



# CFSVA

# BULLETIN

NOVEMBER  
2015

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION

The Country Fire Service Volunteers Association (CFSVA) is recognised as an association under the SA Fire and Emergency Services act 2005. The association represents SA Country Fire Service (CFS) brigades and is empowered to take such steps as may be reasonably available to it to protect and progress the interests and welfare of CFS volunteers.

This bulletin provides an update on some of the news and current affairs affecting CFS members.

## CFSVA AGM / General Meeting Summary October 2015

**AGM Annual Reports:** available on the CFSVA website: <http://www.cfsva.org.au/about-us/cfsva-agm-reports/2015>

### Guest Speakers at the AGM / General were:

Dr Duncan McFetridge – Shadow Minister for Emergency Services

Mr Robert Styling AFSM – CEO CFS Foundation

Rex Hall ASFM – CFS Heritage Museum Committee

Mr Malcolm Jackman – CEO SAFECOM

### Post-Traumatic Stress

The increasing number of cases of post-traumatic stress amongst CFS volunteers was discussed, with concern expressed that often the signs of PTSD are not easily identified. The CFSVA will form a working group to review the incidence of PTSD amongst volunteers and an awareness campaign developed to assist members to identify the signs of PTSD.

### CFSVA Election policy booklet

The CFSVA 2014 Election policy booklet continues to be a reference tool used by all political persuasion, and has proven to be a valuable asset. The CFSVA has recently commenced work on the 2018 Election booklet which will again be distributed to politicians in the lead up to the next State election.

### CFSVA Constitution

Review of the CFSVA Constitution will soon be undertaken, with a working group to be established in the near future. As the review progresses the recommendations of the working group will be referred to the management committee and general meeting.

### CFSVA Conference / Forum

The CFSVA is planning to host a full day conference at Roseworthy in April / May 2016 for all CFS volunteers. A planning committee will work towards setting a date and organising the event. Branches will be provided with more details as they are confirmed.

### CFSVA Commencement of Fire Season Parade

The CFSVA has approval from Minister Piccolo to hold a start of fire season parade in 2016, with forward planning for the 2016 event to commence shortly.

### SA Volunteer Fire Fighters Museum

Congratulations to Rex Hall and his team for hosting an excellent reunion in Naracoorte recently. All who attended had a great time catching up with old friends and reminiscing.



The Country Fire Service  
Volunteers Association



[www.cfsva.org.au](http://www.cfsva.org.au)



# Working ON-CALL

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

We need 200 male fire and emergency service workers, aged 18-75 years, from across Australia to help us assess sleep quantity and quality and physiological stress of fire and emergency service workers when on-call compared to when not on-call.

If you are able to volunteer for this study please contact us via the details below.

### WHAT IT INVOLVES

- ♦ Wear an **activity monitor** for two weeks
- ♦ Complete a **sleep and work diary** for two weeks
- ♦ Provide **saliva samples** for one week
- ♦ Wear a **heart rate monitor** for one week

### CONTACT

Sarah Hall - PhD candidate

Tel: 03 9244 5033 or 0425 861 019

Email: [sarahjah@deakin.edu.au](mailto:sarahjah@deakin.edu.au)

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## WorkCover – Travel for volunteers

The issue of WorkCover coverage for CFS volunteers travelling to and from an incident was raised and discussed during the General Meeting. Subsequently the CFSVA has received the following response from CFS.

*The following is an endorsed response from WorkCover.*

- (1) *A volunteer is not covered during travel to and from the fire station during training.*
- (2) *The volunteer is covered whilst travelling to the station when responding to a pager for an incident callout.*
- (3) *The same applies should the individual proceed to an incident in their own vehicle.*
- (4) *There is no WorkCover for an individual returning home from the station after an incident or deployment Regardless of length of time.*
- (5) *The management of driver fatigue may be of paramount importance – time attending the incident (Potentially 12 hours) until the individual arrives back at their front door.*

*Please note these minimum requirements must be met when lodging a claim:*

- *A WorkCover Medical Certificate (WMC) as issued by a GP or Specialist or at a Hospital, and*
- *A completed HIRM or Employer Report Form (only if no HIRM lodged), and*
- *A completed Claim Form*

Further:

CFS supports the information provided above as this is in accordance with the legislation. However, the nature of business undertaken by our volunteers is complex and requires CFS to consider all claims submitted and the circumstances of each claim. CFS make a determination on each claim from the information available. Ultimately we will seek advice from other authorities if we consider that appropriate and will be guided by the legislation and not necessarily confined by it.

CFS cannot support claims where there is evidence that a claimant has acted unlawfully – as an example, I use the following fictional scenario: a volunteer returns to the station from responding to an incident and has a couple of beers and then drives home in their own car and has an accident resulting in an alcohol reading above the legal limit. CFS cannot approve a claim where this information was available to us as the conduct (being over the limit) is clearly a breach of the law. If a volunteer has acted lawfully and in all good intent, then CFS would consider that claim on its merits. Incident Controllers, etc. have responsibility to ensure that a volunteer does not leave for their return to home journey fatigued. We encourage the organisation of someone not fatigued driving the individual home or arranging a taxi (if appropriate) to mitigate the potential of an accident etc.

Realistically our people are genuine in their intent. Our claim numbers for WorkCover are small and we need to continue to look after each other and ensure that the need to claim is mitigated as much as possible. The return journey in a private vehicle from response to a pager call-out (dot point 4) appears to be the concern however the legislation is clear. I have no knowledge of CFS having received a claim for an accident in a private vehicle on the return journey from a CFS station to home. If we did receive a claim of this nature, CFS would consider all the information carefully and consider the variety of options available to us.

*Ann De Piaz*  
*Executive Director Frontline Services Support*  
**SA COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE**

**A second travel matter relating to the use of personal vehicles as Command Car, is being addressed separately, with a response to be provided in due course.**

# In Memory

## John Harvey Heward

13 August 1940 – 20 October 2015

John is the longest serving CFS Members of the Monash CFS Brigade to date having served 45 years from 1967 to 2012.

John was the brigade's captain for 16 years from 1976 to 1992 and also serviced as Deputy Group Officer with the Upper Riverland CFS group for 10 years from 1990 to 1999.

John will be sadly missed.



### APPLY FOR YOUR CFSVA EASYFUEL MEMBERSHIP CARD ONLINE

This CFSVA membership card has multiple benefits for members as it acts as your membership card, a card to save money on your weekly fuel bill & gain discounts on advertised offers through the CFSVA website "offers" page.

EasyFuel helps support local business owners attract new customers and retain existing customers by offering a fuel discount every time the customer purchases above a certain limit (set by the business). This promotes up-selling, increased basket spend and because the fuel discount is zeroed when the customer fills up at the fuel station, encourages repeat visits by the customer.

EasyFuel card holders have the opportunity to easily earn up to 33 cents per litre off (or more) every week on the regular pump price of fuel at either participating fuel stations or on the new EasyFuel phone App.

This system is capped at 50 litres per fill, saving you \$16.50 when you fill up your tank!

Great news!!! It costs you nothing to get your a card and start accumulating fuel discounts!!!

**To receive your CFSVA membership card please click on the link on the CFSVA website**



On second page you will be asked if you have a promo code to enter into the box, please use the code **CFSVA**.  
**When you receive your card in the mail "activate your card" by following the link on the CFSVA website.**  
Contact the CFSVA office on 8244 6500 if you would like to participate in the CFSVA Membership Card scheme.

ANY COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK IN RELATION TO THE CFSVA BULLETIN OR ENCLOSED ARTICLES  
PLEASE CONTACT SONIA ST ALBAN CFSVA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
CFSVA OFFICE : 08 8244 6500 MOBILE: 0408 133 349  
EMAIL: [sonia.stalban@cfsva.org.au](mailto:sonia.stalban@cfsva.org.au)