



August, 2017

MEDIA RELEASE

EPPING CFA VOLUNTEERS DEVELOP ROAD RESCUE EXPERTISE

Nearly every week volunteers from the Epping CFA Brigade rescue people from car crashes.

An intensive four-month road accident rescue training program is making sure they have the latest skills and techniques to save people from all types of car and industrial accidents.

Epping is one of about 25 specialist road rescue brigades in the CFA and First Lieutenant Rohan Stevens said the course was invaluable in updating their skills.

Seven volunteers from Epping and one from the Plenty brigade are doing the course which involves a theoretical component but mostly concentrates on practical use of hydraulics and hand tools for removing people from cars.

“The members are required to demonstrate a number of rescue techniques from vehicles on their wheels, their sides or their roof and be able to extricate people as quickly and safely as possible.”

The brigade responds to between 40 and 50 road rescues a year and that number is gradually increasing as traffic becomes more congested.

“These are good skills to have in general from the fire-fighting perspective,” Mr Stevens said. “The training helps volunteers to recognise different risks at car accidents and gives them more confidence in what they have to do.”

The CFA also provides psychological support for volunteers who are involved in traumatic rescues.

Epping Fire Brigade is a 100 per cent volunteer brigade, serving the community for more than 70 years and attending more than 450 calls for assistance each year including house and factory fires, motor vehicle accidents, and grass and scrub fires.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria CEO Andrew Ford said volunteers are essential to public safety and provide a professional service that is effective and affordable.

“Our dedicated volunteers are continuing a great Australian tradition that is well respected in our communities,” Mr Ford said.

Mr Ford said volunteers are part of the fabric of society and contribute to community resilience.

...Ends