

VFBV District 13

Community Safety Report

Sunday 9/10/2010

- Workshop by Soleran 5th August at Montrose fire station looked at brigade community safety issues ie effectiveness or otherwise of bushfire programs. Basically was a workshop for brigade reps only, it was not attended by CFA. The purpose was to gain feedback on a statewide basis for submission to CFA. Was well attended by volunteers who inputted on a wide range of issues. Local VFBV represented at this meeting
- Workshop by local CFA at Mooroolbark Conference Centre for brigade community safety reps was also well attended:
Need to develop strong brigade & regional relationships
Need to have clear communication channels between brigade & CE Team
Need a balanced focus with domestic, commercial & wildfire
Support given to brigades as required
Volunteers had ample opportunity to input into the workshop of which included an opportunity to share ideas. Local VFBV represented at this meeting.
- D 13 feedback processes (4 meetings) following the RC outcomes, brigades directly impacted and supporting brigades holding separate meetings, CFA providing an avenue for volunteers to have their say on outcomes of the RC and to get that information back into the government. Volunteers had frank & open discussions and plenty of opportunity to input. Local VFBV had representation at this meeting
- D 13 Community Safety Work Group Meeting 18th August, Lilydale
 - Boundary alignment update (all advised email regular updates), Ray Fritz keeping other regions updated / advised (incoming brigades) of current Community Safety status.
 - Emphasis on having local input for future Fire Ready Meetings
 - Discussion on fire warnings, to be more area specific, rather than generic messages
 - Promotion of all members being able to communicate the same message in relation to the stay or go policy
 - Supported concept of delivery of bushfire safety education programs directed at the teenager level

State Feedback

- Community Safety Trial Evacuation exercise to be held shortly in the Geelong area, VFBV feedback will be gained and passed back to through D13 brigade reps
- State wide planning underway on the feasibility of including a recruit firefighter module on community safety
- State wide fuel reduction burns 09 /10 conducted by brigades totaled 2237 kilometers, plus 1805 hectares were conducted on private land
- Roadside Management & Vegetation Management Report:
 1. Confirmation of continued funding provided in the State budget
 2. CFA working at revamping the PD for fuel management facilitators
 3. Additional work undertaken on the prescribed burning SOP
 4. DSE have released a new firewood strategy & fact sheets (Fact sheet 3 firewood collection)
- CFA & DSE web sites report, the main developments that have occurred in relation to Incident information & warnings on the CFA & DSE web sites include:
 - Merging of incident information drawn from the two organisations' operational systems (IMS and Fireweb) to form a single incident summary feed on both CFA and DSE's websites – this was further enhanced over summer on the basis of queries received from the public
 - The introduction of a new web-based system for issuing bushfire warnings / advice, allowing the same message to be sent simultaneously to both websites as well as multiple media outlets
 - Over 400 DSE, CFA staff and volunteer Information Unit personnel were trained in 2009 in updates to the Information Unit including the new system, known as "One Source One Message" (OSOM). Messages can now be published from all over the State saving time (previously had to be published via the SCC by DSE and CFA Information Officers)

Bill Watson VFBV Rep D 13 Community Safety Work Group, & VFBV Rep Community Safety Advisory Committee

