



MEDIA RELEASE

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EPPING CFA ON THE HOP ON EASTER WEEKEND

Epping CFA members spent Good Friday shaking tins for the Royal Childrens' Hospital Good Friday Appeal, but they were kept on the hop thanks to several emergency calls in their primary response area and surrounding suburbs.

Epping responded to South Morang on Good Friday where CFA, supported by Metropolitan Fire Brigade, fought a fire at a cabinet-making business. Around 70 firefighters and 17 appliances, including Epping's Pumper and Rescue appliances, were involved in the firefighting effort. The fire began about midday and was brought under control around 2pm.

Despite interruptions, Doreen and Epping CFA brigades combined forces to raise more than **\$11,548.40** for the Good Friday Appeal.

Over the course of the long weekend, Epping responded to five incidents in its primary response area, including a car leaking gas where a flare-off was required and a large bonfire that could have easily spread into grasslands. It also provided support at three incidents in other brigade areas.

Mark Gravell, CFA District 14 President for Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria, said the busy brigades in the outer area of Melbourne provided operational support for nearby brigades as well as in their own primary response area. CFA District 14 covers an area ranging from Werribee in the west to Eltham in the north west and is one of the busiest CFA districts in Victoria.

Over the long weekend District 14 brigades raised more than **\$158,000** for the Appeal.

At the same time they responded to **142 calls**, with around **500 volunteers** attending incidents in their primary region or in support of neighbouring brigades.

Mr Gravell said CFA's respected surge capacity in urban and rural areas happened every day, not just during large fires.

"CFA's highly active volunteer presence in outer Melbourne means dozens of trained firefighters can turn out to incidents in other locations and still maintain service levels in their primary response area," Mr Gravell said.

Epping is one of the busiest brigades in District 14, attending around 450 incidents a year, as well as supporting other CFA brigades and MFB. Epping has also equipped a specialised road accident rescue unit that attends about 80 rescue incidents a year.

Recruitment campaign

Epping CFA will be launching a fresh membership drive on ANZAC Day tomorrow. Check out the Epping CFA website for details - www.eppingcfa.com.au

Mr Gravell said being a CFA volunteer is a great opportunity for people who enjoy teamwork, a physical and mental challenge, and who want to provide a meaningful contribution in their community. "Whether you want to attend incidents as a firefighter or work in support, logistics and communications roles, you are welcome to apply."

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