

SOUTHERN EMBERS NO.8 – SEPTEMBER 2014

TASMANIAN VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADES ASSOCIATION "Representing volunteer fire-fighters throughout Tasmania"

Introduction

Welcome to the eight edition of Southern Embers. This will be the last edition before the coming fire season, which we hope will be as quiet as possible.

Upcoming Events

Presentation on Presumptive Cancer Legislation – Wednesday 1st October, 7pm at Cambridge Training Complex.

This topic is relevant to all volunteer fire fighters and you will be informed of the current legislation and how it is beneficial to volunteer fire fighters. You will hear from Andrew Taylor from the Northern Region who is working with TVFBA Representatives to lobby politicians with a view to improving the coverage for volunteers in the legislation.

TFS 2014 Pre-Fire Season Briefings

As in past years, pre-fire season briefings will again be held throughout the Southern Region,

District	Date	Time	Venue
Hobart	23 September 2014	1915 hours	TFS Social Clubrooms
East Coast	24 September 2014	1900 hours	Cambridge Complex
South West	14 October 2014	1900 hours	Huonville Bowls Club
Midlands	16 October 2014	1900 hours	Bagdad Community Club



Recent Events

Southern Region Elections

At the recent AGM the following members were elected as Southern Region Delegates

- President – Colin Cunningham
- Vice President – Stefan Frazik
- Treasurer – Trafford Harvey
- Secretary – Brad Menzie
- Delegates – Chris Ryan, Max Berry, Lyndsay Suhr and David Taffe

State Council Elections

At the recent AGM the following members were elected

- President – Robert Atkins
- Vice President and Treasurer – Don Mackrill
- Secretary – Don Mackrill

Southern Region Forum

A successful Southern Region Forum was held at Cambridge Training Complex on 13 July. Approximately 50 members attended and gained valuable information on the CAFS projects occurring within the TFS with a demonstration of the CAFS 8.1 from Cambridge Brigade and a viewing of a Hino 3.1 heavy tanker being fitted with CAFS capabilities from Engineering Services. DRC (S) Hugh Jones showed the workings of an IMT and RFOC. The Museum Brigade opened the doors to the group and the Chief Officer Mike Brown gave a brief overview of activities occurring within the TFS.

Thank you to all involved in the planning of the day and for everyone giving up their time to attend a successful Forum.

Working with Vulnerable People

The Chief Officer Mike Brown raised this topic in WordBack Issue 166 (25 August 2014). This is particularly relevant to Brigades who are directly involved in Junior and Cadet Programs. Brigades involved will receive further information during October with a view to completing *Working with Children Registration* by April 2015. For further information refer to WordBack 166 or contact your District staff.

Responsible Use of Alcohol Policy

Brigades are reminded of the above policy mentioned in WordBack Issue 163 (1 August 2014). A copy of the policy, frequently asked questions and a covering letter from the Chief Officer has recently been sent to all Brigade Chief's and First Officers within the Southern Region.

Message from Regional Chief South – Jeremy Smith

Planning is well underway for the 2014/15 fire season. Although no major changes in the way TFS respond to and manage bushfire related incidents there will be additional focus on fatigue management of individuals and crews and providing opportunities for mentoring and development in some key roles.

The use of strike teams and weight of attack principles will continue, especially on those days when we know fires have the real potential to quickly impact on communities and assets.

A Statewide Exercise (Exercise “Connect”) will be taking place on October 19th in the North of the State.

The exercise is based on last year’s extremely successful Exercise “Huddle” and there will be opportunities for southern brigades to participate in the exercise. Further information will be made available shortly.

There are only a couple of changes to staffing arrangements within the Southern Region from last fire season which are outlined below:

Regional Chief - Jeremy Smith
Deputy Regional - Chief Hugh Jones

Midlands District – District Officer Gerald Crawford and FWO David McGuinness
South West District - District Officer Rod Sherrin and FWO Brendon Burrige
East Coast District – a/District Officer Steve Walkley and FWO George Auchterlonie
Hobart District - District Officer Mark Klop and FWO Colin Attrill

Thank you for your commitment to the TFS and your community and I wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable summer period.

Clothing Update

The PPC Committee has been working for some time now on moving into a new bushfire ensemble. Following trials conducted by the CFS South Australia, Tecasafe Plus material is being introduced to replace, overtime, the Proban Cotton PPC.

Some of the features of the new gear is:

- Tecasafe Plus material, light weight and more flexible
- Improved breathability
- Radio pickets
- Stand up collar
- Zip and Velcro front closure system
- Raglan sleeve for more flexibility
- Panelled back with actin pleats
- Zip and Velcro fly on the trousers
- Sewn in knee pads
- Braces for loose fit around waist
- Increased reflective tape to ensure high visibility standards are met

