

Heading

Key Points from October 2009 VFBV Meeting Lilydale

Summary

Good attendance from Brigades at the October meeting, large amount of business dealt with

Main Body

- General Manager Lex de Man, report from Yarra Area to VFBV Region 13 (Hard copy circulated to delegates)
Comment or questions from the floor
 1. Issue of PPC for graduating recruit firefighters- refer report
 2. Capital works program- refer report
 3. Region trainer vacancy, advertised internally 3 times then will be advertised externally
 4. Lack of chainsaw operator courses
 5. Time taken to complete training courses, content and duration, volunteers don't have time
 6. Lack of recognition of the RPL process
 7. Slow delivery of PPC and other items in general, black turnout coats. Senior members with new PPC and newer members with old issue PPC
 8. Initial 20 electronic fire indicator boards for region

- Correspondence
 1. From CFA – No retrofitting doors on 3.4C
 2. From Lower Yarra Group – Inequities in travel allowance
 3. To Selby Brigade thanks for toiletries for drought appeal

- Reports
 - President Vice President report (circulated to delegates)
 - Training Report (circulated to delegates)
 - Community Safety Report (circulated to delegates)
 - Treasurers Report (verbal)
 - Operations Officer (verbal), 6 level framework Fire Danger Rating CFA to align with community, clearer pager messages for strike team activation, alignment of council boundaries with CFA boundaries, staff changes
 - VFBV Annual meeting, Allan Roberts & Paul Denham (verbal)
 - Chief Officers report to meeting
 - VFBV's Key Priorities:
 - Our voice has to be heard very loud,
 - Be Radical; just look at the union tactics
 - UFU claim for staff into Volunteer stations that don't require staff is rejected
 - We have the opportunity to take issues to state, region, and municipal level and should take advantage of this.

- We need to be clear on our position of what future needs are required.
 - Live @cfa – details on VFBV web site “Issues of Interest”
 - Minimum facilities at stations
 - 2009 Control Line – Bayswater Brigade
 - Ladder safety
 - State Committee appointments, Bill Watson HR & Community Safety, Bob Horner PPC
 - Slow process for staff changes
7. Competitions- Jim Dusting (verbal)
- Region 13 must commit if they want to keep the urban style comp continuing
8. Female PPC & Auxiliaries – Vicki Linaker (verbal)
- Female wildfire PPC still under review
 - Focus to involve auxiliaries more, other catering agencies not able to fulfill roles at times. All auxiliaries in region 13 will be contacted

General Business

1. Travel rates for volunteers
 - Motion – That VFBV address inconsistent travel payments to volunteers
2. Noise levels of tankers – Use Hazard Reports
3. Question to meeting- how many have viewed the Region 13 web site. Accurate data, can always do with more information from brigades
4. Scott Aspin Helmets – must be returned to region (safety issue (refer issues of interest VFBV R13 web site)
5. Feedback needed on the Driver Training & Endorsement Policy
6. Staminade & Staminade Hydrate, clarification on difference
7. PDF version of region contact book to be made available to all
8. Transfer of brigade owned vehicles, ensure you contact correct person at RTA, exemption on stamp duty
9. Scott Homewood new region FAM, low stores stocks due to restocking from Feb fires, brigades keeping extra stocks & influx of new recruits. Working through issues and reporting back to brigades
10. Motion to VFBV – Streamlining of all stores issues be undertaken (5 sets of spare wildfire PPC should be on hand at all brigades)
11. CFA become the lead / combating agency for all bushfires in Victoria
12. Fire Ready Victoria meetings being held in brigade areas without local brigades knowledge
13. Revamp of RPC, concern that knowledge from senior state reps may be lost by smaller number representation

14. Fuel management, clean up needed ASAP on roadside "wick" areas after storms
15. Chainsaw course inconsistencies and no RPL available
16. Exhaust fumes in engine bays
17. Pager batteries, clarification batteries are supplied by CFA
18. New knapsacks are single action, better option dual action (for equipment review committee)
19. Motion – Region 13 pick up tab for morning tea's
20. Incident reports must go in, as safety can track, data collect trends. A number of small incidents can lead to a major incident
21. Brigade Safety Facilitators, are there to support brigades they are not agitators, but an important part of brigade business

Next meeting February 14th 2010