



Tuesday, 28 January 2014

MEDIA RELEASE

## Otway CFA volunteer on TV for bushfire safety

Otway CFA Captain Erika Nash will be talking bushfire safety on radio and TV across regional Victoria again this year, as one of the presenters of the CFA volunteers' *Fire Safety Starts With You* campaign.

The campaign is being run by the CFA volunteers' association, Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) with the support of the Fire Services Commissioner, and urges Victorians to plan and take action for their family's safety this summer.

VFBV Executive Officer Adam Barnett said having an experienced local volunteer deliver the safety message draws on the volunteer firefighters' unique standing as professionally trained, experienced emergency personnel who come from the same community that they protect.

"The volunteers' *Fire Safety Starts With You* campaign is a reminder to the public that while CFA volunteers prepare and train for fire all year round, the community has an important role to play too."

"There is no better perspective on how important it is for every Victorian to plan for their families' and their own safety this fire season," he said.

The commercial reminds the public that they can find more tips on how to prepare on the State Government's new emergency website, [www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au), or they can call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line, 1800 240 667, to request an information kit.

Otway CFA Captain Erika Nash said every Victorian should heed the message and plan for their safety, so every member of the family knows what to do.

"Fire safety starts with you – you are the best one to plan for your family's safety," Capt Nash said.

"By being aware on hot days and having a plan you can put straight into action, you are doing your bit for fire safety this summer," he said.

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“The state has already had several hundred fires, it’s summer and it’s time everyone was ready.”

The Otway CFA Brigade has 48 volunteers and is on call every day and night of the year to respond to fire, rescue and road accident calls.

Victoria has 60,000 CFA volunteers, and CFA Brigades protect 60% of suburban Melbourne, regional cities and all of country Victoria every day and night of the year.

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