Training College, Fiskville on Saturday 14th August, from 10.00am to 5.00pm, with Registration and Morning Tea from 9.00am. Guest speakers will include Christine Nixon, Chair of the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction & Recovery Authority, Peter Langridge CFA HR Department on the Volunteer Health Check, and a representative of depression support group *Beyondblue*. Auxiliaries should register their attendance for catering purposes asap to VFBV office, 9886 1141 or j.laing@vfbv.com.au.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN

All Junior Leaders are reminded that they must have a Working with Children Check (WWCC) card to comply with Victorian law. The Working with Children Act 2005 and CFA policy require that Junior Leaders;

- be brigade nominated CFA members,
- hold a WWCC card or be in an exempted category,
- attend Junior Leader Induction, and
- work at all times with another endorsed Junior Leader.

The exempt categories include parents whose own children participate in the activity, sworn Police officers and teachers registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching. If you are an endorsed Junior Leader but have ceased to be in one of the exempt categories eg. your own child is no longer taking part in the activity you are supervising, you will need to obtain a WWCC card. Or if

you acquired your card five years ago, you will need to have it renewed.

The WWCC card is required by law and is part of CFA and volunteers ensuring the safety of children in our care. There are steep penalties for individuals and organisations that breach the WWCC law, including fines and gaol for individuals, and heavy fines for organisations.

The WWCC card is provided free to volunteers by the Department of Justice, Victoria. For further information visit www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren, call the Department of Justice Working with Children Information Line on 1300 652 879 or read the CFA Youth Unit Newsletter at <http://www.youth.news.cfals.info/>

VFBV CHAMPIONSHIP ITEMS

URBAN ENTRY FORMS

Entry forms and Nomination of Officials forms for the 2011 State Urban Championships, have been forwarded to all competing Urban Brigades. These forms are also available from the VFBV office or website.

VFBV has approved for Urban Championships:

- trial of Safety Helmets to continue for the 2010/11 competition season, with their use to be mandatory for the Ladder 5 and Ladder 8 events at the Eastern Districts, Western Zone and GMFBCA competitions on the Australia Day weekend;
- inspection of all team's ladder harnesses be mandatory at all competitions;
- to trial the use of Duraline hoses for Junior competitions next competition season;
- where Junior Brigades enter two or more teams, those teams to compete consecutively in each event, except the Hydrant and Wet Hose events; with Brigades found to be flaunting the borrowing rules, may be subject to disqualification.

COACHES FORUM

A meeting of all Competition Coaches at Dandenong Fire Station Sunday 10th October is being facilitated by VFBV. Forms have been forwarded to all competing Urban Brigades to register the Brigade Coach/s attendance. VFBV requests all Urban Coaches attend.

COMPETITION HYDRANT

Non competing Brigades with a competition hydrant no longer in use, are urged to contact the Association if willing to sell it for use by competing Brigades.

RURAL CHAMPIONSHIPS STATE COMMITTEE SELECT DATE

The State Committee at its meeting in late May agreed to accept an application from the Wyndham catchment of Brigades to host the 2011 State Rural Championships in Werribee on the weekend of 9 and 10 April.

In other Rural Championship news it was agreed that in future the Junior Aggregates will be awarded to the team with the highest number of points, rather than the Brigade with the highest points. This will bring the Junior Aggregates in line with the Senior Divisional Aggregates and remove a confusion that has existed over recent years. The State Committee is also interested in establishing a State panel of make-up personnel to supplement and assist the local personnel at State Championships into the future.



8th July 2010

TO: Secretary
Fire Brigades & Groups
(As Addressed)

Dear Secretary,

Re: VFBV Annual General Meeting – Saturday 18th September 2010

As members of VFBV, all Brigades and Groups are invited to send delegates to VFBV's Annual General Meeting on Saturday 18th September 2010.

The meeting will be held at CFA Training College, Fiskville in the Auditorium commencing at 1.00pm.

It would be appreciated if VFBV could be advised of numbers attending for catering. Please advise your attendance to the VFBV office 9886 1141 or j.laing@vfbv.com.au

The Agenda for the Annual General Meeting will include:

- Confirmation of Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting
- 2009/2010 Audited Financial Statements and Annual Report
- Election of Office Bearers for the ensuing year
- Notices of motion
- Appointment of Auditors

It is proposed, the AGM will include a number of guest speakers and presentations on topical issues. Once confirmed, details of these will be advertised in The Fireman and on the VFBV website closer to the date.

ANDREW FORD
Chief Executive Officer

14th July 2010

**TO: VFBV District Council Presidents
VFBV District Council Secretaries
VFBV State Councillors
Group Officers
Brigade Captains
Brigade Secretaries**

Dear Colleagues,

The following information is provided under specific topics. Please communicate the following at your next meeting.

1. REVIEW OF CHIEF OFFICER'S SOP's

VFBV is preparing a response to a request to review draft Chief Officer Standard Operating Procedures, some redrafted and others new. VFBV has formed a Working Party and will respond with a consolidated reply to CFA by 31st August 2010.

The draft documents and potentially others soon to be released for comment constitute significant changes to command and control arrangements and individuals and Groups are encouraged to submit comments to the VFBV Working Party by 25th August.

The documents can be accessed from the Brigades On-Line (BOL) website and also the VFBV delegates website page. For further details contact Allan Monti on 03 9886 1141.

2. TERMINIOLOGY CHANGES - 1st July 2010

As a result of CFA's Boundary Re-alignment Project, administrative arrangements came into place as of 1st July 2010. CFA Areas have reformed into 8 Regions, and old Regions now are being widely referred to in correspondence as Districts. This terminology has immediately been applied by CFA, thus in order to avoid confusion, VFBV will need to similarly refer to the new Regions and Districts in conversation and correspondence.

VFBV State Council at its June meeting endorsed a recommendation for VFBV to enter into a transitional period where the structures and organisational arrangements, including how and where we are represented, will need to be considered prior to major structural changes.

Many will have already seen VFBV Regional Councils considering how they will respond to changes in boundaries, membership and representation.

VFBV Regional Council 2, now known as VFBV District Council No. 2 has proactively embarked on a pilot structure where over the next 6 months, the District Council will meet with delegates drawn from Local Government Area (LGA) VFBV meetings of Brigades. The concept will reduce travel across some very large Districts and is designed to allow for geographically aligned Brigades to meet at a more convenient location and send delegates to the District Council meetings without the need for individual Brigade delegates to travel excessive distances.

Each VFBV District Council will evaluate the result of this pilot and will apply treatments within their District that best suit their local circumstances. VFBV staff will assist and support each District Council to work through this transition.

The details of how, when and what changes VFBV Regional Councils make, is a matter for each Council. VFBV staff will provide advice and communicate widely the actions various Councils take in moving to the new arrangements.

For the moment, in our terminology and correspondence, VFBV will use the following effective immediately:

<i>Regional Council to</i>	<i>District Council</i>
<i>Regional Council President to</i>	<i>District Council President</i>
<i>Regional Council Secretary to</i>	<i>District Council Secretary</i>
<i>Regional Council Executive to</i>	<i>District Council Executive</i>
<i>VFBV State Councillor -</i>	<i>No change</i>
<i>VFBV Brigade Delegate</i> -	<i>No change</i>

In accord with CFA's change of terminology, Districts (old Regions) are now formed within Regions (old Areas). Thankfully Brigades are still Brigades.

Bob MacDonald will be the central VFBV staff officer responsible for working with Brigades and delegates through the transition phase in 2010.

3. COMMUNITY SAFETY EMERGENCY SUPORT PROGRAM (CSESP) REVIEW

Contained in this mailout pack is a glossy noticeboard flyer seeking feedback from volunteers on the CSESP program.

VFBV is proactive in its support for the review and has formed a specialist Working Party to reflect on the conduct of past rounds and welcomes submissions and comments from volunteers.

From its inception, CSESP was designed to provide in CFA's case, a shared funding model that provided Brigades with the ability to replace ageing community owned tankers and appliances, many very old and outdated. Contemplating funding the full replacement cost of a tanker appliance from Brigade funds alone was largely unachievable, thus the success of past rounds of CSESP have seen all these old community owned heavy tankers replaced using a share cost model.

The call from the Victoria Department of Justice to reflect on past rounds of CSESP and provide suggestions for the types of projects, equipment, vehicles that would be welcomed by CFA volunteers, provides us all with an opportunity to contribute to future thinking.

VFBV and its own CSESP Review Working Party encourages volunteers to contribute to our groups work and also the on-line survey, but cautions that negativity and complaints will not benefit anyone with future CSESP rounds under the spotlight from a viability and sustainability viewpoint.

Our VFBV CSESP Review Working Party will make strong representations to Government on:

- The equipment/vehicle/projects that may be available for Brigades to bid on;
- The application, approval and co-contribution processes used by CFA;
- The advice to Government of the future conduct of the program;
- The potential funding co-contribution percentages for capital improvement projects (buildings & infrastructure) as well as capital purchase projects (trucks & equipment);
- Opportunities for projects of a small equipment nature (possibly up to \$10K per Brigade).

VFBV encourages respondents to the CSESP Survey to proactively offer Government ideas on how to re-focus CSESP for the betterment of the program and ultimately our Brigades.

4. VFBV LISTENING SET & SCANNER STOCKTAKE

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equals

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Has your Comms Officer completed the survey and faxed it to VFBV? **DEADLINE 31st July**

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- Q. *Does your Brigade value First Aid training?*
- Q. *Do you have an opinion on how CFA should provide First Aid qualifications, to whom, how many, where and when?*

You can contribute to a review of current First Aid Training by requesting your Brigade or Group delegate raises your concerns at Group and VFBV District Council meetings.

VFBV has a Working Party preparing a response to a “**FIRST AID in CFA**” Discussion Paper and we need your comments and feedback on your preference for the options offered.

The “First Aid in CFA” Discussion Paper can be viewed or downloaded from the VFBV website or from CFA's Brigades On-Line (BOL) site. Comments or submissions can be forwarded to Allan Monti at the VFBV office: vfsv@vfsv.com.au

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Expressions of interest close on **30th September 2010.**

14th July 2010

**TO: VFBV District Council Presidents
VFBV District Council Secretaries
Group Officers
VFBV State Councillors
(As Addressed)**

Dear Colleagues,

Re: Review of Chief Officer's SOP's – August 2010

Just released for comment and feedback are a comprehensive suite of CFA Chief Officer's Standard Operating Procedures, Standing Orders, Policies and Procedures.

VFBV as a key stakeholder representing CFA volunteers has been asked to co-ordinate responses from volunteers across the State and to do this effectively we are asking for key groups and individuals to assist us in the process.

VFBV has established a SOP Review Working Party as a link directly to State Council, for the purposes of managing and consolidating the responses, ultimately providing CFA with a considered response by early September 2010.

The policy, procedures, SO's and SOP documents are currently in draft form, with the intention to finalise all for a pre Fire Danger Period release this year.

The VFBV Working Party chaired by VFBV Vice President Urban Peter White AFSM will require responses and feedback to be received no later than **FRIDAY 20th AUGUST 2010**

On the reverse side is a list of the draft CFA Standing Orders, Standard Operating Procedures, Policies and processes that apply during this current review. These documents are able to be viewed and downloaded from the VFBV website (delegates log in) and CFA Brigades On-Line.

IMPORTANT NOTE: These SO's, SOP's, Policies and procedures deal with important issues and when adopted will potentially change the way our Brigades, people and management arrangements work.
incident

I encourage you to take an active role in considering these, discuss the specifics of particular documents with your constituents and provide our Working Party with your feedback by the due date.

ALLAN MONTI
Executive Officer
(ref: 76/10)

CHIEF OFFICER'S SO's, SOP'S, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

JULY 2010 REVIEW

Policy	AED	Acquisition & Operation of Automated External Defibrillators	Draft v0.4
Procedure	AED	Acquisition & Operation of Automated External Defibrillators	Draft 0.6
SOP	1.02	Development, Review and withdraw Process for the Chief Officer's Standing Orders, SOP's and Checklists	Version 2
SOP	5.04	Service Hose Testing and Coupling Inspection	Version 4
SOP	9.32	Crew protection at Wildfires – Entrapment Procedures for Appliances	Version 3
SOP	14.03	Fire Investigation	Version 4
SOP	14.07	Notifications – Energy safe Victoria and Municipal Building Surveyor	Version 6
SOP	9.39	Procedures for Planning a Prescribed Burn or Burn Off	Version 2
SOP	9.11	Incident Control Centres (ICC)	Version 3
SOP	9.30	Traffic Management (Emergency)	Version 4
SOP	11.04	Power lines and Electrical Conductors – Working Near	Version 5
SOP	11.05	Red Flag Warnings	Version 4

NOTE: A number of Standing Orders and SOP's originally intended for review and comment as part of this consultation process have been recalled pending the approvals and sign offs with respect to the State Emergency Response Plan.

The Standing Order concerned 8.00 Chain of Command and 7 other SOP's, namely 8.01, 8.02, 8.03, 8.04, 9.10, 9.12, and 11.07 are impacted on the final approval of the SERP. CFA will seek feedback in a further consultation process in due course for these very important documents.

14th July 2010

**TO: VFBV District Council Presidents
VFBV District Council Secretaries
VFBV State Councillors**

Dear Colleagues,

**Re: District Change Advisors – Regional Radio Dispatch Service
Call for VFBV District Councils to identify suitable candidates**

The Regional Radio Dispatch Service (RRDS) Project has been established to procure a radio communications service that will provide CFA and VICSES with a regional radio dispatch capability. To achieve the RRDS objective it envisaged that CFA will contract a telecommunications service from a provider that has the ability to provide and manage service infrastructure and ensure quality of service.

The implementation of the new dispatch service will introduce some significant changes to many of CFA's regional brigades, most significantly the upgrading of all Cat 5 regional brigades to Cat 1. Other changes include a transition from the current analogue radio service to a digital service, and the inclusion of VICSES on CFA dispatch channels.

To ensure the success of the implementation, RRDS would like to establish a network of Regional Change Advisors who would assist the project in understanding and addressing local issues. The Change Advisors will also have the opportunity to provide input into the overall RRDS change strategy. Accordingly, RRDS is seeking expressions of interest from suitably experienced CFA Volunteers who would like to contribute to the project as a Change Advisor.

It is envisaged that Regional Change Advisors would participate in the following activities:

- Providing advice to the Project Change Team on local issues
- Supporting the conduct of local change impact surveys
- Being available as a local point of contact for project enquiries
- Reviewing and disseminating information provided by the project team
- Participating in occasional meetings and discussion with project and the broader RRDS Change Network

I am seeking a nomination from your District Council for a suitably qualified and enthusiastic person to be the nominated District Change Advisor for this large and complex project.

These are voluntary roles, yet pivotal to the information flow amongst our Brigades and volunteers as this project rolls out. It is envisaged that CFA will provide each District Change Advisor with training and access to a much wider range of information and references in order for these roles to be effective.

I would seek your advice on a suitable nominee from your Council by 1st September 2010.

Thanks in anticipation.

ALLAN MONTI
Executive Officer



8th July 2010

**TO: Secretary
Fire Brigades & Groups
(As Addressed)**

Re: POSITION VACANT – VFBV EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Due to the pending retirement of Bob MacDonald, long serving Executive Officer of the Victorian Rural Fire Brigades Association and more recently Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria, we are seeking applications from suitably skilled CFA volunteers for the position of an Executive Officer.

Reporting to the CEO, the position involves working in a team environment to address issues impacting on all volunteers, representing VFBV on committees and working parties plus specific project work.

We need a person who can effectively represent volunteers within CFA, to Government, to other organisations and the general public. The role involves considerable liaison with CFA at Executive and management levels; working closely with brigades and Association Regional Councils; influencing external decision makers; and active contribution through Association forums, CFA committees and specific project tasks.

Applicants need to have an understanding and appreciation of issues relevant to brigades and volunteerism in general and particularly issues affecting brigades in serving rural communities. You need to be able to demonstrate an ability to establish productive relationships within our own membership base and also with people who influence decisions about matters affecting volunteers. It is important that you are a self starter and can demonstrate success while managing multiple concurrent issues and work demands. You need to be a good communicator and someone who understands how to lead and influence others to achieve outcomes.

This is a permanent position, based at our Burwood office. There is flexibility of work location recognising that the position supports brigades across rural Victoria. Flexible working hours are available to cater for occasional weekend and evening work required to support our volunteer membership base. Salary will be negotiated based on skills and experience within the range of \$55,000 - \$75,000 per annum plus superannuation.

A position description is available from the VFBV webpage (www.vfbv.com.au) or by contacting Jenni Laing at the VFBV office on 03 9886 1141

Applications outlining your skills, experience and key achievements should be forwarded to the CEO, VFBV, PO Box 453, Mt Waverley Vic 3149 by 6th August 2010