

**Legislative Council  
Environment & Planning Standing Committee**



# **Inquiry into Fire Season Preparedness**

**Presentation  
CFA Chief Officer Steven Warrington**

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## Emergency management in Victoria

Victoria's emergency management sector reform has focussed on achieving integrated arrangements through:

- a shared vision for 'safer and more resilient communities'
- enhanced interoperability between agencies
- greater collaboration across agencies and with communities
- shared responsibility for emergency management outcomes

CFA is a key partner in these arrangements for bushfire management

*Safer Together* sets out a new approach to reducing the risk of bushfires in Victoria, consistent with these reforms.



## CFA

# Protecting lives and property

## CFA ACT

### Section 14

- **Vests prevention and suppression of fires in country area of Victoria in CFA.**

### Section 20

- **General duty of taking, superintending and enforcing all necessary steps for prevention and suppression of fires.**



## CFA at a glance

<b>CFA Brigades</b>	<b>1180</b>
volunteer	1145
Integrated	35
<b>Forest Industry</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Coast Guard</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Specialist</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1221</b>

### Members

<b>Volunteers -</b>	<b>Operational</b>	<b>35,669</b>
	<b>Support</b>	<b>21,342</b>
<b>Staff -</b>	<b>Operational</b>	<b>1,026</b>
	<b>Support</b>	<b>929</b>

## Fire Season Preparedness

**Critical facets of fire season preparedness for CFA include:**

- **Briefing, exercising, testing response readiness**
- **Working with communities to enhance community and personal bushfire survival planning**
- **Contribute to fire prevention activities in communities**
- **Partnering with other agencies and local government**

## Briefing, Exercising, Testing Response Readiness

### Key Elements:

- **Pre Season Update**
- **Audit of Region and District Readiness**
- **Training and Exercising**
- **Sector Partnership Arrangements and Planning**

## CFA Working with Communities to Enhance Community and Personal Bushfire Survival Planning

### Some stats 2015/16:

Community Meetings	273	Meetings	11757	attendees
Bushfire Planning Workshops	92	Meetings	1388	attendees
Street Corner meetings	137	Meetings	3966	attendees
Public Awareness (Field Days etc)	624	Field Days	80165	attendees
Special Interest Groups	559	Meetings	15155	attendees
Home Fire Safety	328	Meetings	7443	attendees
Schools Education	729	lessons	17276	attendees
Mobile Education Unit	85	lessons	1754	attendees
Property Advice Service	3403	conversations	9485	door knocks
Special Interest Campaigns	493	campaigns	240993	total emails

*Note: Not an exhaustive list of programs (indicative)*

## CFA Involvement in Fuel Management

- **CFA Act empowers Local Government to serve Fire Prevention Notices and Permits to Burn (S.41).**
- **CFA provides professional development to delegated Local Government officers.**
- **CFA community engagement / education programs reinforce need for fuel reduction / treatment on private land.**
- **A number of brigades undertake fuel reduction on behalf of or request of the land owner or manager.**
- **Seeking opportunities to work with Aboriginal people to undertake traditional burning activities**

# Fire Prevention – Brigade Involvement

- **Fuel Management as an activity was a common feature of rural brigade activity.**
- **Current Vegetation Management Program introduced in 2010.**
- **350 active brigades, from a low of 70.**
- **Program has key partnerships with DELWP (Parks Vic), environmental organisations and Traditional Owners**

## Annual average 2010 – 2016

- **Reduced fuel on 2000 – 5000 hectares of land**
- **Reduced fuel on 500 – 1,000 kilometres of linear reserve (roadsides)**
- **Support into DELWP Planned Burns.**

## Strengthening our capability and capacity

- **Enhance capability of agencies, local governments to plan, prepare and deliver risk-based fuel management.**
- **Vegetation Management Officers support brigades to obtain approvals / permits and consent to reduce fuel.**
- **Conduct burn camps that are hands on learning where participants conduct small burns under supervision to improve skill levels and reinforce formal training.**
- **Introduction of a Burn Controller (Burn OIC) course designed around members needs and availability.**
- **Introduction of resource coordinators who identify and mobilise individual volunteers to support larger CFA / DELWP burns.**

## Working together, community at the centre

- **Continuing to improve how we work together for a shared vision of ‘safer, more resilient communities’.**
- **Active participation of community in mitigation.**
- **Empowered communities making and participating in decisions that impact their community.**

## Cross-tenure fuel management

- **Support and encouragement for Local Government and private land owners to commit to fuel management and participate in a cooperative model with land and fire agencies.**
- **Creating the legislative and policy settings to enable and support private land owners to undertake fuel management**
- **Increased effectiveness of fuel management to reduce risk**
  - **through treatment of contiguous vegetation (tenure blind) and**
  - **strong focus on risk reduction for community assets**
- **CFA Planned Burning Pilot Project - Risk Landscape Coordinators partnering with DELWP/PV on cross tenure planned burning.**



- **INTERAGENCY APPROACH TO THE CONTROLS OF IGNITIONS**
- **FIRE DATA AND TRENDS SHARED BETWEEN AGENCIES**
  - **FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING**
  - **FIRE INVESTIGATIONS**
- **SUSPICIOUS FIRE MAPPING – “HOT SPOT”**
- **INTER-OPERABILITY**
  - **JOINT INVESTIGATIONS**
  - **JOINT TRAINING**
  - **FIRE DANGER PERIOD BRIEFINGS & PREPAREDNESS**
  - **CRIME STOPPERS – SUPPORT**
- **ARSON PREVENTION PROGRAMS, such as Juvenile intervention program**